

Four oddballs hailing from different eras of the Philippines find themselves unable to return to their respective time periods after simultaneously stumbling upon an ancient network of portals scattered across the archipelago. **Manooc** is a tall dark-skinned and long-haired warrior from pre-colonial Philippines, **Saop** is a twenty-something servant girl from the Spanish era, **Uytengko** is a young gay man from the '50s, and **Charlie** is a young woman from the '70s. All four of them have given up trying to go home and have been spending the past year time-travelling, traveling, and getting drunk. Their headquarters is an abandoned house (that never ages) in the middle of an old subdivision in Talamban, Cebu City.

One drunken night, the four friends emerge from a portal behind a lamp post. “*Musta’ng laag daaaaaai~* (How was the adventure guuuuurl~)” Charlie cries out into the night. On the way to their rickety headquarters, Uytengko asks their neighbor **Jose** what his age is. Jose holds up 10 fingers, Uytengko does the math, calculates that the year is 1952, thanks Jose, and rejoins the group.

In the year 2016, a college student named **Yoly** works on a special Power Point presentation project to pass the History class that she has been dropping out of since her first year. After she confidently presents her half-assed presentation to the panel, **Madame Hernandez**, the Dean of the History Department, gives her a failing mark. Yoly desperately asks for a second chance, as this is supposed to be her last year in college. Madame Hernandez, amused at Yoly’s desperation, obliges. She gives Yoly a special written project that must be done over the incoming long weekend and passed on Monday first thing in the morning. “If you fail to submit... well, see you next sem ☺” says Madame.

Friday morning rolls in, and Yoly sets out to do Madame Hernandez’ assignment. On the way out of the subdivision she encounters **Manong Jose** looking for his red slipper, which was on the roof of an abandoned house. Manong Jose begs Yoly to get it for him. Reluctantly, Yoly obliges. She climbs up the house and tosses Manong Jose his slipper, but slips and falls through the roof and ends up inside the house. There, she finds a mishmash of household paraphernalia amidst ancient weaponry, liquor bottles, cigarette boxes, vegetables, *camisetas*, vinyl records, and a small typewriter. Yoly hears people at the front door. She hides in the bathroom and sits on the toilet, but is sucked in and transported into a wispy hallway of portals that each lead to different points in time but leading to the same place. Yoly enters one portal and is whisked away to 1940’s downtown Cebu. She spots a group of four oddballs who look as out of place as she is, and follows them to another portal, bringing her back to the same wispy hallway. Yoly eventually finds the portal that leads back to the subdivision, returning to the exact time when Manong Jose got his red slipper, and her past self just fell through the roof. She sees the same group of oddballs entering the house. She waits until they’ve gone in and sneaks up on the house to retrieve the bag she left -- but is suddenly grabbed by Manooc, who (for some reason) recognizes her. “*Tkaw!* (You!)” Manooc cries out.

The four time-travelers interrogate Yoly, who admits to destroying the roof, and apologizes for using their time-traveling bathroom. Surprised, they ask her how she got back so fast, and she tells them that she just chose the right portal. The four friends ask her to show them how she did it. Yoly leads them to the bathroom, they get sucked in, and arrive at the wispy hallway. Manooc, Saop, Uytengko, and Charlie clearly have never been there before. To them, time-traveling is a random experience – enter one portal, and emerge in another time. They return to the rickety house and Saop tries to convince Yoly to take them back to their respective time periods. Manooc gets excited. Uytengko isn’t keen on the idea, and Charlie says nothing. Yoly, overwhelmed at the call to adventure, is hesitant at first... but eventually obliges, seeing as this may be more fun (and will be useful) for Madame Hernandez’ special project. The group agree to take Manooc home first. Followed by Saop, while Uytengko will stay in 2016, but will tag along the trip as he’s the only one who can understand the map he made of the portals’ locations. They turn to Charlie for her decision, but she stays silent and goes outside of the house.

On the morning of their adventure, Saop cooks the group’s *baon* (*longsilog*), and carefully packs an envelope addressed to her (*Ma. Juanita Josefa Leonor*) into a satchel. Manooc, Uytengko, and Yoly prepare accordingly, and to everyone’s surprise, Charlie has already packed her vinyl records and typewriter.

With Uytengko’s map and Yoly’s ability to take them to the hallway of portals, the group eventually arrive at Manooc’s seafaring tribe kingdom by the sea. There, they are greeted by the people, and Yoly, exhausted from the trip, faints. | Yoly wakes up in the house of the tribe’s **babaylan**, who convinces her to drink a potion to rejuvenate herself. Hesitantly, Yoly takes the drink and instantly feels better *and has now become fluent in all languages*. She heads out of the house to celebrate Manooc’s return with the others, and confidently converses with the villagers in their native tongue, as well as to Saop in Spanish. | Amidst the celebration, Manooc retreats to his house. Yoly follows him and finds a cozy home full of wooden carved toys. Manooc tells Yoly that he used to have a family, but they were murdered by warriors of another tribe. He had asked the *babaylan* to take him back in time so he can save his wife and child, but the *babaylan* said that the gods won’t allow that, as death is governed by a different set of rules.

The next morning, Saop wakes up Yoly and asks for a favor. By the seaside, Saop hands Yoly the letter that she had been keeping. Saop tells Yoly that she can’t read, and has been afraid to ask anyone else about this. Yoly, with the potion still in effect, takes the letter and reads it for Saop. It turns out to be a love letter from the heir of the family Saop was serving. In the letter, the young man explains his intent to marry Saop despite their lineage. Before Saop could react, the moment is interrupted by Manooc holding up a dead wild boar. “*Pamahaw!* (Breakfast!)” he cries out. | By the afternoon, Manooc and the villagers happily send Uytengko, Charlie, Saop, and Yoly off into the woods where the nearest portal is located. As Manooc stands along with his tribespeople looking at his friends go and disappear into the woods... his smile fades. | Meanwhile, Uytengko and the others are lost and are having trouble finding the portal. Saop has been unnaturally quiet, shaken at her suitor’s letter. Then out of nowhere, Manooc appears, surprising everyone. Charlie asks him where he’s going and Manooc replies “Talamban!”. Manooc finds the portal, and the group of friends are at the hallway of portals again.

Saop looks at the familiar scene beyond the portal; a world of veiled women and *kalesas* and dusty roads. All she ever wanted to do was come home, but now, she is frozen on the spot. Charlie notices this, and takes Saop by the hand, dragging her further up the hallway to another portal, while the others follow. The friends emerge in the 70’s; where the *kalesas* used to be there are now *jeepneys* and cars. Charlie leads the way, taking them to a house-turned-restaurant with a large sign that read “**Leonor’s**”. “*Diba pangalan man na ni Saop?* (Isn’t that Saop’s name?)” Yoly asks Uytengko, who nods. The friends are led into the restaurant and are settled on a table. Charlie, familiar with the place, calls a girl from behind the counter. **Dencia** approaches the table, greeting Charlie warmly. As they talk, Saop observes Dencia closely. “*Oo, kay Lola Leonor ni na mga recipes!* (Yes, these are Grandma Leonor’s recipes!)” says Dencia, answering Charlie. The group is served with the house special (*longsilog*), and they eat. Saop quietly asks Charlie why she never said anything about being friends with her granddaughter, and Charlie answers with “*Wa man ko kibaw, namasin lang kay pareho mo’g pangalan.* (I didn’t, I just guessed since you had the same name.)”

The group leave the restaurant, bellies full. Saop comments on the *longganisa*'s lack of salt and declares that she'll go back home to personally accept her suitor's proposal. In high spirits, the friends prepare to go to the next portal, only to realize that Charlie is gone. Uytengko tells them they're better off without her, and that she'll be fine since she's in her own time anyway. Saop, now with more reason to return home, agrees with Uytengko. But Yoly has a bad feeling, and suspects that Charlie may be in trouble. She suggests that they use the portals to go back in time and catch Charlie just before she left, but Uytengko rebuts by saying that the portals don't work that way as they can only jump through years; the days and hours continue to move forward normally, so if they wanted to catch Charlie before she disappeared, they would have to wait for a year. Yoly decides to just go look for Charlie in real time. Manooc decides to come along, and eventually, so does an uneasy Saop. They turn to Uytengko, awaiting his decision. He rolls his eyes and says "*Actually, kibaw ko asa siya. Tara.* (Actually, I know where she is. Let's go.)"

Nighttime. Charlie watches Past Charlie having a beer with a bunch of friends. They have clearly come from a rally. Past Charlie is now drunk. A young man from the group carries her outside to get some fresh air. They are alone. Charlie can barely watch herself, but forces herself to. She watches her past self be carried away into the young man's car, away from their drinking buddies. Charlie strides to the scene, opens the car, and punches the young man, knocking him out. The Past Charlie slumps onto her seat and falls asleep, clothes undone. Charlie turns to leave the scene, walking out onto the street, but is cut off by a two men on a motorcycle. A gun is pointed at Charlie's head. The man pulls the trigger. A shot is fired, echoing into the night. Out of nowhere, Manooc steps in front of the shooter. Manooc falls to the ground in front of Charlie.

The Past Charlie wakes up to the sound of the gunshot. She sees the boy on the driver seat, and notices that her blouse has been undone. She gets out of the car, while everyone else in the bar rush to see where the gunshot came from. The motorcycle tandem escape frantically, frustrated that they didn't get their target. Uytengko and the others scramble to carry Manooc's body out of the scene. Yoly is frozen on the spot.

The group are in an alley, gathered around Manooc's body. Charlie breaks the silence, asking them who's bright idea it was to follow her. Uytengko and Saop look at Yoly, who is staring at Manooc. Uytengko breaks the silence by lighting up a cigarette, but is interrupted by Yoly who asks where the next portal is, so they can try to save Manooc. Uytengko reminds her of how the portals work, and that what has happened *will* happen; there is no reversing death. Yoly dismisses this and asks again, figuring that there are probably portals only she can access. Charlie gets annoyed and lashes out – she tells Yoly the location of the portal, tells Saop to go back to her husband-to-be, and tells Uytengko to just shut up. Charlie raves about how she never should have messed with time in the first place, and that punching a probable rapist was just one thing on her to-do list. She had hoped that changing her past would make her and the world better. Uytengko interrupts, saying that the only thing they can control is the future. "*Dili man sila'y gapatay ni Manooc. Kita man.* (Those guys didn't kill Manooc. We did.)" Charlie goes silent. She walks over to Manooc's body and breaks down into tears. Yoly approaches Charlie, and apologizes for being reckless. Charlie turns to Yoly, tearful. "*Laag-laag ra ni para nimo, nob?* (This is all just an adventure to you, is it?)" Charlie says. She gathers her things and tells them that she will stay in her time, since by tomorrow, her past self would have stumbled upon her first portal, so it would be like she never left. She turns to her friends, and her eyes fall on to Manooc. "*Di na ko kaya makakita niya na ing-ana. Pero pauli-a siya, palibog.* (I can't bring myself to see him like that. Please bring him home.)" Before anyone else could retort, she leaves them. Uytengko lights up another cigarette, Saop cries by Manooc's side, and Yoly watches Charlie as she leaves.

The remaining group return Manooc's body to his tribe kingdom, presenting it privately to the *babaylan*, who was sad, but unsurprised at the turn of events. | At the hallway of portals, Saop bids Uytengko and Yoly goodbye, and gloomily enters the portal to her own time. | At the abandoned house headquarters, Uytengko has gathered his things and prepares to leave. Yoly stands in the middle of the house, looking at the random artifacts left behind, particularly the spot where Manooc's stuff used to be. Then Uytengko interrupts the moment, calling Yoly's attention, and asks for her cellphone number. Yoly laughs, and gives Uytengko her number. "Keep in touch~" says Uytengko, and they both leave the house and part ways.

A slow Monday morning rolls in. Yoly prints out the pages of her special assignment and tucks into a brown envelope. She isn't confident that her assignment is great, but figures it is the most honest.

Yoly waits for Madame Hernandez' at her office. She looks around and her eyes fixate on a shelf full of vinyl records and a typewriter. Madame Hernandez enters the office, making Yoly jump. Yoly greets Madame a good morning, and hands over her assignment. Madame is amused. She takes a seat on her desk and assesses Yoly's assignment. Yoly watches Madame closely, who looks up and asks Yoly "*Nya, musta man imong laag nimo, dai?* (So, how was your adventure?)"
