

**EXT. SIDEWALK - MALDEN, MA/CIEL'S HOME - MIDDAY**

It's a calm afternoon.

We hear the jingle of a shop bell as a young girl waves at a man and his wife and leaves the bakery.

Soft sounds of birds and the faint rustle of wind can be heard. **CIEL MARTIN** (16) is walking home from school. She is tall, thin and has an eye for fashion. She can be lazy at times, but she is creative, strong-willed and extremely empathetic. Right now the only thing she wants to do is to go to sleep and take a nap before her mom, dad and brother get home.

As she walks through the crowded streets Ciel sighs and ponders on her place in the world. As she ponders her book bag strap breaks and all of her things tumble out. She picks up her items and lingers on a slip of paper that details the project she had been given at school by her art teacher earlier that day. She must make a project that defines her. She shoves the paper in the bookbag with a frustrated huff and rolls her eyes. She continues her walk home.

When she gets in the house, she notes that nobody is home yet. She walks in her room. She fumbles in her bag to retrieve the piece of paper and smooths it out as she goes to sit at her desk. She picks up a pencil and writes out her own name onto a blank sheet of paper and circles it.

CIEL

**1** Who am I?

She then just stares at the paper as it sits next to her project description. She is intimidated by the idea of summing up her person. Who is she and how does she make a project that defines her?

Pretty soon she starts feeling dizzy and her vision goes blurry and she starts her limbs start to tingle. We see her limbs slowly vanishing from fingertips to core.

Ciel doesn't know this yet but she is just time traveled. We see her empty plush chair and her gaming system still whirling.

Ciel's body and spirit are being transferred through time and space.

**EXT. BENIN CITY, AFRICA - DAWN**

We cut to black and then the next thing we see is Ciel waking up in a sort of grassy area. A plasmic, gooey creature dissolves into her chest. This is her Ase. As the shot widens we see that it's not just a grassy area but a forest.

Ciel lets out a gasp of pain. She feels like she's just been compacting into a very small space and then released to expand.

Ciel looks around her as she rises and notes her strange environment. As she pushes through a thicket of brush, she comes out to a beautiful view of the valley below her. As she marvels at the beauty of the view, she also wonders where she is and how she got here. Ciel hears a voice and looks to her side where the voice is coming from. In the distance there is a person who is slightly silhouetted and they are talking to themselves; teetering just on the edge of a cliff it appears. It is just before dawn. The sky is starting to lighten but it's still fairly dark. Ciel knows this figure is not speaking english and strains to try to identify the language.

Meet ESOSA (17). She has warm brown skin and shocking eyes of light violet. She stands average height and has strong legs and arms as she has trained as a warrior for as long as she can remember. As she stands on the edge of the cliff, she gets closer and closer to falling, and Ciel stands and makes towards the woman. Slightly disoriented she still understands that there is danger and she thinks perhaps she can help.

ESOSA

**2** I would rather die. I would rather die, Legba.. I swear to every god and spirit. I cannot bear this anymore.

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Esosa looks off over the cliff where she stands contemplating the jump once more. Suddenly Esosa's body coils as she prepares to jump.

CIEL

**3**

NO!

Ciel's adrenaline kicks in and though she doesn't know this woman, she rushes forward, passes the man and takes the woman by the arm. As their flesh touches, their eyes meet as a jolt of power surges through Ciel and into Esosa. Esosa's eyes glow even brighter and her voice becomes the voice of a thousand people.

ESOSA (PROPHECY VOICE)

**4**

Past and future come to a middle ground. Blood meets blood.

At this same moment, the Ase that Ciel awoke when she first time traveled, stirs within her and bursts from her chest. We then see the little creature circle around Ciel, glowing and mystical before it zooms around her ears.

ESOSA (PROPHECY VOICE)

**5**

Past shall greet the future like an old lover and fate shall have her day.

It goes into her right ear and then comes out of her left ear before flying back up to her head and settling in between her eyebrows.

ESOSA (PROPHECY VOICE)

**6**

Power unlike any other will be found though it has resided in plain sight.

There it dissolves leaving behind a faint mark, like a tattoo that glows the palest blue.

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Esosa falls down and this acts as a break from the mystic. Ciel helps her up and is shocked to see the woman wearing no clothing that she'd ever seen anyone wear; maybe in history books or historical shows.

At this moment a large man appears. Meet LEGBA, (ageless), a large hulking man with shocking white hair, a missing foot and uses a cane, who is the god of crossroads. Legba steps forward looking at Ciel. Esosa looks at Ciel with her violet eyes as though she vaguely remembers her.

ESOSA

7                   What is this? What goddess have you called  
                          upon to keep me rooted here, now?

Legba shakes his head slowly, looking confused.

LEGBA

8                   She is no god. I know the gods.

ESOSA

(To Ciel) Who do you serve? The goddess Fa? Tell her she can take her nasty gift back. I do not wish to see the horror that befalls my people. It is pain like I've never known before.

CIEL

9                   I-I...

Ciel is thoroughly confused and the absurdity of the moment is finally hitting her.

LEGBA

10                This is *not* a god. She did not ask my permission to be here...

ESOSA

**11** (Paying Ciel little mind; now imploring Legba)  
Please, if I could just speak with FA for a moment..

LEGBA

**12** She does not wish to commune with you, Esosa. I have told you time and again, she will not react well to your insolence. She answers to no one but fate. What she has decided is larger than you.

ESOSA

**13** What about what I have decided for myself? I'm meant to be a warrior! I know it! I can do so much more defending my people than as a cracked lunatic who has fits of madness. No one listens to oracles. They fear us... and even respect us but I see how they whisper. I've seen it, Legba. I know what will happen.

LEGBA

**14** You have been *chosen*. You have been *gifted* child

ESOSA

**15** (Screaming) Gifted?!

LEGBA

**16** Daughter, you know but a small sliver of what will happen. You cannot imagine the weight of knowing all as FA does. Do not insult her by insinuating that your burdens are comparable.

**17** We hear these words echoed as the camera fades smokily to black.

LEGBA (V.O.)

**18** The goddess Fa sees all with her sixteen eyes.

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We see a SHOT of the goddess perched atop a tree, her body bent and contorted but somehow beautiful.

LEGBA (V.O.)

**19** Fa is the mother of divination. She gave birth to fate and destiny is her sister. She has blessed you with the gift of prophecy. Of being an Oracle.

We get a CLOSER SHOT of Fa and her 16 eyes. We ZOOM in and get a very close shot of a single eye and within that eye we see the universe reflected.

LEGBA (V.O.)

**20** You may not want to be an Oracle, but it is none-the-less what you are. Fa will not take this thing back.

Smoke vanquishes the scene of Fa and fades to black. WE CUT TO a match cut of Esosa highlighting her brilliant blue eyes.

ESOSA

**21** But what am I to do? I have all this sight and knowledge. Even if I say anything to warn my people... they will not listen. Greed and currency will always weigh more than a distant future that not everyone can see.

LEGBA

**22** That will all come in time. I must go wake the goddess. Be well, Esosa.

The man evaporates into thin air, leaving Ciel shocked beyond belief and Esosa sizing Ciel up.

CIEL

**23** (Dazed) Who was that? He--he just...he vanished! Just disappeared.

ESOSA

**24** (after a pause) He is the god Legba, the master of crossroads.

CIEL

**25** (incredulously) *God? A god?*

ESOSA

**26** I needed his help to communicate with the goddess, but he keeps telling me it is not Fa's will to take this wretched curse back.

CIEL

**27** Why am I here?

Esosa ignores Ciel and inches closer to the cliff edge.

ESOSA

**28** I'd rather be dead than be in this endless tug of war with fate.

Ciel walks closer to Esosa, taking her hand.

CIEL

**29** You won't be much help to your people if you're dead.

Esosa walks away from the cliff and looks at Ciel well for the first time up close. Esos finds Ciel's clothing very strange.

ESOSA

**30** (Eyebrows quirked) Where do you come from? Your clothes are strange and foreign to me.

CIEL

**31** Malden, Massachusetts. (When Esosa still looks confused)...in America.

This gives Esosa pause. She's heard the name America in her prophecies.

ESOSA

**32** (Confused) Are you a slave?

CIEL

**33** ( laughs) Of course I'm not a *slave*.

ESOSA

**34** But... then what do you do?

CIEL

**35** I go to school, and I work at a bakery called Carlos's.

ESOSA

**36** (confused) School? But fate says that a black man will not be free in the America's. They will be taken to their death and despair.

Esosa reaches for her calabash in which she keeps her relics. She begins to walk and Ciel follows.

ESOSA

**37** If I were allowed to take the rites of the warriors and fight for my Oba, perhaps I could destroy the pale ones who will come and carry destruction.



CIEL

38                   And... where exactly are we right now?

ESOSA

39                   (Not fully paying attention) We are in Birni.  
(When Ciel still looks confused) Birni! One of the villages that surround the great kingdom of Benin.

Ciel combs her knowledge of continental Africa, as this is the only place she can assume she is in, and cannot recall the kingdom. She cannot understand why this dream feels so vivid either. She rubs the warm spot on her forehead where the mark still glowed faintly and Esosa's eyes follow the action.

ESOSA

40                   Thank you for saving me, good spirit. Or are you a witch?

CIEL

41                   I am neither... Just a girl.

ESOSA

42                   (brows furrowed in confusion) Well then whatever spirit guards you must have brought you to me for a reason, but I must return home.

Esosa hikes up her calabash. Ciel begins to panic at the idea of being in the forest alone. She looks back at the brush behind her and then on the other side of her where animals rustle in the trees.

CIEL

43                   I am very lost, and confused and I have nowhere else to go. Please will you help me?

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Unearthed Scenes 4 & 20:

Meeting Esosa and Ginette

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ESOSA

44                    I suppose you have earned a spot in my home...  
until you can figure out a way home. Come along with me.

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**INT. CIEL'S HOUSE - MORNING**

WE CUT TO Ciel at home. Her mom wants her to stay home from school today so that she can monitor her. After being missing for three days her mother feels like she has no choice but to confine her to the house. We see a montage of Ciel in her room and in various areas of the house. She is waiting to time travel again.

CUT to an over the shoulder shot of Ciel at her desk writing out everything that she knows and using her laptop to do research in preparation for her next trip. She knows now that whatever she is touching she brings with her. She questions what it means when she is gone. We also see her trying to understand the timeline of her travel. One day in the past means only a minute has gone by?

CUT to Ciel sitting at the breakfast table eating with her family. It has been a week since she last traveled, and she's starting to think she won't travel again. She wonders about what this means for Esosa. She has made herself a fanny pack with essentials that she carries on her at all times. She has also tucked one of her mother's paring knives away.

As she stands and grabs her backpack she notes the familiar sensation of becoming dizzy, her vision going blurry and her limbs starting to tingle. We see her parents react to her falling as the sound dies out and we cut to black.

**EXT. BEACH SHORE IN HAITI - MID MORNING**

Ciel wakes up on the shore of a beach. She is shocked. So far she has only ever been in the area surrounding Esosa's village. She wonders what danger is afoot now.

She realizes she has her school bag with her. She looks up as she hears a yell. Two white men are forcing a young woman into the beautiful blue waves. The young woman is begging and pleading but the men continue to drag her out into the water. Standing ashore and watching is another man who holds a gun. They are going to murder the woman and let the sea take her body.

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Unearthed Scenes 4 & 20:

Meeting Esosa and Ginette

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Ciel hoists her bag onto her back and runs toward the commotion.

She approaches them.

CIEL

Stop!!

They pause for a moment. The woman who is being dragged by the men looks at Ciel with surprise and confusion. She has caramel skin, shockingly cinnamon colored hair and piercing brown eyes.

CIEL

Stop!!!!

The men begin to yell back at her in what sounds like French. Ciel is confused but continues to shout at them.

CIEL

Leave that woman alone!

The man standing on the shore fires a shot in her direction with his gun and she stops.

CIEL

What are you *doing* to that woman?

The men speak to each other in french. Ciel hears the word 'American', and it dawns on her that they know what America is and she doubts that they are oracles. So what year has she traveled to? She begins to walk toward the woman again and the first man speaks to her and this time in accented english.

JULIEN ALEXANDRE

*Filthy* medaling slave! What are you doing wandering around here with no master? Who do you belong to?

He notes her strange clothing and the bag on her back and takes out his gun. He thinks she is running away.

JULIEN ALEXANDRE

Where do you belong?

CIEL

(taking a very stupid chance) I-I was sent *by* my master...  
to look for *her*! He won't be happy to know you're hurting her.  
Sir (added as an afterthought)

Ciel points at the cinnamon haired woman GINETTE MIMOSE. Ginette takes in a sharp breath but doesn't give Ciel away.

JULIEN ALEXANDRE

(nastily and with clear disbelief) And just what does *your*  
master want with *her*?

CIEL

Erm...She has work to do.

The men look at each other and laugh.

JULIEN ALEXANDRE

Be on your way little wench. Before you suffer the same  
fate as Ginette. (As he says this he runs his gun along  
Ginette's jaw threateningly). You're all the same. Trying to  
protect this little abomination because she wields your horrible  
magic. She has gone too far. I will squash your precious Duso  
and be done with hearing anything about it anymore!

GINETTE

(Tears streaming down her face) I did nothing!--I beg you!  
Julien please!

JULIEN ALEXANDRE

Hush witch!

GINETTE

No! Please!

The men resume pulling the woman into the ocean and Ciel rushes forward, running fast as a whip. She reaches the men who are struggling with the woman and starts to pound on them madly,

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hitting any part of them she can. She aims for their guns, knocking them into the waves.

Ciel tries to reach the knife in her fanny pack. They are momentarily distracted from Ginette who falls over and is covered by the water.

Ginette finally stands up, drenched in water, her headwrap having fallen off to reveal more of her mane of curly hair. The girl begins to back away clumsily slipping into the water before resurfacing and running as the attention turns to Ciel.

The two men have overtaken her and are now taking a closer look at her strange clothing. They punch her across the face which makes her fall into the water which she swallows a bit. The men are yelling at her in french and chaos is erupting around her but she sees the cinnamon woman making her way up the sand quickly but clumsily. They stand Ciel back up and hit her across the face again, and then kick her while she regains herself. Ciel can feel blood welling in her mouth and a bruise blooming on her cheek. They stand her back up again.

CHARLES LOUIS

Who is your master, you meddling wench? Tell me his name so that I might send him your worth once I kill you.

Ciel's body fills with fear. The two men snigger as the gun wielding man from the shore cocks the gun once more, but the sound starts to fade as the weight of dizziness and numb limbs come over her, and as her vision fades she looks up just in time to see the cinnamon girl fade away into a thicket of trees.

JULIEN ALEXANDRE

Go find the witch! She's gotten away!

Ciel disappears from Julien's hands and he is left dumbfounded, searching the waves for Ciel's body. WE CUT TO Ciel's eyes opening in her own time, wet bruised and bleeding. Her chest is heaving and she is breathing heavily. She is on the floor in the kitchen where she was when she traveled. Her mother and father stand over her absolutely dumbstruck.

Full Film Synopsis:

Esosa is a seventeen-year-old girl who has been hurled into a world of magic that she had not been prepared for. She is discovered to be an oracle; a divine prophet and forerunner of the future. It is a trial for her because for most of her life she was on track to becoming a renowned Dahomey warrior, fighting in the elite force for her kind and for her people. When visions begin to get in the way of her training, they are brought to the attention of the king who orders her to withdraw from training and to become an apprentice to an oracle in the neighboring town. This starts Esosa down a path of fate and future. She begins to do anything and everything to try to get rid of the “gift” of prophecy bestowed upon her by no other than the goddess of divination herself, Fa.