

MY FRIEND THE SUN

Written by

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A voice speaks from within a limbo of moving colors.

YOUNG DIEGO (V.O.)
Tata, Tata! Tell me again!

TATA (V.O.)
Oh, *Dieguito*, of all the stories in
the world, why do you always want
to hear this one?

YOUNG DIEGO (V.O.)
Shhhh, you're about to start.

The colors settle, forming a serene background.

TATA (V.O.)
(Sympathetic)
Hah! Well, if you say so.

Four gods, TEZCATLIPOCA, QUETZALCOATL, HUITZILOPOCHTLI, and
XIIPE TOTEC, appear as silhouettes. They each take their MAGIC
BRUSHES and paint luminescent, fantastic landscapes.

TATA (V.O.)
Long, long ago, the first gods
painted our world using the colors
of creation.

The landscapes are beautiful, but the world is dark.

TATA (V.O.)
But their world was full of
darkness; it would need a sun. And
yet, they could not agree on who
should take on the task. Who among
them could give the world light?

TEZCATLIPOCA, a smoky humanoid silhouette, tall and elegant,
transforms into a violet sun.

TATA (V.O.)
The first to try was Tezcatlipoca,
the smoking mirror. Brash and
confident in his skill, he thought
himself the one and only. But no,
Tezcatlipoca would not do.

The violet sun falls as QUETZALCOATL, another silhouette in
the shape of a serpent-dragon, transforms into a WHITE SUN.

TATA (V.O.)
 When he had failed, Quetzalcoatl,
 the god of light and life, rose in
 his stead.

Quetzalcoatl flies away, giving way for TLALOC, a thunderous,
 bearded silhouette, to transform into a LIGHT-BLUE SUN.

TATA (V.O.)
 And though he did well for a while
 Quetzalcoatl, too, fell. And so,
 tired of fighting amongst
 themselves, the brothers sought
 help from the other gods.

TLALOC and CHALCHIHUITLICUE join the scene.

TATA (V.O.)
 And then came Tlaloc, who joyously
 stormed through the heavens and
 became the third sun.

Tlaloc's sun sets. CHALCHIHUITLICUE, a gentle, flowing shape,
 transforms into a NAVY-BLUE SUN.

TATA (V.O.)
 And like the first and second suns
 before him, Tlaloc's reign did come
 to an end. And when it did, another
 god, Chalchihuitlicue, who loved the
 humans above all else, took his
 place.

Chalchihuitlicue fades away and darkness returns.

TATA (V.O.)
 But even she could not bare the
 burden. And so, for a while, all
 seemed lost.

A small yellow sun appears. It grows little by little, until
 it transforms into Tonatiuh, the brightest of the suns.

That is, until, Tonatiuh, a lesser
 god, proved himself worthy at the
 altar of the gods. He ascended to
 the skies and took his place as the
 fifth sun. And, to this day,
 Tonatiuh continues to light our
 world.

Tonatiuh starts to dim little by little.

TATA (V.O.)

But Tonatiuh has grown tired over the years. Soon, the gods will need to gather and think. Who could be our sixth sun?

YOUNG DIEGO (V.O.)

Who?! Who could it be?!

Tonatiuh becomes a grey texture, like stone.

2

EXT. MEXICO CITY CENTER / ALLEY - NIGHT

2

The stone is a wall. TATA (60) has a BRUSH in her hand. She wears a KUTUNI SHIRT, an ÍWI SKIRT, and a COLORFUL REBOZO.

In front of her is a small MURAL that portrays the *Legend of the Five Suns*. Next to her is DIEGO (10), a wide-eyed boy who listens to every word she says with wonder.

The two are at the back of a candlelit alley.

TATA

Well, rumor has it that the next sun will be a mortal; someone wisened by their years of life; caring and brave; willing to sacrifice anything for love! Someone fit to be a--

Diego stands on a BUCKET with a BROOM STICK in his hand, doing a heroic pose. He's been waiting for this moment.

DIEGO

--Warrior! And I can be that warrior! Right, Tata?

Tata doesn't mind the interruption. She laughs and removes the stick from his hand. She offers him a BRUSH.

TATA

Heh heh, if you say so. But, Mr. Warrior, you've still got plenty of training to do... Until then, this is for you, so you can paint your dreams.

Diego takes it, then jumps off the bucket, excited.

DIEGO

Thank you, Tata!

TATA

And what are you going to paint?

DIEGO

A warrior!

Diego brings the brush to the wall and starts to paint.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

An ancestral, magical warrior!

As Diego paints, the shapes that he draws come to life. They jump off the mural and fly into the night sky.

DIEGO (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I promise you tata, that I will
take care of everyone when I become
the sun! And I will be the
brightest! Brightest of them all!--

He trails off, singing his own praises.

3

EXT. REFORMA AVENUE - DAY

3

The dark of the night clears up like dust, revealing DIEGO (30) to be cleaning the windshield of a car at a red light.

DIEGO (V.O.)

Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah...
Turns out, life is short. Magical
warriors don't exist. And us
humans? All we have is work;
exhausting, eternal work, but work
nonetheless.

Diego finishes cleaning the windshield. The traffic light turns GREEN, Diego runs to the window for his payment.

DIEGO

A little help, chief?

The car speeds of, leaving behind a coin that Diego catches. He stops for a moment to admire the ANGEL OF INDEPENDENCE.

DIEGO (V.O.)

That is, if you know where to look.

Diego looks at the coin in his hand. He flips it in the air. The head and tails of the coin flash at every turn.

4

I/E. MONTAGE - MISCELLANEOUS

4

A) EXT. STREET 1 - DAY - Diego shakes a FLANNEL with his hand to help a driver park his car. When the DRIVER gets out of the car, Diego runs beside him with a smile.

DIEGO
That'll be ten *pesitos*.

The driver throws a coin at Diego.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Thank you!

Diego continues to run back and forth, waving his flannel to help park several more cars in a rush.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
It's ten *pesos*! Thank you! Teeeee
pesitos! Thank you! Ten!! Thank
you!

B) INT. CONSTRUCTION - DAY - A row of WORKERS pass bricks from hand to hand. Diego receives the bricks at the end of the line. He places them, one by one, at lightning speed.

When he is done, the row of workers look at him, incredulous.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
(Proud, arrogant)
Fastest hands in the west.

The wall falls behind him. It had no cement. The CHIEF WORKER (50) approaches, enraged. Diego flees before she can arrive.

C) INT. METRO - DAY - Diego goes through a subway car holding a BACKPACK with several products: CHEWING GUM, FRENCH FRIES, PEANUTS and SWEETS. He makes his way through the crowd.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
(IN SING-SONGY TONE)
Cheeeeewing guuum, peeeeanuuuuts,
pistiiiiiaaachios, Chips with hot
sauce and *limoncito*.

Diego throws products everywhere. All but one of his customers catch their treats. The man that he missed is upset, but Diego does not stick around to face him.

D) EXT. DONCELES SREET - DAY - Diego turns on a corner and stops to look at a container with coins and some bills.

DIEGO (V.O.)
 No matter what happens, my one rule
 is...

Diego flips a 10 PESO coin in the air. As it spins, the heads and tails flash, reflecting the sun. The aztec calendar on the coin blocks the sun in the distance, like an eclipse.

TITLE: MY FRIEND THE SUN

-END OF THE MONTAGE-

5

EXT. LORETO PLAZA - DAY

5

Diego arrives at a taco stand, ANCESTRAL TACOS, near an abandoned building. He drops his backpack and sits down.

DIEGO (V.O.)
 ...One step back, and three steps
 forward, towards your dreams.

He sighs, exhausted.

Then, someone shoves a NOTEBOOK in his face and startles him.

XÓCHITL (O.S)
 Look, Dad!

Diego shifts his eyes to see the notebook. It has a watercolor painting that portrays some volcanoes, one of which emits multicolored smoke from its peak peaks.

Diego takes the notebook to see it in more detail.

DIEGO (V.O.)
 Especially when your dreams have
 this adorable face!

Diego lowers the notebook to reveal XÓCHITL (12), his daughter and number one ally. She is accompanied by Tata (80), who has aged significantly in the last 20 years.

DIEGO
 Xochi! There you are!

Diego gives Xóchitl a hug and kiss. He then takes some money out of a pot inside of his backpack and gives it to Tata.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
 Look Tata, this is for you. Did my
 princess behave?

Diego stands up and puts on an APRON. He flips a sign over, indicating that the taco stand is now open.

TATA

Oh, *Dieguito*, save it. You need it more.

DIEGO

(Principled)

Nonsense, a job well done deserves to be paid.

TATA

If you say so, then thank you. But Xóchitl is a little angel that brightens my day.

Xóchitl just finished putting some finishing touches on her painting, so she comes to show it to Diego once more.

XÓCHITL

Look dad, the Popo and the Izta!

Diego doesn't have time, though. The CUSTOMERS are here!

CLIENT 1

One *pastor*, please.

DIEGO

Yessir!

(To Xóchitl)

How nice, sweetie!

XÓCHITL

This one is Popocatepetl, the great volcano. He blows this colorful smoke, see?

DIEGO

Regular or magical?

CLIENT 1

Magical!

XÓCHITL

Yes! The smoke is like that because they are like the flowers that he offers to Iztaccihuatl!

DIEGO

Magical it is!

(To Xóchitl)

That's nice, Xochi. And how was your test?

Xóchitl's expression changes. Not well, apparently.

Between the sheets of her notebook, there is an EXAM full of RED CROSSES and a big fat circled number 5 at the top (an "F", in letter grading terms). Diego does not see it. He's too busy laying out all the salsas for his customers.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

What was it? A seven? An eight? A ten!

Xóchitl squeezes the notebook into her arms, hiding the exam.

XÓCHITL

Well... yes pa, all good!

DIEGO

Seriously?! What did you get?

CLIENT 3

Five!

Xóchitl looks to the client, terrified.

CLIENT 3 (CONT'D)

Campechanos with magic!

Xóchitl breathes a sigh of relief.

DIEGO

Coooooming right up! Five magical *campechanitos*!

(To Xóchitl)

Can you pass me that salsa, Xo?

Xóchitl quickly puts her notebook aside on the table. She passes Diego a molcajete with the salsa.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Thank you, thank you.

Tata kneads the DOUGH for the tortillas near the notebook. She sees something and chuckles. Xóchitl notices that the corner of the sheet of her exam protrudes from the notebook with the 5 in full view of everyone. She tries to take her notebook, but bumps into Diego and spills some salsa on it.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Five *campechanos* cooooming ri-- whoops, sorry 'bout that, Xo.

Xóchitl tries to reach for napkins to clean the stain on her painting, but she bumps some oil that spills onto the grill.

CLIENT 2
Another three please!

A FLAME rises on the grill. This startles Diego, who squeezes the salsa jar he carries with one hand, and tosses the tacos he carries in the other through the air. They land on CLIENT 3, who ends up covered with meat and salsa, same as Diego.

DIEGO
Xóchitl, be careful!

Diego tries to clean Customer 3 with a NAPKIN.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
I am so, so, so, so, sorry, sir! I--
It was an honest mistake! The next
round is on the house, of course.

Client 2 is also furious. He takes a napkin, cleans himself and leaves with the rest of the customers. Diego tries to go after them, offering sodas and tacos as recompense.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
No, wait! Look! Compliments of the
house! Just try it!

As Xóchitl tries to clean the stain on her drawing, the sheets of the notebook unfold, causing the exam to slide out of her notebook and gently float over to Diego's feet.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Try it and you'll see why we have
the best... ratings?!

Diego looks at Xóchitl disappointed.

6 INT. DIEGO AND XOCHITL'S HOUSE - DAY

6

Diego, Xóchitl and Tata live in the basement of the abandoned building. Rags and blankets hung from ropes divide Diego's room, Xóchitl's room, and Tata's room. In an adjacent space, there is a makeshift living room with a TV and an armchair.

Diego enters carrying some TUBS WITH FOOD. He leaves them in a corner, then takes a CABLE from the floor and connects it to a BREAK-BOX. It sparks a few times, until the lights finally turn on. The atmosphere is warm and pleasant.

Diego grabs a METAL BOX from under his table and stashes away his day's earnings. Xóchitl enters her room, still solemn.

Tata looks at Diego and nudges him to go talk to his daughter. Diego finds his courage, and enters Xóchitl's room.

7

INT. XÓCHITL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

7

Xóchitl's room is the smallest, with only a small mattress propped up by crates and boxes. SHEETS OF PAPER WITH PAINTINGS of different MEXICA MYTHS fill the space. She especially loves Popo and Izta myths (the volcanoes).

Xóchitl sits on her bed, still bummed. Diego sits next to her. They share an awkward silence, then both go to speak.

DIEGO	XÓCHITL
You shouldn't...!	You shouldn't...!
Your exam...!	My painting...!
What I really want is...!	What I really want is...!

They both shut up, sit back, and turn away from each other. After a moment, Diego lifts his index finger, authoritative.

DIEGO
Ok... I know that painting is
important to you.

XÓCHITL
Very!

DIEGO
Yes, very. But there are
priorities, and getting back on
track with school should be number
one... c'mon Xo, what are we?

XÓCHITL
(Reluctantly)
A team.

DIEGO
Right, a team... so I hope that you
realize that this is very very
difficult for me right now.

XÓCHITL
(Serious...?)
Really? VERY difficult? Just how
VERY difficult is it?

Diego looks around, as if looking for something to illustrate his point. He finally gives up mimes a medium sized object.

DIEGO
About this much.

XÓCHITL
Nice. That's pretty good.

DIEGO
Yeah, I thought so too.

They sit there, nodding in play-agreement for just a bit too long. After a few more moments, they explode with laughter.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
(Laughs)
I can't unsee that poor man, all covered in salsa!

XÓCHITL
(Laughs)
I thought he was going to turn us into tacos!

They laugh, until they breathe a sigh of satisfaction. Diego kisses Xóchitl on the forehead, then gets up and sets out.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
Hey, dad?

DIEGO
Yes?

XÓCHITL
How come you don't paint anymore?

Diego is surprised by the question. He meditates momentarily, looking for the right words.

DIEGO
(Nostalgic)
Because there are priorities.
(Pause, energetic)
And consequences!

Diego stands up and takes Xóchitl's notebook.

XÓCHITL
Wha-- What are you doing?!

He also takes her brushes and paintings scattered about.

DIEGO
No painting until you pass your exams!

XÓCHITL
What? No! I thought we were cool!
We're cool, right?

DIEGO
 (Friendly)
 Of course, Xochi. I love you!
 (Stern)
 So I'm setting priorities.
 If we're gonna do this, we're gonna
 do it. By. The. Book!

Diego ceremoniously leaves the room with Xóchitl's stuff.
 Xóchitl sits down, failing to hide her anger.

8 INT. DIEGO AND XOCHITL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 8

Diego struggles to keep everything in his arms. Tata looks at him with disapproval. Diego stops in his tracks, incredulous.

DIEGO
 What?... Priorities!

Diego continues on his way. Tata shakes her head. As Diego turns a corner the salsa-stained painting of Popo and Izta falls to the floor. Tata goes to see it.

9 EXT. BALCONY - NIGHT 9

Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl (the real, physical volcano and mountain, respectively) occupy the horizon. Diego arrives at the balcony and sits to contemplate them in the distance.

He can finally relax.

After a moment, he imagines colorful smoke coming from Popocatepetl. It forms into the silhouette of a warrior bowing down with some flowers for Iztaccihuatl, a damsel's silhouette that forms from the colors of the horizon.

Diego smiles.

He lowers his gaze and sees a new apartment building that stands out from the old buildings of the area. It has a huge sign with pictures of a happy family and the text THE HOUSE OF YOUR DREAMS IS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

Diego breathes a heavy sigh.

DIEGO
 One day...

He goes back inside, exhausted.

The night is clear. Popo's colorful smoke dissipates.

TIMELAPSE: Night transforms into dawn.

10 INT. DIEGO AND XOCHITL'S HOUSE - DAWN 10

Xóchitl leaves her room. Diego is asleep in an armchair. Xóchitl passes by her tippy toes. She tries to remain bitter with him, but she can't.

She returns to cover him with a blanket.

Xóchitl then looks into Tata's room to confirm that she is still sleeping. She is. Xóchitl moves to a nearby wall covered with BOXES and moves them carefully to reveal a hole that leads to a spiral staircase in a warehouse.

She climbs it.

Tata opens her eyes, knowingly.

11 INT. XOCHITL'S SECRET ROOM - CONTINUOUS 11

It is a large ball room with a high ceiling. The walls are worn and the place is full of RUBBLE and SCAFFOLDING.

One of the walls is covered by a large curtain. There are paint cans on a wooden table, and rags on the floor nearby.

Xóchitl pulls the curtain to reveal a MURAL that portrays the FIVE SUNS of the legend. The mural is a work in progress.

XÓCHITL
(To herself)
Priorities.

Xóchitl takes a deep breath and gets to work.

She takes some buckets and brushes, picks a color to start with, and tosses strokes here and there. This is her jazz.

Tata peeks out the edge of the door and smiles at Xóchitl.

She pulls out a LONG WOODEN BRUSH from her shawl. The bristles glow faint colors, like magic. Without Xóchitl noticing, Tata throws some brushstrokes into the air, causing a magical brushstroke to appear on the mural.

Xóchitl is surprised by the rogue brushstroke. She thinks that it was a mistake of hers and goes to correct it.

Tata performs another stroke in the air. More brushstrokes appear on the mural. Xóchitl insists on correcting each one.

The paint on the wall begins to shine and detach.

It floats in the air, surrounding Xóchitl. But, she is so immersed in her work that she does not notice anything.

The feathers of the feathered snake on the mural start to move. Its eyes follow Xóchitl as she moves from side to side.

When Xóchitl finishes, everything returns to normal. The painting is back in its place. She does not notice anything.

Satisfied with what she sees, Tata retreats. It's almost like she fades into the shadows of the building and disappears.

Xóchitl takes a few steps back to appreciate her work. Her face and clothes are speckled with paint.

Her new additions to the mural are:

- TLÁLOC, god of rain
- CHALCHIHUITLICUE, goddess of water
- TEZCATLIPOCA, god of night and sorcery
- QUETZALCOATL, god of life

Their respective suns float above them, with a large YELLOWSUN at the center, representative of TONATIUH.

They are accompanied by two others on either side:

- HUITZILOPOCHTLI, god of war
- XIPETOTEC, god of death (normally depicted flailed; but, you know, this is a kid's movie; it's open to interpretation)

Xóchitl addresses each of the characters in the mural as if they were her toys, and even acts out the scenes she imagines with each one of them, adding the final touches as she goes.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)

(to Tlaloc)

Oh, yes, hi! Don Tlaloc! Still practicing your breathing? Remember, count to ten... One, two, three, yeah--good! Relax, relax!

(to Chalchihuitlicue)

Doña Chalchihuitlicue, What was that? Uh huh?

Xóchitl leans in, as if listening to a secret.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)

Oh. Oh no. Right. Well, I didn't hear it from you. That's all I'll say.

She winks to Chalchi.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
 (to Xipetotex)
 Xipetotec! It's nice that you got
 that thing with your skin looked
 at. It looks, ummm... much better.
 (to Huitzilopochtli)
 Huitzilopochtli! Aaaaattention!

Xóchitl does a military salute.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
 (With Tezcatlipoca)
 Eh, sorry, Tezcatlipoca. Didn't
 mean to forget about you.

She adds a few more brush strokes to finish his bone-leg.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
 Now go out there and break a leg!
 (Beat)
 And Quetzalcoatl... god of light
 and life.

Xóchitl goes to the image of Quetzalcoatl.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
 Tell me, Quetzalcoatl... am I--?
 Wha--?

Xóchitl's mural emits a faint glow. It grows until it covers the entire room with light. Xóchitl can't believe it.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
 What is--?

Suddenly, a FLASH of colored lights shoot out from the mural, until *BAM* an explosion of feathers causes a SMALL BALL of light to hit Xóchitl, throwing her to the floor.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
 Wooooah!

Xóchitl tries to get up, only to discover a tiny QUETZAL on her lap; a small FEATHERED BABY SNAKE; his body is green, like jade, and he has a mane of colored feathers.

Quetzal looks at her with big tender eyes. She goes to pick him up, but he floats away, then dances around her.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
 Wait, what are you--? No! Hah! Ha
 ha ha! That tickles!

Xóchitl tries to grab Quetzal, but he squirrels away and dips back into the mural, causing it to ripple, like water.

Xóchitl approaches, cautious. She watches the ripples.

Xóchitl touches the mural with a finger. It ripples again. She takes out her finger, causing ripples that extend over the mural. Suddenly, Quetzal pokes his head through again.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)

Wow!

Xóchitl takes a step backward. Quetzal flies up to her. They cross gazes, and are promptly interrupted by a CAN ALARM.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)

Intruders!

Xóchitl grabs Quetzal, who is too surprised to react. They hide under the curtain that she uses to cover her mural.

12 INT. DIEGO AND XOCHITL'S HOUSE - DAY

12

The alarm continues. It's made of paint cans tied to glass bottles with shoe laces. Diego sleeps in his armchair.

DIEGO

(Muttering)

No... no, it wasn't... No...

(Wakes up exalted)

It wasn't a penalty!

Diego notices the alarm. He jumps out of the chair.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Xóchitl! There are birds on the wire! Sodas in the freezer!

Tata peeks out from her room, sleepy. Diego approaches and kisses her on the forehead.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

No, no, no. You calm down, *Tatita* we'll take care of it. Go back to sleep.

TATA

(frail)

Oh, if you say so.

Tata gets back into her room. Diego closes the curtain and continues panicking around the living room.

DIEGO
I repeat! Popcorn in the microwave!
Priests in the church!

13 INT. XÓCHITL'S BEDROOM - DAY 13

Diego peeks into the room. Xóchitl is not there.

DIEGO
Xóchitl?

14 INT. DIEGO AND XÓCHITL'S HOUSE - DAY 14

Diego exits their living space, which he hides behind some DRYWALL that he drags over to cover up the entrance. He stacks CEMENT SACKS to simulate an area under construction.

A voice approaches from a distance.

ARCHAEOLOGIST (O.S.)
These finishes... And the materials
they used... Hmm, interesting.

Diego climbs into a ventilation DUCT through a hole in the drywall ceiling. This is his hiding spot. It is equipped with cushions and snacks to wait out the intruders.

WHAT HE SEES: the ARCHAEOLOGIST (50) a plump guy, somewhat bald, with a CARELESS MUSTACHE and friendly demeanor. He carries an OBSIDIAN CANE with a JADE STONE on the top; in the other, he has a MAGNIFYING GLASS that he uses to inspect the creases between the walls and furniture.

Diego absentmindedly takes a BAG OF CHIPS, opens it, and bites into a potato chip. The Archaeologist hears the noise.

ARCHAEOLOGIST (CONT'D)
What's that?

Diego holds his breath, but he keeps chewing.

The Archaeologist approaches the ventilation duct where Diego is hiding. He inspects it with his magnifying glass.

Diego swallows the potato chip.

The Archaeologist taps the ceiling with his cane, causing it to crack. He taps it again, causing the whole thing to collapse. Diego falls through and immediately gets up.

DIEGO
I'm so sick of these darned
renovations! If you want something
done right, you gotta do it
yourself!

The Archaeologist stares, baffled. Diego looks at him in awe,
as if trying to assess if he's buying the story.

ARCHAEOLOGIST
And you are...?

DIEGO
(Nervous)
I'm uh, A-- Andrés!

ARCHAEOLOGIST
Andrés?

DIEGO
Yes!
(Pause, suspicious)
And you... who are you?

ARCHAEOLOGIST
Efraín González, at your service!
Archaeologist at the national
museum.

They shake hands.

DIEGO
(Confused)
And ummm... alright, what's up?

ARCHAEOLOGIST
I came to check out the building
before it is demolished.

DIEGO
Before what?!

ARCHAEOLOGIST
It's been abandoned for many years.
The foundation is poor. The whole
thing could come down at any
moment! But, it is my
responsibility to see if it has any
historical value before the
government tears it down. It's only
right.

Diego stutters, confused. The Archaeologist moves on.

DIEGO
They can't do that!

ARCHAEOLOGIST
Why not?

DIEGO
(Hesitant)
Because...
(With fake confidence)
This building is m-- mine!

ARCHAEOLOGIST
Sounds like what a squatter would
say.

DIEGO
But of course not! If I'm dressed
like this, it's because I'm fixing
my own building!
(Beat)
Don't you want a tour?

They turn into a warehouse at the back of the hall. There's a
spiral staircase here. The archaeologist starts to climb it.

ARCHAEOLOGIST
Oh, don't worry, I can find my way.

Diego follows.

DIEGO
Aaaaaand I can come with you! Let's
explore the... ahem, "West wing of
my property."

ARCHAEOLOGIST
Odd name for the north side of a
building.

15 INT. XÓCHITL'S MURAL - CONTINUOUS

15

The archaeologist enters the ballroom with Xóchitl's mural.
Diego follows, still trying to convince him.

DIEGO
As you can see, this ballroom is
currently undergoing major...
renovations?

Diego is stunned. He admires the mural. The archaeologist
walks towards it, pushing Diego aside as if he wasn't there.

ARCHAEOLOGIST
It's really wonderful. A true
antiquity. Had I known that this
building hid this treasure...

Xóchitl hides behind the curtain on the side of the mural.
Quetzal growls; Xóchitl covers his snout to silence him.

DIEGO
Treasure?

ARCHAEOLOGIST
These old buildings, they sometimes
hold ancient murals from centuries
ago. This one is something truly
special... You said that you own
the building?

DIEGO
Y-- Yes! I-- I do!

ARCHAEOLOGIST
Well, not only is my office willing
to acquire it... we will pay you
handsomely for it.

DIEGO
You can pay?

ARCHAEOLOGIST
Cash! *Dinero!* Mula!

DIEGO
Money!

ARCHAEOLOGIST
Ha, ha! Yes, my dear Andrés. Money.

Diego's eyes shine with excitement. Xóchitl, struggling to
contain the Quetzal, is mortified by what she hears.

DIEGO
But-- But it is on a wall! Hehe How
do you figure we'll get it out of
here?

Xóchitl breathes a sigh of relief.

ARCHAEOLOGIST
Well, by acquiring the whole
building, of course!
(Pause)
(MORE)

ARCHAEOLOGIST (CONT'D)

As long as there is a... legitimate owner.

Xóchitl jumps up again. She shakes her head, as if trying to influence Diego to walk away from the sale.

DIEGO

Well, right. I-- Umm, of course! It's just that, well... One does not simply carry something as important as the deed to a property, right? You just... umm, wait here! And, in the meantime, please continue to appreciate this marvel from the late je ne sais quoi period.

Diego takes the Archaeologist by the shoulders and plants him in front of the mural and runs off.

Xóchitl struggles with Quetzal from behind the curtain. The Archaeologist notices the curtain move and walks towards it.

Xóchitl can't hold Quetzal. He's about to break free.

The Archaeologist nearly slides open the curtain with his cane, but Diego returns, now dressed in a SUIT AND TIE.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Andrés Garza Campos at your service!

ARCHAEOLOGIST

(Surprised)

That was mighty quick.

Diego shows him a stack of papers and a fake ID.

DIEGO

Look how here it says it's me.

Well, that's me!

(points to himself)

And so I dress like this everyday, since I'm a successful businessman, as you can clearly see.

The Archaeologist looks at Diego from head to toe, then analyzes the papers. Diego snatches them back before the archaeologist can come to any conclusions.

Xóchitl can't believe what she hears. She's a mixture of frustrated and confused. Quetzal no longer struggles. He seems to understand, and is concerned for Xóchitl.

ARCHAEOLOGIST
So, do we have a deal?

DIEGO
But, of course we do!

Diego and the Archaeologist shake hands.

ARCHAEOLOGIST
I'll return in a few hours with the
check and agreements to make a
transaction. We'll want to move
fast, so please vacate the building
immediately.

The Archaeologist leaves, satisfied with the deal he just
made. When he's gone, Diego explodes with excitement.

DIEGO
Finally! We'll have our own home!
(Pauses, stressed)
Wait, a few hours? ! We need to
clean this place up! I need to find
Xóchitl!

XÓCHITL (O.S.)
No. You don't.

Xóchitl's voice resonates and echoes throughout the room.
Diego stops in surprise and searches for his daughter, until
she reveals herself from behind the curtain.

DIEGO	XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
Xóchitl? I--	--I can't believe you'd do this to me!

DIEGO
Xochi! There you are!

XÓCHITL
Don't change the subject!

DIEGO
What? What subject?

XÓCHITL
That you. Don't. Have. The right.
To sell. What isn't. Yours! This is
my mural! And this isn't our
building!

DIEGO
But Xóchitl... our dream! It's
coming true!

Diego's demeanor changes to authoritative.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Also, aren't you supposed to be grounded? I told you, no painting until you raise your grades!

XÓCHITL

Priorities! You told me that too. What I wanna do isn't a priority?

DIEGO

Yes, but the first priority is school!

XÓCHITL

Why should I care about school? To get twelve jobs? I just want to paint!

Diego points to the mural.

DIEGO

This!

(Pause, nostalgic)

This is an illusion, a dream.

XÓCHITL

(Serious)

Yes, it's my dream.

Diego sighs, defeated. Quetzal comes out of the curtain.

DIEGO

Woooooah! What is that thing?

Diego grabs a broom stick and stands between Quetzal and Xóchitl. Quetzal casually dodges Diego's occasional swings.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Shoo! Get out! Shoo!

Xóchitl steps around Diego and goes to the Quetzal.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Woah, woah, woah! *Mija*, careful! It'll bite you! You'll catch something!

Xóchitl turns around and looks at the mural.

XÓCHITL

Priorities...

She takes a deep breath and runs headfirst into the it. She closes her eyes, committed but uncertain.

DIEGO
Xóchitl! What are you doing?!

Diego, likewise, covers his eyes. He can't look. But when he hears nothing, he peeks between his fingers, only to find that Xóchitl is gone and the mural is rippling.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Xóchitl?

Diego looks to Quetzal, confused.

Quetzal turns and flies into the mural after Xóchitl. It ripples again as he dips into it with grace.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
What in the--?

Diego, incredulous, checks his temperature and pulse.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Xóchi? *Mija*? How did you?

Diego approaches the mural, cautious. He dips his finger into it. It ripples. Diego chuckles to himself, nervous.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
That's new.

After pondering it momentarily, Diego takes a deep breath.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Well, one step back...

He closes his eyes and is about to dive in, when--

DIEGO (CONT'D)
And three steps forw--Ah!.

The mural suddenly sucks him in anyways.

DIEGO (O.S.) (CONT'D)
¡Aaaaay Papantla, tus hijos vuelan!

After a moment, Tata re-appears. She smiles, brush in hand.

TATA
Consequences.

16

INT. TOLLAN CAVERNS - DAY

16

A river above feeds into the cavern through the ceiling.

DIEGO (O.S.)
Aaaaaaahhhhhhh!

Diego falls through it and lands into one of many streams that flow throughout the caverns. MULTICOLORED energy accompanies him as he falls. His outfit has changed. He now wears FEATHER EARRINGS, a fabric LOINCLOTH, and a TILMA.

The walls of the cavern have GEMSTONES of all colors embedded in them that, together, form the shapes OF MEXICA CREATURES.

The rivers converge at a cliff and form a waterfall.

Diego splashes into the lake. He emerges, gasping for air.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
¡Ay diosito!

The water settles. Diego is alone in this massive cavern.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Come on, *dieguito*, your momma
taught you how to swim.
(Shouting)
Xóchitl?! Where aaaaare you?!

No response.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Xóxchi?

He looks towards the bottom of the lake. It's pure darkness.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Xo?

Diego starts swimming. He hums to himself to try and calm down. Behind him, a huge pair of DEER ANTLERS emerge from the water and follow him silently.

Diego turns around. The antlers dive just before he can see them. Diego looks suspiciously in all directions.

Nothing.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Xochiflín!

He keeps swimming. The antlers re-emerge and follow him.

Diego continues deeper into the cavern, where the multicolored gems grow brighter and brighter.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
 Xo, this isn't funny!

Diego can see the shore. The antlers are getting closer.

Diego turns around and finally sees the deer antlers. They slowly submerge. Diego looks around. He can't find them.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
 Deer! Water-deer, of course. Just, ummm... don't worry about it. Eyes on the target. Eyes on the target.

He continues to swim towards the shore, nervous.

Diego hums as he goes.

The deer antlers re-emerge.

They continue rising to reveal an enormous MAZACÓATL, a huge SNAKE with deer antlers. It hisses. Diego turns to face it.

Diego can finally see the Mazacóatl behind him. He panics.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
¡Ay mamacita, por favor!
¡Jesucristo de mi vida redentor!

The Mazacóatl opens its jaws wide and prepares to lunge.

17 INT. XÓCHITL'S MURAL - DAY 17

Tata adds a stroke of paint to the mural.

18 INT. TOLLAN CAVERNS - DAY 18

Just before the Mazacóatl can devour Diego, a gust of wind causes a large wave to form and send Diego flying to the shore. He lands, coughing water and gasping for air.

DIEGO
 Aaaaaaaah!

The Mazacóatl charges, enraged.

In trying to escape, Diego sees a suspiciously placed POTTED PLANT WITH A KNIFE stuck into it. Having no time to question the potted plant's existence, he quickly pulls the knife from the pot and points it at the creature to defend himself.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Órale canijo!

A FLASH OF MAGIC sprouts from the pot. Rain starts pouring, even though this is the inside of a cavern. The Mazacóatl stops, like a dog that has just been signaled to stay.

TLALOC (O.S.)
 Ha, ha , ha!

Tlaloc's hearty laugh resonates throughout the cavern. The potted plant begins to float, surrounded by MAGIC ENERGY.

The pot explodes into a million colorful raindrops that coalesce into the form of TLÁLOC (60), a rotund being with a bulging beard in the shape of the NAHUATL SYMBOLS for water.

He floats around, then lands between Diego and the Mazacóatl.

TLALOC (O.S) (CONT'D)
 Ha, ha, ha! What did you find, my Yeye?

YEYE, the Mazacóatl, reacts like a puppy and circles Tlaloc.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
 (Affectionate)
 Who is my Yeye? Who is my little honeybun? Swim? Do we want to swim? Ready? Fetch!

Tlaloc takes a GEMSTONE from the floor and fakes Yeye out a few times, before finally chucking it so far into the lake that it's impossible to see where it lands.

Yeye jumps into the water. A giant wave to splashes Diego.

DIEGO
 (Coughing)
 What is happening right now?
 (Admiring his outfit)
 And this?! Where is my suit? It wasn't cheap you know!

Tlaloc gives Diego a bear-hug and lifts him up.

TLALOC
 My savior! Thank you for what you've done. I am Tlaloc! Forever in your debt.

Tlaloc releases Diego.

DIEGO
Wh-- what did I do?

TLALOC
Some ruffian put that knife in a
pot!

Diego looks to the knife and the potted plant.

DIEGO
Like... to stop the rain?

TLALOC
I hate it when they do that.

Tlaloc starts getting furious just thinking about it. His color turns red; a small thunderstorm forms around him.

DIEGO
(to himself, ironic)
Wow, my Tata was right.

Tlaloc practices some yoga breathing exercises, until he is calm again. The red fades. He finds his zen.

Diego looks to Tlaloc's face, then the knife in his hand, then the pot, then Tlaloc again. Tlaloc just smiles back.

Diego repeats the motions. Each time he passes Tlaloc's face, it has a different variation of a friendly smile.

Diego is starting to get what's happening.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Ttt.. Tlaloc.
(Sarcastic)
Sure, why not, Tlaloc, the god of water.

TLALOC
God. Of. Rain
(Normal)
Everyone always confuses me with Chalchihuitlicue.
(Dramatic)
My beloved Chalchi...
(Normal)
Have you not been paying attention?

Diego checks his temperature, then his pulse. He's fine.

DIEGO
Eeh, excuse me -- where am I?

TLALOC
In Tollan, the city of the gods!

DIEGO
Tollan?

TLALOC
Of course! Where else would we be?

DIEGO
Weren't we just in Mexico City?

TLALOC
(Dramatic)
Tenochtitlan?!
(Suspicious)
You're a human! What are you doing
here?

Diego turns solemn, regretful.

DIEGO
I'm looking for my daughter.

Tlaloc assumes a meditating pose while floating in the air.

TLALOC
Your daughter? Is she okay? What
happened?

Yeye returns with the gemstone. It's clear that he
understands the tone of the conversation, so he drops the
gemstone and curls up beside them to listen as well.

DIEGO
She... I... I think I messed up.

Tlaloc leans in to listen.

19 INT. XÓCHITL'S MURAL - DAY

19

Tata looks at the shape of Tlaloc on the mural.

She crosses her arms, satisfied.

She then looks to the part with TEZCATLIPOCA and
QUETZALCOATL. She frowns; taps her brush, pensive.

20

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

20

There is a portal at the top of a mountain. It shows the mural, reversed and transparent. Two GIANT OF TULA statues with colorful gemstones flank it on either side.

It opens up to a river that leads all the way down to a clearing, where it branches into the caverns below.

Xóchitl admires her reflection in a nearby pond.

She has COLORED MARKS on her arms, legs and face; she wears a GREEN REBOZO, GOLDEN RINGS on her arms, and a FEATHERED HEADDRESS with MARIGOLD FLOWERS on her head.

She looks around the jungle. It almost feels like every little noise is a horror from the depths of the jungle that is about to jump out at her.

XÓCHITL

Where am I?

Xóchitl hears some noises through the trees. She steps backward, fearful, until Quetzal pops out from within the trees. He approaches her, fluttering.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)

Hey little guy.

She pets the Quetzal, exasperated.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)

I'm sorry you had to see all that.
It's... not how this normally goes.
(determined)
I just need some time to think, you know?

Quetzal dances around her. At first Xóchitl interprets this as the small creature's own playful demeanor, but she soon realizes that he's trying to tell her something.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)

Hah, hah! What? What is it? Do you need something?

Quetzal leads her to a clearing up ahead. Xóchitl follows.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)

What? Where are you going? Wait!

They run to the bottom of the valley, until they arrive at...

21 EXT. CITY OF TOLLAN - CONTINUOUS

21

A lush golden city with colorful pyramids divided by streams of crystal clear water in the middle of the beautiful valley.

XÓCHITL
 Wooooooooow...
 (Towards Quetzal)
 Is this your home?

Quetzal nods with his little head. He points her to immense golden pyramid in the center of the town.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
 You want to go there? Why?

A BLACK SMOKE rises from behind Xóchitl. It startles Quetzal. Xóchitl notices it as well and falls to the floor, scared.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D) Ah!
 TEZCA (O.S.) Forgive me...

The smoke disperses to reveal a figure with a BONE-LEG.

TEZCA (CONT'D)
 I do not mean to startle.

The BONE-LEG belongs to Tezcatlipoca (TEZCA (30) for short); ceremonious and elegant, he carries an obsidian staff; his skin appears to be made of smoke that fades as he moves.

XÓCHITL
 You are... Tezcatlipoca?

Tezca extends his hand. She takes it and gets up. Tezca bows.

TEZCA
 (Ceremonious)
 The smoking mirror, at your service. But, please, call me Tezca.

Xóchitl reciprocates with a clumsy reverence, revealing the Quetzal behind her. Tezca leans in to pet him like a puppy.

TEZCA (CONT'D)
 Quetza! Little brother! Good to see you! Why so grim?

Quetzal bites Tezca's finger.

TEZCA (CONT'D)
 Ow, ow, ow, ow!

Tezca shakes his arm to free himself and sends Quetzal flying through the air, across the jungle.

XÓCHITL
Oh no, *Quetzalito*!

22 EXT. STAIRCASE OF THE GREAT PYRAMID OF TOLLAN - DAY 22

A lesser-god sweeps the stairs. He stops to see the Quetzal fly across the sky in the distance.

He keeps sweeping.

23 EXT. JUNGLE - DAY 23

Quetzal struggles to control his flightpath in the air. He lands in a tree, then pokes his head out, spitting leaves.

24 EXT. CITY OF TOLLAN - DAY 24

Tezca nurses his bitten finger.

XÓCHITL
I hope he's okay... Should we help him?

TEZCA
What? No. He's fine. We do this all the time. Just a show of brotherly love. He'll catch up.
(reacting)
What?

Xóchitl stares at Tezca's bone-leg.

TEZCA (CONT'D)
This? Yes, yes, well, ahem--

XÓCHITL
A crocodile bit it off!

Tezca is embarrassed. He'd rather move onto other topics.

TEZCA
An alligator, miss... it was an alligator. You should really learn to tell the difference.

As it dawns on Xóchitl that this really is Tezcatlipoca, she begins to speak faster and faster. This is exciting.

XÓCHITL
So, that really was Quetzalcoatl?

TEZCA
(shrugs)
Eh... ish?

XÓCHITL
And you really are Tezcatlipoca?

TEZCA
(flattered)
The one and only.

Xóchitl jumps in front of his face.

XÓCHITL
Tell it to me!

TEZCA
Tell you what?

XÓCHITL
The story! Of how you lost your
leg!

Tezca is immediately annoyed by her energy levels.

TEZCA
Ugh, No.

XÓCHITL
Yes! Tell meeeee!

TEZCA
Why? You already know it.

XÓCHITL
Not well! I didn't know about the
alligator, for example. I still
couldn't tell the difference. You
show me an alligator, what's that?
Who knows?!

Tezca walks off, annoyed. She follows, eager to hear more.

TEZCA
Well, ahem-- You should know, the
real question is not how I lost my
leg, but why I lost my leg. For
what purpose would I risk so much?

Xóchitl is all in on this story. She listens intently. Tezca
likes the attention. He continues with a tinge of arrogance.

TEZCA (CONT'D)

See, this is a story about the
responsibility of creation.

XÓCHITL

And you're the bad guy!

TEZCA

I'M NOT!

Tezca's scream echoes through the jungle. The hustle and
bustle of the city grinds to a halt. Xóchitl is sorry. She
would hide if there was anywhere for her to do so.

Tezca regains his composure.

TEZCA (CONT'D)

The other gods just didn't share my
vision. Besides, that's all in the
past now. To be quite honest,
Quetzalcoatl and I get along pretty
well these days, despite
everything. We're brothers! Can't
live with... can't live without.
It's complicated.

(Beat)

And well, I can see that you know
your history.

XÓCHITL

It's my favorite.

Tezca bows to Xóchitl once again.

TEZCA

Then you must join me, princess.
The ceremony is about to begin.

XÓCHITL

P-- Princess?

TEZCA

Yes, princess Xóchitl. I thought
you said you knew.

Xóchitl shakes her head.

XÓCHITL

Not this part.

TEZCA

Interesting...

(motions)

(MORE)

TEZCA (CONT'D)
Come. There is much for you to
learn.

He leads Xóchitl further into the city. She follows, curious.

TEZCA (CONT'D)
Forgive my prying, princess. But
what brings you to Tollan, if not
the coronation?

XÓCHITL
Oh, I'm running away from home.

TEZCA
Very respectable.

They trail off.

25 INT. TOLLAN CAVERNS - DAY

25

Tlaloc contemplates the story that he just heard.

TLALOC
(Empathetic)
For what it's worth, I can see your
point. You did what you thought was
right! It's just a
misunderstanding. She'll
understand. You can talk it out!

DIEGO
(dismissive)
Yeah, sure...

Tlaloc tries to lighten the mood.

TLALOC
Well, hey, you're in luck.

DIEGO
(sarcastic)
And why's that?

TLALOC
Today, we'll bare witness to the
announcement of the sixth sun.

DIEGO
Right, the "sixth sun". Like, from
the legend?

TLALOC

It's not a legend, it's history...
And everyone will be there! I was
headed there myself until I got...
err, stuck. Surely someone saw your
daughter, or knows where she went.
It's worth a shot, no?

Diego brightens up a little.

DIEGO

That-- That's not bad, not bad at
all! How do we get there--? Ahh!

Tlaloc's beard becomes a torrent of water that lifts Diego.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Aaaaah!

TLALOC

Like this!

Yeye flies out up and catches them both on his back.

DIEGO

A little warning pleeeeeeease!

Yeye flies over the lake and exits through a tunnel. Diego
can barely hang on as they zip through the tunnels, toward an
opening at the end of the tunnel.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Aaaaaaahhhhhhh!!!!

26 EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

26

Yeye exits the caverns and flies straight up into the sky.

At first, Diego is terrified, but he slowly comes to realize
that he's flying. It's more exciting than scary.

Diego allows himself to relax little. He and Tlaloc share a
hearty chuckle and hang on tighter, as they speed off.

DIEGO

Xóchitl, I'm comiiiiing!

27 EXT. TOLLAN TOWN SQUARE TOLLAN - DAY

27

The town square is inlaid with gold and precious stones.

Mythological creatures of all shapes and sizes meander along
with gods, demigods, and many other who-knows-whats.

Some of the creatures include:

- MAZACÓATLS, flying snakes with deer antlers that enter and leave rivers that fall through the mountain;
- AMOXOAQUES, giant trees with colored branches that walk through the streets and take care of the gardens of the pyramids;
- QUATÉZCATLS, birds with long and flowing blue and white feathers that fly over the city.

Xóchitl admires them as she walks. Tezca hurries her along.

TEZCA

Princess, there's no time.

XÓCHITL

Yessir!

Xóchitl hurries after him.

TEZCA

This is the city of Tollan, home to all of the magical beings of creation. For eons, we have watched over all of existence from here. It is the very place where we crowned the sun that gives life to your world.

Tezca points to the sun, large and imposing in the sky. Xóchitl squints to avoid looking at it directly.

XÓCHITL

Tonatiuh?

Quetzal appears from within the crowd in the market. He sees Xóchitl walking with Tezca and hurries over. Tezca notices him and, with the snap of a finger, causes a torrent of black smoke to fling Quetzal into a bird cage in the market.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)

Everything okay?

Xóchitl looks around, but she never sees Quetzal struggling to escape his bird-cage-prison in the crowd.

TEZCA

Quickly! It's almost time!

They pick up the pace and arrive at...

28

EXT. GRAN PYRAMID OF TOLLAN - CONTINUOUS

28

The pyramid is likewise made of gold, with precious gems and colorful engravings that depict various legends. To climb it, they must walk an immense staircase that never seems to end.

XÓCHITL

Time for what?!

Tezca goes to climb the stairs. Xóchitl follows him.

TEZCA

The coronation of the sixth sun.
Tonatiuh has done well all these
years, but his cycle has already
lasted longer than predicted.

XÓCHITL

Poor Tona, he must be tired.

TEZCA

Precisely.

Xóchitl struggles between climbing stairs and admiring
Tonatiuh in the sky. Tezca hurries her at every opportunity.

XÓCHITL

What's it like?

TEZCA

What?

XÓCHITL

Being the sun. You were the sun
once.

TEZCA

The very first.

XÓCHITL

So, what's it like?

Tezca actually has to think about this for a moment.

TEZCA

It is a great burden... when you
create something, you want everyone
to see it, to appreciate it. You
want it to be exactly like you
envisioned. And when it's taken
from you before it's ready!

Tezca has to calm himself. This resonates with Xóchitl.

XÓCHITL
Yeah... It hurts.

TEZCA
Like I said, my brothers just
didn't share my vision.

XÓCHITL
What happened?

Tezca smiles. He was waiting for her to ask.

29

I/E. MONTAGE - INDETERMINATE

29

The following sequence should be illustrated differently,
perhaps with cutouts or puppets; however the team chooses.

A) EXT. ABYSS - INDETERMINATE - We start with a white abyss;
a different take on the opening legend that Tata told.

Four gods appear; they are each represented as if they were
SMALL CHILDREN: TEZCATLIPOCA, QUETZALCOATL, XIPETOTEC and
HUITZILOPOCHTLI. The gods wave their arms.

TEZCA (V.O.)
It all started one day, when my
brothers and I decided to create
existence.

The four brothers trace the cosmos with their arms. Each
movement adds a brushstroke to the vast nothingness.

XÓCHITL (V.O.)
(Interrupts)
Yeah! When that croc ate your leg!

A COSMIC ALLIGATOR appears from within a black hole and rips
Tezca's leg off in one bite.

TEZCA (V.O.)
(Frustrated)
It was an alligator!

The other gods throw themselves at the alligator. Their fight
forms a cloud of smoke that yields a big alligator hide.

TEZCA
But, yes, I alone defeated it, and
its body became the canvas for this
world.

The hide morphs into the earth; mountains and rivers sprout
from it; clouds appear in front of a big blue sky.

TEZCA (V.O.)

But it was all dark and ugly. My
brothers hadn't thought this
through at all!

The gods gather in the darkness. They shrug.

TEZCA (V.O.)

That's when I came up with a great
idea: I would have to become a sun.
With my incredible powers, I could
light the world in my image!

Tezca takes center stage; PHOTO FLASHES snap everywhere he
goes. He postures like a bodybuilder, then ascends to the sky
and becomes a huge VIOLET SUN. His light is dark; black smoke
begins to appear and spread everywhere on earth.

XÓCHITL

Any why you?

The other gods look on in dismay.

TEZCA (V.O.)

Because I am the best out of my
brothers.

Then, Quetzalcoatl magically appears and bonks Tezca on the
head, knocking him out of the sky. The smoke fades away.

TEZCA (V.O.)

But then, before I could establish
my eternal reign, Quetzalcoatl
pushed me out and cast me back to
earth! All so that he could take
the credit!

Quetzalcoatl morphs into a bright WHITE SUN made of wind.

XÓCHITL

But everyone likes Quetzalcoatl

TEZCA

Well, I beg to differ.

Tlaloc's voice interrupts Tezca.

TLALOC (V.O.)

You wanna know what I think?

B) INT. TOLLAN CAVERNS - DAY - Tlaloc and Diego fly over
Yeye's back over the jungle, toward the city.

TLALOC

Quetzalcoatl had to do it. Tezca
never really had a chance. He's too
vain; never cared for living
beings; the *macehuals*; the giants!

DIEGO (V.O.)

(In disbelief)

Macehuals?

TLALOC

The first humans, full of love and
wonder. Cute little guys. But shh---
don't interrupt me!

Tlaloc raises his hand and lowers a WHITE CURTAIN.

Going forward, the montage continues with interwoven
perspectives, each with their own art style variations.

C) EXT. JUNGLE - DAY - Tezca appears in the middle of a
jungle with a bitter expression. After a few moments, he
raises his fist and points his finger, as if to give an
order. Colorful JAGUARS appear from the smoke. The jaguars
pursue the MACEHUALES and the GIANTS, When the smoke finally
dissipates, only a few sad *Macehuals* remain.

TLALOC (V.O.)

Tezca, in a bitter act of revenge,
created the jaguars and attacked
the inhabitants of the world!

D) EXT. STAIRCASE OF THE GREAT PYRAMID OF TOLLAN - DAY -
Tezca, Xóchitl go up the stairs.

They're so high up, that a they are among the clouds.

TEZCA

The truth is that Quetzalcoatl was
doing a terrible job. It was a
boring world! What else could I do?
I *had* to take him down.

Xóchitl follows the story, intrigued with every detail.

E) EXT. JUNGLE AND CROP FIELDS - DAY - Quetzalcoatl falls
from the sky. As he falls, he forms a tornado that transforms
the *macehuals* into monkeys as it passes.

TLALOC (V.O.)

And when Quetzal fell, he caused
gusts of winds that shook the
Macehuals to their core, and
transformed them into monkeys!

Tlaloc appears with his arms extended, like Superman.

TLALOC (V.O.)
 So that's when the brothers reached
 out to yours truly for help!

He carries some small *Macehuales* on his back. They wave their arms and cheer him on. Tlaloc transforms into a LIGHT BLUE SUN. Rain falls from his beard, and onto the corn fields below, where more macehuales cheer and work the land.

TLALOC (V.O.)
 See, the *macehualitos* really just
 needed a bit of rain to help them
 with that whole farming project
 that they'd started. Simple.

Suddenly, lightning appears in the sky. It's a huge storm.

TEZCA (V.O.)
 But, you know, Tlaloc turned out to
 be a teeeeeerrible sun. One day he's
 happy, the next he's mad. It's
 chaos! But not, like, good chaos,
 you know?

Xóchitl does not.

TEZCA (V.O.)
 Anyways, the guy had to go.

The storm rages on. Lightning strikes and sets fire to the small village of the *Macehuales*. Some try to escape, but the lightning strikes them as well and turns them into turkeys.

DIEGO (V.O.)
 Wait, what's with the turkeys?

TLALOC (V.O.)
 (Embarrassed)
 Heh... you know, side effects.

The few *macehuales* who survived flee to the mountains.

TEZCA (V.O.)
 So, I guess, credit where it's due.
 Quetza *did* step in to kick Tlaloc
 out. But then-- who knows why--
 replaced him with Chalchi!

F) EXT. SKY - DAY - Quetzal rises to the sky where Tlaloc is storming and pulls him by the beard. The storm stops.

Then, enters CHALCHI (60), a nurturing mother figure. She becomes a NAVY BLUE SUN made of water and gentle light waves.

XÓCHITL (V.O.)

Chalchi?

TEZCA (V.O.)

Chalchihuitlicue... Or, Chalchi,
for short. It's just easier to say.

Back to Chalchi, she nods in agreement. She sings a lullaby.

TLÁLOC (V.O.)

Oh, I didn't really mind
retirement. After all, I love
Chalchi. She's the goddess of
water! What's not to love, eh?

Tezca appears behind Chalchi. She smiles at him, pulls him like a rag doll, and places him on her lap like a baby.

TLÁLOC (V.O.)

But Tezca was still angry. He
couldn't bare to see her reign.

Tezca decides to play along with Chalchi. He smiles a devilish smile and asks Chalchi to lean in for a secret.

TLÁLOC (V.O.)

You know? I still don't know what
he said to her that day, but it
really broke her heart.

Chalchi brings her ear closer. Tezca whispers something to her. Chalchi's expression changes to one of confusion, and then of sadness, until she breaks down in tears.

TLÁLOC (V.O.)

And, oh, my poor Chalchi, she
started crying and crying and
crying, until she flooded the
world.

Chalchi's tears cause a deluge. The *Macehuales* in the fields try to run away into a big boat. They don't all make it.

G) EXT. STAIRCASE OF THE GREAT PYRAMID OF TOLLAN - DAY -
Tezca has his arms crossed, lost in his thoughts. He notices that Xóchitl stares at him, horrified.

TEZCA

Hey, I only told her the truth. Who
am I to judge?

H) EXT. SKY AND SEA - DAY - The *Macehuales* are underwater in a sea of tears. They wave their arms in desperation. They can't breathe! *POP* one by one, they transform into fish.

TLALOC (V.O.)
And so, the last of the *Macehuales*
turned into fish... And the world
returned to darkness.

-END OF THE MONTAGE- EXT. CEREMONIAL TEMPLE - DAY

The center of the temple has an engraving on the floor. It is a CIRCLE surrounded by FOUR SUNS, each made of representative elements of their respective god: earth and jaguars (Tezca), wind (Quetzal), storms and fire (Tlaloc) and water (Chalchi).

TEZCA (O.S.)
And after all that mess, we knew we
had to try a new approach. We held
a contest among all the gods to
pick a successor. And the victor,
Tonatiuh, became our fifth sun.

The FIFTH SUN, positioned in the center of the CEREMONIAL CIRCLE, is of a bright and beautiful orb. The whole thing is illuminated by a beautiful GLASS VAULT above.

HUITZILOPOCHTLI (a warrior) and XIPETOTEC (an old sage) sit on their thrones beyond the ceremonial circle. They watch Tezca and Xóchitl catch their breath after climbing up.

TEZCA (CONT'D)
I'll never in ten thousand years
get used to climbing those stairs.

XÓCHITL
(Sarcastic)
Yeah, you'd think you guys would
put in an elevator or something.

Xóchitl admires the temple.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
Is this it?

TEZCA
That's right. This is where we
crowned Tonatiuh. Come, princess.

Tlaloc and Diego arrive at the outskirts of the market.

DIEGO
And what happened to the giants?

TLALOC
(shrugs)
Haven't seen them since the
jaguars.

DIEGO
Wow, what a shame.

Yeye lands. He shakes, knocking Diego to the ground.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Wooooah!

Tlaloc simply floats down and lands gently next to Diego.

TLALOC
If you want to find your daughter,
that's where you should look.

Tlaloc points to the great pyramid in the center of Tollan.

DIEGO
I'm coming, Xo.

Diego mimes an "I'm watching you" to Yeye, then runs off. A
distant horn announces the start of the ceremony.

31 EXT. CEREMONIAL TEMPLE - DAY 31

Tezca enters the ceremonial circle.

TEZCA
The time has come!

Huitzilopochtli and Xipetotec approach. Several other MINOR
MEXICA DEITIES surround them, including CHALCHI.

HUITZILOPOCHTLI
Tezcatlipoca, brother.

XIPETOTEC
To what do we owe this meeting of
the gods?

TEZCA
Huitzilopochtli, Xipetotec, thank
you for coming. I come baring good
news.
(turns to address the
crowd)
(MORE)

TEZCA (CONT'D)
 Our fifth sun, Tonatiuh, is tired!
 Soon, he will fade, and the world
 will fall into darkness! As the
 gods of creation, it is our duty to
 find a replacement and bring
 humanity into a new era!

The gods break into murmurs and whispers. They agree.

TEZCA (CONT'D)
 (back to his brothers)
 This is why I've called you all
 here, to introduce you to someone
 truly special.

Huitzilopochtli scans the crowd.

HUITZILOPOCHTLI
 (Towards Xipe)
 Shouldn't we wait for Quetzalcoatl?

32 EXT. TOLLAN TOWN SQUARE - DAY 32

Quetzal struggles to escape the bird cage.

33 EXT. CEREMONIAL TEMPLE - DAY 33

Tezca slams his staff on the floor. The resulting echo
 silences everyone in the temple.

TEZCA
 There's no time! At last, I have
 found her! The true heir to the
 heavens! Princess Xó--

Xipetotec interrupts him.

XIPE
 Princess? Was there a legend with a
 princess? I don't remember that.

Huitzilopochtli shrugs. He has no idea.

TEZCA
 Xipe, xipe! Not now! The ceremony
 has already started!

Xipe rolls his eyes, he motions for Tezca to continue.

TEZCA (CONT'D)
 Ahem-- Beings of all creation! I
 present to you, your sixth sun,
 (MORE)

TEZCA (CONT'D)
 the master of this earthly canvas...
 (Bows to Xóchitl)
 Princess--

DIEGO (O.S.)
 (Screaming)
 Xochiflíiiiiiiiiiiin!

Diego appears at the top of the stairs, gasping for air.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
 Saaachi! Xóchitl! *Mija...* I've been
 looking all over for you.
 (To himself)
 Why would Yeye... drop me off... at
 the bottom of the pyramid?

Diego walks to Xóchitl. Tezca pushes him back with magic.

TEZCA
 You! Back off! Do not disturb the
 princess!

Diego gets back up. He's determined.

DIEGO
 Princess? I mean, yes, *my* princess.
 And she's coming home right n-- ah!

Tezca freezes Diego with his magic.

XÓCHITL
 (concerned)
 Dad!

All the gods act as if they were watching their favorite soap opera, looking at each character with undivided attention.

XIPETOTEC
 Wait, so this human is a king?

TEZCA
 Xipe!

The gods all shush Xipe. He shrinks in his throne.

TEZCA (CONT'D)
 (to Diego)
 You have no place here.

Tlaloc and Yeye rush in. Tlaloc's is a bit red with anger.

TLALOC

Wait just a minute! I owe a debt of
gratitude to this human. You can't
treat him this way!

(to the crowd)

We must hear his plight!

The gods applaud in agreement. Tezca is growing impatient.

DIEGO

Exactly, exactly! Xóchitl, please!
Tell them! Tell them that you want
to come home!

A spotlight appears on Xóchitl. All eyes are on her. She
ponders shyly for several seconds, until she finds the words.

XÓCHITL

But... I don't.

This breaks Diego's heart.

DIEGO

What? Why?

Xóchitl motions Tezca to release his magic. He does. Diego
falls to his knees in front of the ceremonial circle.

XÓCHITL

Because, dad, didn't you hear? He
said that I could be the sun.

DIEGO

Xo, are you hearing yourself right
now?

XÓCHITL

You don't believe it?

DIEGO

(reluctant)

Oh, I wish I knew more words.

XÓCHITL

You don't...

GODS

(In unison)

Uuuuuuuuuuuuuuhhh!

DIEGO

"Uuuuuuhhh" What? Look at me, "the
bad guy"! Mind your own business!

Diego grabs Xóchitl's hand and forces her to come with him.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Xochitl, it's been a really weird
day. And, right now, I just really
need you to come home with me.

Tezca slams his staff on the ground once again. This time, it
resonates across the lands. The ceremonial circle lights up.

TEZCA
ENOUGH!

34 EXT. TOLLAN TOWN SQUARE - DAY 34

The pulse from Tezca's staff finally rocks Quetzal's cage
enough for him to knock it off the table. It breaks open.

Quetzal speeds off, toward the pyramid.

35 EXT. CEREMONIAL TEMPLE - DAY 35

Tezca emanates black magic. He's not playing around anymore.

TEZCA
Release the princess.

Two multicolored jaguars appear in a puff of black smoke and
block Diego and Xochitl's path to the pyramid stairs.

36 INT. XÓCHITL'S MURAL - DAY 36

Tata quickly paints some symbols that represent the wind.

37 EXT. CEREMONIAL TEMPLE - DAY 37

A gust of wind lifts Diego and Xóchitl away from the jaguars.

TEZCA
(Whispering, to himself)
So... you have help?

Tezca looks to the sky and slams his staff on the ground.

38 INT. XÓCHITL'S MURAL - DAY 38

The mural sparks a MAGICAL FLASH that causes Tata's brush to
explode into pieces. Tata falls backward.

39 EXT. CEREMONIAL TEMPLE - DAY 39

Diego and Xóchitl fall back to the floor. Tezca immediately lifts diego back up with his black magic.

TEZCA
I think you've said your piece...
Good bye.

DIEGO
No, no, no, no!

Tezca's magic shoots Diego across the sky.

DIEGO (CONT'D) XÓCHITL
Xooooooooooooooooooooooh! Daaaaaad!

40 EXT. STAIRCASE OF THE GREAT PYRAMID OF TOLLAN - DAY 40

Quetzal stops to watch diego fly across the sky, then continues climbing to the top as fast as he can.

41 EXT. JUNGLE - DAY 41

The portal that Diego and Xóchitl came through rests in the jungle, serene and undisturbed.

DIEGO
Aaaaaaaaaaah!

Diego falls into the portal with a big *SPLASH*.

42 INT. XÓCHITL'S MURAL - DAY 42

Diego, back to his suit and tie, is ejected from the mural and crashes against the wall on the other side of the room.

DIEGO
(Recovering)
Xóchitl!

Diego runs back to the mural. He's about to dive back in, but the floor of the building begins to shake. Diego stops.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
What is?!-- An earthquake?!

A YELLOW EXCAVATOR SHOVEL shatters the wall on the side of the living room. Diego jumps away just before being crushed.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
What the--?!
(Beat)
Tata!

The floor begins to collapse. Another excavator shovel emerges from the floor. Diego jumps it and runs downstairs.

43 INT. DIEGO AND XOCHITL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 43

Everything collapses around Diego. He runs down the hall, dodging debris as he goes, until he arrives at the secret corridor that leads to his family's living area.

DIEGO
Tata! Where are you?! Tata!

She's not here. There's no time. Diego runs for the exit, but stops for just a second to grab his box of money.

It's too late. He can't get to it on time, and only manages to rescue a few coins that fly in the air.

He exists just before the room collapses.

44 EXT. DIEGO AND XOCHITL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 44

Diego jumps out the door of the building, just as it collapses behind him. He rolls to a clumsy stop.

There are CONSTRUCTION MACHINES and WORKERS all around. Diego watches the scene in disbelief.

DIEGO
Who do you think you are?! Stop!
Stop right now! My grandmother is
inside!

ARCHAEOLOGIST (O.S)
Mr Garza! I was worried you weren't
gonna show!

Diego looks up to find the Archaeologist standing over him.

The archeologist no longer wears his disheveled attire; he is dressed like a CONTRACTOR, with a well-fitted BLACK SUIT, RED TIE, SLICKED BACK HAIR and a THIN CUT MUSTACHE.

DIEGO
(Confused)
You-- But what about--?

CONTRACTOR
I swear I made sure there was no
one inside before we started.

The Contractor hands Diego a PEN and a CONTRACT.

CONTRACTOR (CONT'D)
I just need you to sign here.

Diego is in shock. He doesn't even move, so the Contractor takes Diego's hand and makes him sign, like a puppet.

CONTRACTOR (CONT'D)
And since I'm a man of my word,
here's your check.

He drops the check in Diego's lap.

DIEGO
(Overwhelmed)
But weren't you--? You! You tricked
me! Why did you tear it down?!

Diego gets up. He pounces on the Contractor and pulls him from the lapels of his suit. A group of MASONS grab Diego and knock him to the floor. The contractor readjusts his tie.

CONTRACTOR
Just be grateful that we're all
still pretending, "Mr. Garza".
(winks)
Hey, at least you got what you
wanted, no?

The contractor lets out a hearty laugh. He goes to leave, whistling cheerfully as he twirls his obsidian staff.

Diego watches the entire building collapse before him.

DIEGO
No... Xóchitl.

Diego gets up slowly and walks into the rubble.

He looks at the check in his hand.

Enraged, Diego chases after the Contractor.

Diego turns a corner into an alley.

DIEGO

Hey! Whait a minute! What do you
mean by--?!

POOF cloud of BLACK SMOKE rises around Diego.

He coughs; can't see anything.

The smoke dissipates to reveal a dead end. Diego hears a growl. Then, a JAGUAR appears from within the smoke.

The jaguar stalks Diego, fangs at the ready.

Diego takes a broomstick from a nearby trashcan and prepares to defend himself against it. The jaguar leaps forward.

Suddenly, a gust of wind pulls the jaguar back.

The jaguar tries to resist, clawing at the ground hang to hang on. But, the wind is too strong. It sucks the jaguar into a small mural painted on the wall.

It was Tata who had painted the mural; a crude IMAGE of QUETZALCOATL. Tata falls, exhausted. Diego runs to her.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Tata!

Diego takes Tata to the back of the alley.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Tata, are you okay? What's going
on? Where were you?

TATA

(frail)

Oh, *Dieguito*, did you find Xóchitl?
She's such an angel.

Diego checks her temperature and her pulse. She needs rest.

DIEGO

She's, uhhh. You know, everything's
fine. We're just having an--umm,
disagreement. You know how it is.

He lays her against the wall and covers her with his jacket.

TATA

(yawning)

If you say so...

Tata falls asleep in his arms.

Diego holds her. He looks to the small mural that Tata painted to save him from the jaguar. It fades away.

DIEGO

Oh Tata, what are we going to do?

46

EXT. CEREMONY TEMPLE - DAY

46

Tezca, Xipetotec, and Huitzilopochtli prepare for the coronation of the sixth sun around the ceremonial circle.

Xóchitl is in the center, nervous. Xipetotec inspects her.

XIPETOTEC

(Whispering)

Princess Xóchitl?

(Towards Huitzilopochtli)

Is she the one that turned into a flower?

HUITZILOPOCHTLI

(whispering)

I don't think she was a princess.

Xipetotec gestures an aloof "I don't know".

TEZCA

(To Xóchitl)

Are you ready?

XÓCHITL

(concerned)

But, my dad--

TEZCA

--Is well, princess. We only sent him home. You'll watch over him from the heavens.

Xóchitl is reluctant, but she nods that she understands.

XÓCHITL

What do I have to do?

TEZCA

You already know.

Tezca hands Xóchitl a BRUSH with MEXICA SYMBOLS. She takes it. Tezca raises his staff in the air.

TEZCA (CONT'D)

Brothers! Lend me your power.

Xipetotec and Huitzilopochtli raise their hands as well. They each emanate magic that lights the ceremonial circle, leaving Xóchitl in the middle of a ring of light.

Xóchitl admires the brush in her hand. It shines. She falls to her knees and sets off painting, still unsure of herself.

All the gods in the audience observe Xóchitl with curiosity. Xóchitl starts getting her bearings; gaining confidence.

Tonatiuh's ray of light from above starts to diminish little by little; the light around Xóchitl starts to grow brighter.

The gods are entranced watching her work.

When she is done, Xóchitl steps aside to reveal a MULTICOLORED AZTEC SUN within the ceremonial circle.

Tezca, Xipetotec and Huitzilopochtli lower their arms.

The aztec sun painting begins to shine. Xóchitl rises to her feet and exits the ceremonial circle.

Everyone admires her creation.

The ceremonial circle lights up. The aztec sun inside of it opens like a gate. The inside is like an infinite abyss of blinding MULTICOLORED ENERGY. It envelops the temple in a beautiful display of light and magic.

TEZCA (CONT'D)

It is done.

The energy coalesces and shoots a powerful RAY OF LIGHT that rises from the pyramid and connects with the sun in the sky.

47 EXT. STAIRCASE OF THE GREAT PYRAMID OF TOLLAN - DAY 47

Quetzal is nearly to the top. He watches in dismay as the ray of light shoot out into the sun.

He continues to the temple, gliding between the crowd of gods and creatures that have assembled for the proceedings.

48 EXT. CEREMONIAL TEMPLE - DAY 48

Xipetotec and Huitzilopochtli step aside to allow Xóchitl into the circle of light. She hesitates at first, but is able to build up the courage to take a step toward the abyss.

She takes another. And another. And then, she freezes.

HUITZILOPOCHTLI
Princess?

XÓCHITL
I... can't... move.

Tezca is revealed to have frozen Xóchitl with his magic.

TEZCA
Hah! Tell me, girl, what makes you
think that you'd be worthy.

He pulls her back and flings her across the temple.

XÓCHITL
Ah!

The gods act in melodramatic surprise. Xóchitl stands little
by little, hurt and confused.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
Y-- You said that I was special,
that it's my destiny. You said that
I could paint the world as I'd
like, and everyone could see it!

Tezca steps into the ceremonial circle in her stead.
Multicolored energy surrounds him. He grows more powerful.

TEZCA
You gullible fool. Did I really say
all that? Or did you assume it?
(To Xóchitl)
All I had to do was plant a tiny
seed in your head, and you let it
grow all on your own... Just like
any other dumb, ordinary human.

XÓCHITL
I-- I'm not! I can be--

TEZCA
Nothing! You are nothing!
(To the gods)
Do you see what I mean? There is no
end to human hubris! They're vain!
Ego driven! They have no power to
speak of, yet they think themselves
so special that they've lost
respect for us. They do not deserve
this world. We crafted it. It is
ours!

TLALOC

(hasty, comedic)

So your plan is to ascend and
become the sun again and use your
power to wipe out all of humanity
and start anew in a world crafted
in your own image?

TEZCA

(polite)

Why, yes. That appears to be the
case, does it not?

TLALOC

(Cartoonish)

Oh, how devilishly evil of you.

TEZCA

(back to villain mode)

Behold!

Tezca hits the floor with his staff, one by one black FUMES
appear that when dissipated reveal several COLORFUL JAGUARS.

TLALOC

Jaguars! No!

Tlaloc throws himself on the floor, scared to death.

Tezca moves to the edge of the circle to face Xipetotec and
Huitzilopochtli. They ready their weapons to fight him.

TEZCA

Brothers, you disappoint me. Even
Quetzalcoatl would have
investigated this charade. But you?
You didn't even lift a finger!
Well, if that's the case, I'm sorry
to say... You don't deserve your
vote in these matters.

Xipetotec and Huitzilopochtli prepare to attack. Tezca
charges his staff and shoots a ray of black magic at them.

Suddenly, Quetzal appears. He charges a forcefield made of
wind around himself and intercepts the attack.

It hits Quetzal and sends him flying into Xóchitl's arms.

XÓCHITL

Quetzalito!

(Catches him)

Why did you take so long?

Quetzal rolls his eyes, recomposes himself and climbs onto Xóchitl's shoulder, ready to keep fighting. The temple is now in chaos, with gods and creatures running through clouds of black smoke to evade the onslaught of jaguars.

A pair of jaguars pounce on Huitzilopochtli, but he makes quick work of them with his SPEAR, sending them flying across the temple. He and Xipetotec charge at Tezca.

Tezca absorbs more energy from the abyss. He shoots another ray of magic at Huitzilopochtli and Xipetotec, knocking them into the throne room at the back of the temple. Then, with another magic attack, he collapses the roof, locking them in.

TEZCA

(to himself, satisfied)

Ah. I always wanted to do that.

Tezca waves his staff on the shape of a glyph. The multicolored energy turns dark. It spreads throughout the ray of energy and climbs all the way to the sun.

49 EXT. STAIRCASE OF THE GREAT PYRAMID OF TOLLAN - INDETERMINATE

The ray of energy hits the sun (Tonatiuh) and starts to transform it into a DARK SUN; the beginning of an eclipse.

50 INT. CEREMONIAL TEMPLE - INDETERMINATE 50

Quetzal and Xóchitl reach the ceremonial circle.

XÓCHITL

We're too late!

Tezca floats in place in the center of the circle. He emanates dark energy. He smiles at the sight of Quetzal.

TEZCA

Ah, little brother. Seems I've won
our little wager. As your reward...
I banish you to *Mictlán*!

Xóchitl hugs Quetzal to protect him from the blast. Just before it hits, Yeye flies in and takes the hit. He transforms into a LITTLE WORM WITH ANTLERS.

TEZCA (CONT'D)

Oh, whoops.

TLALOC

Noooooo! Yeyyyyye!

Tlaloc goes to pick up his little worm friend.

TEZCA

Here comes the good one!

Tezca sends another magic attack. He captures Tlaloc, Quetzal, Xóchitl, and Yeye in a cloud of black magic, then shoots them out of the temple and into the sky.

51 EXT. TOLLAN TOWN SQUARE - INDETERMINATE 51

Tollan has fallen into chaos. Creatures run all around as the eclipse continues to form.

Xóchitl, Quetzal, Tlaloc and Yeye fall from the sky. A portal appears in the town square. They fall through it.

52 INT. MICTLÁN - DAY 52

Mictlán is a place submerged in a dark penumbra, with sparse multicolored flora in an otherwise rocky terrain.

A torrent of energy spits Xóchitl, Tlaloc, Quetzal and Yeye onto a hill near the bank of a river of multicolored energy.

They roll to a stop at the foot of the hill.

TLALOC

(recovering)

Oof, everyone okay?

Tlaloc helps Xóchitl up. She pushes him away, angry.

XÓCHITL

No! Let me go...

Tlaloc goes to tend to Yeye in his tiny worm form.

TLALOC

Ah, you must be Xóchitl, Diego's daughter.

XÓCHITL

(reacting)

My dad! Is he okay?

Tlaloc makes an effort to lighten the mood.

TLALOC

Ummm... Surely! He's a very talented guy, that Diego.

(MORE)

TLALOC (CONT'D)
One time, he saved me from the
clutches of a knife in a pot!

Xóchitl is surprised to hear this.

XÓCHITL
H-- He saved you?

TLALOC
That's right! Thanks to him I was
able to attend the ceremony. Where
I... And now...

Tlaloc pauses momentarily, as if suddenly realizing his
present situation. He starts getting angry; turning red;
summoning a tiny storm around himself.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
Now we're stuck here... And he-- He
did this! Tezcatlipoca! Oh, he's a
trickster, that Tezca! He must've
been the one to trap me with that
knife! I'm sure of it!

Tlaloc's fury grows, until he catches himself and starts his
breathing exercises to try and calm down.

XÓCHITL
(to herself)
A princess... He told me that I was
a princess. How could I be so dumb?
Of course I'm not special! I'm
worthless!

Xóchitl sobs. Tlaloc, Yeye, and Quetzal gather to calm her.

TLALOC
Xóchitl... Don't be so hard on
yourself. Tezca is deceitful. He
fooled you and brought to this
place.

XÓCHITL
No, he didn't! I came here all on
my own.

TLALOC
But... how?

Xóchitl has to stop to think about this.

XÓCHITL
It started when... I met
Quetzalito!
(MORE)

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
 He came out of my mural, and I
 thought he looked just like
 Quetzalcoatl.

Tlaloc looks at Quetzal in surprise.

TLALOC
 Quetzalcoatl?! Ha, ha, ha, are you
 sure about that? How could this be
 the mighty Quetzalcoatl?! Don't be
 silly. This little guy ain't him.

Quetzal rolls his eyes at tlaloc.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
 But, I can see the resemblance...
 you know how we love feathered
 snakes and other crazy chimeras
 around here.

Tlaloc caresses Quetzal, like a puppy. Quetzal floats away,
 annoyed. This makes Xóchitl laugh. She calms a little.

XÓCHITL
 (looking around)
 Where are we?

TLALOC
 We're in *Mictlán*, the underworld;
 the bottom of the creation, if you
 will.

Tláloc, Xóchitl and Quetzal look up to the *Mictlán* sky, where
 they see the eclipse far away. It's still forming.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
 Oh, no... if Tezcatlipoca finishes
 his transformation, there will be
 no stopping him.

Xóchitl walks away, pensive.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
 Xóchitl? Where are you--

XÓCHITL
 --I just... need to think.

Xóchitl wanders out to the edge of the river and walks along
 it. She looks in the water and sees her reflection, still
 wearing the headdress, earrings, and rings on her arms.

The sight upsets her. She throws them into the river.

Xóchitl breathes a sigh of relief when she can finally see herself as she normally is, without the accessories.

Then, the river starts bubbling.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
Wha-- What is happ-- Ah!

A GIANT MULTICOLORED IGUANA known as *XOCHITÓNAL* emerges. Xóchitl leaps backward, trying to flee from the monster.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
Ayyyy! What is that?!

Xóchitl hides behind Tlaloc.

TLALOC
Ha, ha, ha. Fret not. This is *Xochitónal* the river guardian of this realm. It seems that he has accepted your offering.

XÓCHITL
Offering? For what?

Xochitónal dives back into the river, leaving his back exposed to form a river that will allow them to cross.

TLALOC
To cross! Come on! We must hurry!

Tlaloc and Yeye move past Xóchitl and onto *Xochitonál*.

Xóchitl looks to Quetzal. He offers a comforting nod that gives Xóchitl the courage to step onto *Xochitonál*'s back.

XÓCHITL
W-- Wait for me!

Xóchitl runs to catch up to Tlaloc.

53 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

53

Diego receives some tortillas and beans from a CLERK at a small tent in a *tianguis* (mexican street market). He pays for them using his last few 10 peso coins.

Walking home, he passes the apartment building under construction that he had dreamed of living in. A couple of WORKERS are in the process of adding a "SOLD OUT" sign on top of the "HAPPINESS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS" billboard.

Diego moves on.

54

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

54

Diego had kindled a small fire inside of an aluminum tub near a dumpster that is full of CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT.

DIEGO
I'm sorry, Tata, this is all I
could-- Tata?

Diego looks around. Tata is nowhere to be found.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Tata! Ta-- There you are! How did
you--?

Tata stands at alley's entry. She does not appear frail like before. She appears calm; serene. Diego goes to meet her.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Tata, you--

TATA
--Shhhh.

Diego quiets down. He looks around, impatient. He's not sure what to do. So, he awkwardly stands beside her.

DIEGO
Ummm, alright...

Unsure of what to do with his hands, he fidgets. Tata lowers his hands. Diego sticks them in his pockets.

They admire the street together; the city, indifferent to everyone; the people and the cars; the hustle and bustle.

Diego takes a deep breath. For a moment, he relaxes.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
I'm such a screw up, aren't I?

TATA
Yeah.

Diego looks to Tata, both humbled and hurt by the assertion.

DIEGO
Tata!

TATA
Well, you said it.

Diego reluctantly accepts.

DIEGO
How can I fix this?

TATA
You don't. You accept it, and you move forward. The question is, what are you going to do next?

DIEGO
Well, the mural's gone--

TATA
Oh, *Dieguito*, it was never about the Mural.

Tata moves back into the alley. Diego follows.

DIEGO
Then, how can I find Xóchitl?

TATA
Come, sit... these old bones still have some tricks.

She goes to sit by the fire. Diego takes a seat as well.

Without warning, Tata dips Diego's hand in a tub of BLUE PAINT that sits next to the fire.

DIEGO
Tata, what--

TATA
---Shhh. Close your eyes. Breathe. Follow my hand.

Tata guides Diego's hand with her own and traces the outline of a BLUE DEER on the ground.

Stars emanate from the deer's body, almost as if you could look through it, into an infinite, deep blue sky.

55 I/E. ASTRAL TRAVEL - INDETERMINATE

55

Diego opens his eyes. He is still sitting, but he is revealed to be in an abstract space full of BLUE AND GREEN COLORS.

A BLUE DEER with STARS on its body jumps through the air. As it trots along, the deer leaves a MAGICAL TRAIL that transforms its surroundings:

A) The trail creates a scene with Diego (20s) and a younger Xóchitl (4) laughing and pointing to the stars in a BALCONY.

TATA (V.O.)
 Diego, you are a good father. You
 want what's best for your daughter.
 You want to take care of her. You
 want her to grow.

B) The deer trots by again, transforms the scene in its wake.
 It is of a LIVING ROOM of in a brand new APARTMENT. Xóchitl
 and Diego sit on a NEW ARMCHAIR. She shows off her drawings.

Diego (the real one) looks on with nostalgia.

TATA (V.O.)
 And you work from sun to sun to
 gift her this life.

C) The apartment room transforms into their original home in
 the abandoned building. The new armchair where they are
 seated changes into the old armchair. Diego sleeps in it,
 while Xóchitl paints on the ground, decidedly less cheerful.

TATA (V.O.)
 And yet, you've spread yourself
 thin. You're tired... Distracted.

Diego looks at the scene, embarrassed.

TATA (V.O.)
 So caught up in your vision, that
 you forget to listen to your heart.

E) The deer passes again, revealing Diego's own false image
 of himself, a respected business man in a nice office.

TATA (V.O.)
 You're cutting corners; trying
 every day to reach your destination
 without taking the journey first.
 But, Diego, there is nothing
 there...

F) The scene transforms to show Diego shaking hands with the
 Archaeologist, then fades to show a scene where Diego stands
 in front of the abandoned building as it collapses.

TATA (V.O.)
 Everything you're looking for is
 right in front of your eyes.

Diego opens his eyes slowly and is immediately startled by
 the sight of the blue deer sniffing his face.

DIEGO

Ayyy! I thought I was dreaming!

The deer looks Diego directly in the eye, then trots away. It settles a little ways up the alley.

TATA (O.S.)

My child... Now, it's time for you
to finish what you started.

Tata isn't here anymore. It's just Diego and the deer.

DIEGO

Tata? Tata?! Where are you?! What's
happening?!

The deer looks up to the sky, where a magical stream, like the deer's own trail, travels to the stars and fades away.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Tata...

Diego, tears in his eyes, gazes at the stars. He understands.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Thank you, Tata. I'll be the best
version of myself, I promise.

Diego looks to the ground. The old brush that Tata gave him when he was a child lays next to the deer. Diego grabs it.

He looks to the deer.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Where to?

The deer scoffs, then trots away playfully. Diego follows. As he runs after the deer, he raises his brush. Magical energy emanates from it, transforming the city around Diego.

Diego continues after the deer across traffic, dodging a multitude of dour-looking people too distracted by their phones and various preoccupations to notice him.

The city becomes a jungle; the people and cars in it become the various gods and creatures; the grey of the city changes into the colorful palette found in the city of Tollan.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Take me! Take me to Tollan! Take me
to Xóchitl!

He trails off, chasing the deer through the jungle.

57

INT. MICTLÁN - INDETERMINATE

57

Xóchitl, Tláloc and Quetzal reach a huge MOUNTAIN made of BLACK OBSIDIAN stone. It seems to stretch into the heavens.

XÓCHITL

What is this place?

TLÁLOC

Itztépetl, the Obsidian Mountain.
Do you of know it?

Xóchitl shakes her head. This is new to her.

TLALOC

It's one of the 9 realms of
Mictlán, known as "the place where
your flesh gets ripped apart"... A
bit dramatic, if you ask me.

XÓCHITL

(scared)

Ummm... And what are the others?

TLALOC

Well, we've yet to reach the place
of eternal blizzards, the place
where the wind waves you like a
flag...

(Pause, more dramatic)

The place where deadly arrows rain
down upon you.

(even more dramatic)

The place where they eat your
heart!

Xóchitl is beyond frightened. Quetzal wraps himself around
Tlaloc's face to keep him from talking more.

TLALOC (CONT'D)

(muffled)

And we'll stop there, hehe!

Quetzal releases Tlaloc and goes to Xóchitl's shoulder.

TLALOC (CONT'D)

The good news is that this
mountain, if I remember correctly,
can lead us straight to Tollan.

(Beat)

We just have to climb it.

Tlaloc runs up to the mountain and leaps in the air. He
smacks right into it and slides down.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
With a little effort...

Tlaloc tries again, this time shimmying up while hugging the mountain, as if he were climbing a tree

He slides back down to the ground. He's starting get enraged; turning red. Xóchitl and Quetzal look at him, concerned.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
By *Ometecuhtli*! My powers don't
work here!

Xóchitl tries to climb up as well, but it's useless.

She starts tapping the wall; observing it from side to side, trying to find a way to climb it.

XÓCHITL
There has to be a way.

Xóchitl stops and looks at her reflection on the obsidian wall and discovers a small, curious, CREATURE standing behind her. It is NENE, the last *Macehual*.

Tlaloc tackles Xóchitl in an effort to protect her.

TLALOC
(dramatic)
Careful! It's the ghost of the
macehuales! He's come for revenge
after what we did to his people!

Nene approaches Tlaloc, then slowly lifts her little arm and smacks him on the head. Tlaloc remains motionless.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
What? You're not a spirit?

Tlaloc gives Nene a little poke on his belly.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
No! It's not a spirit! I thought
there were none left! This is a
miracle!

Xóchitl frees herself from Tlaloc. Tlaloc hugs Nene, but Nene doesn't like it. He pops away and scurries off.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
No, wait! We need help! How did you
get here?

The group follows him.

58

EXT. NENE'S HOUSE - INDETERMINATE

58

A trail leads to a small hut made of masonry walls and a thatched roof; or, at least, it's equivalent using materials from *Mictlán*. Around it, there is a well manicured garden and flowers that don't match the surrounding environment.

Nene enters and closes the door.

Xóchitl, Tlaloc and Quetzal approach it. Yeye peeks out from within Tlaloc's beard. This is how he travels to keep up.

Xóchitl knocks on the door.

XÓCHITL

Umm... excuse us, sir? Do you know
the way back to Tollan?

NENE (O.S.)

(in Nahuatl)

Go away!

TLALOC

It's the ancient language! They
really do still exist. Let me talk
to him.

The group nods in agreement.

TLÁLOC

(in Nahuatl)

Honorable Macehual, we need your
help!

NOTE: Going forward, all of Nene's lines should be in Nahuatl. The gods from Tollan can understand him, and should likewise speak in Nahuatl when they address him directly.

NENE (O.S.)

No! Go away!

TLALOC

(to the group)

He says that he doesn't want to
help us.

(to nene)

But, sir! This is important! It's a
matter of the gods!

XÓCHITL

(to tlaloc)

Tell him about Tezca.

TLALOC

(to Nene)

It's lord Tezcatlipoca! He's going to replace Tonatiuhitéotl and bring about a dark sun!

Silence.

After a few more moments, the door opens slowly. Nene peeks out. He mistrusts the group, but signals them in anyways.

NENE

Okay, let's talk.

TLALOC

He wants us to follow him.

One by one, they do.

59 INT. NENE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

59

Nene's house is very small, with only a TABLE and a single CHAIR, a FIREPLACE, a BOOKCASE and a SMALL BED in a corner.

Nene sits in the chair. Tlaloc, Xóchitl and Quetzal surround him and sit on the floor, like kids at story time.

XÓCHITL

Sir... excuse me.

NENE

Call me Nene.

TLALOC

He says that his name is Nene.

Nene signals for her to speak. Despite his cute appearance, he is stern and direct, as a no nonsense old man would be.

XÓCHITL

(shy, embarrassed)

Sorry, Mr. Nene. I, uh... think I may have goofed up a bit and... it-- Ummm, well, it's a long story. But, the short of it is that it might mean the end of the world and humanity as we know it... so, you know, that's not great...

Nene motions, as if saying "yeah, yeah, get to the point".

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)

Well, we... I-- I need to get out of here, so I can see my dad again and... tell him I'm sorry.

The words hit Xóchitl hard. She goes quiet.

NENE

Hmmm... I see..

Nene has to think for a moment. He clears his throat.

NENE (CONT'D)

Throughout existence, I have seen many ends to this world, brought about by--

TLALOC

--Wait! Wait, sorry. I, Uhh-- One second.

Tlaloc looks around the small room. He identifies the fireplace and a blank wall next to it. He sits beside it.

TLALOC (CONT'D)

Okay, okay. Ready.

As Nene goes into his story, Tlaloc translates for his audience and represents it with shadow puppets on the wall.

First, he projects his beard to form an ocean. A small boat appears among the waves with SHADOW NENE in it.

NENE (O.S.)

Throughout existence, I have seen many ends to this world, brought about by the incompetence of the gods... The last time, I was the only survivor to a great flood.

TLALOC (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Throughout existence, he has seen many ends to this world, because we gods... errr, messed up a bit... The last time, he was the only survivor to the great flood.

(aside, whispering)

Chalchi's really, *really* sorry about that, by the way.

A whirlpool appears. Shadow Nene paddles and paddles with all of his might, but he cannot escape it. It sucks him in.

NENE

But, before I could find land, a terrible force brought me to Mictlán.

TLALOC (CONT'D)

But, before he could find land, a terrible force brought him to Mictlán.

Shadow Nene and his boat fall into a shadow Mictlán.

NENE
For years, I was all alone,
abandoned.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
For years, he was all alone,
abandoned.

Shadow Nene wanders Mictlán. He offers flowers to the iguana, crosses the river, and arrives at the obsidian mountain.

NENE
And when I came to this
place, I did not want to pass
through the rest of the
realms. I had suffered
enough.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
And when he came to this
place, he refused to pass
through the rest of the
realms. He had suffered
enough.

He sits by himself, alone. He ponders, then starts to play with the ground, like sand. He builds a structure; his house.

NENE
I decided to stay here and
build my home; a place where
I could live out my existence
in peace.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
He decided to stay here and
build a home; a place where
he could live out his
existence in peace.

Inexplicably, Shadow Nene's hands glow a multicolored energy that he can use to paint flowers for his garden.

NENE
But, one day, as I was
planting my garden, I
discovered that I could pull
from the colors of creation
and make whatever I want.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
But, one day, as he was
planting his garden, he
discovered that he could pull
from the colors of creation
and make whatever he wanted!
(aside)
Wow, that's pretty cool.

He goes to the obsidian mountain and paints a ladder.

NENE
I realized that, after so
long, I felt alone. So, I
painted a ladder and climbed
out of Mictlán, to see the
new world.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
He realized that, after so
long, he felt alone. So, he
painted a ladder and climbed
out of Mictlán, to see the
new world.

He reaches the top, sees the pyramid, and goes to climb it.

NENE
When I reached the top I
found Quetzalcoatl and
Tezcatlipoca squabbling at
the temple.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
When he reached the top, he
found Quetzalcoatl and
Tezcatlipoca squabbling at
the temple.

The shadow of Quetzalcoatl in his dragon-serpent form appears. It transforms into a humanoid silhouette and takes a seat at a table with Tezcatlipoca's silhouette.

<p>NENE</p> <p>They were making a bet! Tezcatlipoca had wagered that a mortal could never be worthy of being the sun.</p>	<p>TLALOC (CONT'D)</p> <p>They were making a bet! Tezca had wagered that a mortal could never be worthy of being the sun.</p>
---	---

Tezcatlipocal and Quetzalcoatl shake hands, but Tezcatlipoca is revealed to be crossing his fingers behind his back.

<p>NENE</p> <p>But when Quetzalcoatl accepted, he realized that Tezcatlipoca had tricked him! And transformed him into a tiny, powerless creature.</p>	<p>TLALOC (CONT'D)</p> <p>But Quetzal accepted, he realized that Teza had tricked him! And transformed him into a tiny, powerless crea-- wait, what?!</p>
--	---

Tlaloc interrupts his shadow puppet show. He is revealed to be in absolute shock, still miming the last scene.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
That means that he really is...!
(To Quetzal)
You're not!

Tlaloc throws himself to the floor, pleading to Quetzal.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
Forgive my insolence, oh great
Quetzalcoatl!

Quetzal has no patience for this. He floats away.

XÓCHITL
(Reflecting)
Tezca has been sabotaging the old
suns so that they can't stop him...
(to quetzal)
You were looking for help when you
found me.

Quetzal nods his head.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
(to Nene)
The ladder you painted! We can use
it to escape!

NENE
No! I erased it... Just let the
gods be.

(MORE)

NENE (CONT'D)
 They only care about their dumb
 squabbles, why should I care about
 them? Now, please go. I don't want
 to hear any more of this.

Nene turns around in his chair and gives his back to the
 group. He no longer wishes to speak to them.

TLALOC
 He says that he erased it... That
 he doesn't care what happens with
 the gods, because we... didn't care
 about him.

Tlaloc is saddened to have said those words out loud. Xóchitl
 goes to speak, but he stops her, shaking his head.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
 We should leave the little guy
 alone... I don't think he's going
 to help us.
 (to nene)
 Thank you for sharing your tale.
 We'll leave you be.

Nene raises his nose, indignant.

60

EXT. NENE'S HOUSE - INDETERMINATE

60

Xóchitl, Quetzal and Tlaloc (with Yeye in his beard) exit the
 house. They walk through the garden, defeated.

Xóchitl passes an obsidian rock with white mud around it.

XÓCHITL
 I don't blame him, nothing that
 happened to him was his fault. Not
 like me.

Xóchitl dips her finger in the mud and traces the shape of a
 macehual on the obsidian stone.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
 He must feel very alone.

She adds eyes to it. The painting starts to glow.

61

INT. NENE'S HOUSE - INDETERMINATE

61

Nene sits alone, when he suddenly hears harmonious singing
 coming from outside. He goes to see what it is.

62

EXT. NENE'S HOUSE - INDETERMINATE

62

The singing intensifies. Nene is surprised to see a tiny Macehual a few meters in front of him.

e SPIRITS of dozens of Macehuales appear, all singing the same song. Nene rejoices; cries at the sight.

Multicolored trails of magic follow the spirits of the Macehuales. They rise to the Mictlán sky.

The singing subsides.

After the spirits have gone, Xóchitl, Tlaloc, Yeye and Quetzal are revealed to be standing by the obsidian rock, where Xóchitl has painted Nene with the other macehuales.

NENE

Xóchitl.

XÓCHITL

I just thought... That you felt
very alone... And I wanted to make
this, so that you will always
remember your family.

Moved by the gesture, Nene extends his hands to Xóchitl. They touch their fingers together. The mud in Xóchitl's hand starts to glow with multicolored magical energy.

She looks at it, amazed.

TLÁLOC

The colors of creation!

The energy melts into Xóchitl's hands, causing them to glow like the multicolored magical energy from Tollan.

TLÁLOC (CONT'D)

They are the colors that *Ometéotl*
and *Omecihuatl* used to create...
well, us!

Nene approaches and points her finger at Xóchitl's heart, she looks at him in disbelief.

NENE

When you do things with your
heart, that makes you
special.

TLALOC

When you do things with your
heart, that makes you
special.

Nene nods his head and returns home.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
Xóchitl! We are saved!

Xóchitl nods her head and runs out of the garden.

63 INT. MICTLÁN - INDETERMINATE 63

Xóchitl arrives at the obsidian mountain.

She starts to paint a MULTICOLORED LADDER, then goes to climb it, painting new rungs to grab onto as she goes.

Quetzal rides on her shoulder; Tlaloc follows behind with Yeye in his beard. Together, they climb to the sky.

Nene waves goodbye from his little garden below.

64 EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT 64

The eclipse is nearly complete in the sky.

Diego walks along a clearing in the jungle, looking for Xóchitl. He comes to a lake with crystalline water.

DIEGO
Xóchitl!

He's tired; goes to drink water from the lake, but stops to look at his reflection in the water. He removes his jacket and tie, preferring to see himself without them.

Then, behind his reflection, he sees something strange...

It's Xóchitl and Quetzal, climbing from the depths of the water, with Tlaloc and Yeye not far behind.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
Xóchitl! Xóchitl! I'm coming!

Diego runs along the lakeshore, to the spot where they will emerge from the water. He drops to his knees and rolls up his sleeves, then reaches into the water, toward Xóchitl.

INSIDE THE LAKE

Xóchitl reaches up for the last rung on the ladder, and is surprised when Diego's hand splashes in. She looks up.

XÓCHITL
Dad!

She takes the hand.

OUTSIDE OF THE LAKE

Diego Pulls Xóchitl out of the lake. They fall backward, hugging and laughing together, until they can't any more.

They both sit up and go to speak.

<p>DIEGO</p> <p>I didn't want to...</p> <p>The truth is that...</p> <p>Well I really...</p> <p>No, you go--</p>	<p>XÓCHITL (CONT'D)</p> <p>I didn't want to...</p> <p>The truth is that...</p> <p>Well I really...</p> <p>No, you go--</p>
---	--

They each motion for the other to speak first.

<p>DIEGO</p> <p>I'm sorry.</p>	<p>XÓCHITL (CONT'D)</p> <p>I'm sorry.</p>
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Diego smiles; he hugs Xóchitl again. She hugs him back.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)

I love you, dad.

DIEGO

I love you too, Xo.

Tlaloc watches the scene, overcome with emotion, similar to the gods at the temple that were reacting to the drama.

TLALOC

And I love a happy ending.

An explosion in the distance interrupts the moment. It came from the city of Tollan, just beyond the tree line.

The city is set ablaze and has descended into chaos.

TLALOC (CONT'D)

Tezcatlipoca... We have to stop his transformation.

Quetzal agrees. Diego and Xóchitl look to one another. They also agree; they step forward to make a huddle.

DIEGO

How can we stop him?

TLALOC

Well, last time this guy did it,
(motions to Quetzal)

He just--

(MORE)

TLALOC (CONT'D)
(mimes)
SMACKED him out of the sky.

Quetzal nods; it's true. Diego and Xóchitl ponder.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
But now...
(reverence to Quetzal)
And I mean no offense, sir... Well,
let's just say that we would need
help from--

Xóchitl and Diego both have an idea at the same time.

--A giant! DIEGO --A giant! XÓCHITL

Tlaloc and Quetzal look at them, confused.

TLALOC
D-- Do you know one?

Diego and Xóchitl look to one another. They smile.

65 EXT. VOLCANO - DAY

65

The eclipse is nearly complete. A black fog now permeates the environment; day and night seem to coexist in the sky.

Diego and Xóchitl stand at the base of a giant volcano with multicolored volcanic rocks and rough gemstones throughout. Colorful magma runs through crevices among the rocks.

XÓCHITL
Do you really think he'll help us?

DIEGO
If he doesn't, he won't have
anything left to fight for.

XÓCHITL
Right... So, do we just ask him?

Diego shrugs. That seems to make sense to him.

DIEGO
Ahem--- Popocatépetl!

Silence.

XÓCHITL
Popo! We need your help!

Nothing. They each take a deep breath to try in unison.

DIEGO	XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
Popocatépetl!	Popocatépetl!

Still nothing, just the sounds of magma and the wind.

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)
(to Diego)
Maybe he can't hear us.

Diego ponders for a moment. He has an idea.

DIEGO
How does it go?

XÓCHITL
What?

DIEGO
The story. Tell me how it goes.

XÓCHITL
You know how it goes.

DIEGO
I know, but... Just tell me
anyways, for fun.

Xóchitl looks to the sky, at the impending eclipse.

XÓCHITL
For fun and, you know, to save the
world.

DIEGO
Details.

Xóchitl looks to her hand. It glows with the colors of creation. She paints a warrior on a volcanic rock wall.

XÓCHITL
Okay, here goes... Popocatépetl was
a warrior who had fallen in love
with princess Iztaccíhuatl.

Diego steps forward with his brush to paint Iztaccíhuatl.

As soon as his brush touches the paint, it, too, starts to glow with the colors of creation. Diego looks at it, amazed.

DIEGO

But the King would not allow it! To stop these star crossed lovers, he sent Popocatépetl to fight a war!

The painting becomes animated; it is of simple drawings over beautiful tapestries made of gemstones and rock.

XÓCHITL

Before he left, Popocatépetl promised Iztaccíhuatl that, when he returned, he would bring her flowers from far off lands.

As they continue with their story, the images that represent the events appear over the various volcanic rocks that surround them; like little animations for each scene.

DIEGO

But, the war lasted for many, many years! And, it's not like they had cellphones or anything like that back then--

XÓCHITL

(jokingly mad)

--Dad, this is serious.

Magical trails start to appear all around them.

DIEGO

(chuckles)

Okay, okay... So, one day, the king had a secret message delivered to princess Iztaccíhuatl, and it said...

XÓCHITL

--That Popocatépetl had died in battle!

DIEGO

The poor princess was so heartbroken, that she fell into a deep sleep.

The magical trails coalesce in the distance, toward another volcano on the other side of the valley. They form into the shape of Iztaccíhuatl, then fade away into the wind.

XÓCHITL

And when Popocatépetl finally returned, he found found her sleeping on these very mountains.

Diego steps forward and finishes painting Pocopocatépetl offering flowers to Iztaccíhuatl as she sleeps.

DIEGO

And every day since, he has stood here, guarding her, waiting for her to wake, so that he can finally bring her those flowers.

When he is done painting, Diego breathes a sigh of satisfaction. He looks to Xíochitl for approval. She stares back at him in awe of something behind Diego.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

There... What do you think? Did it work?

The earth shakes. Xíochitl points up to the sky. Diego turns around to see what it is that she is looking at.

An enormous shadow overtakes them both.

66

EXT. TOLLAN TOWN SQUARE - INDETERMINATE

66

A GOLDEN BLOCK at the base of a lesser pyramid slowly slides to reveal a secret passageway.

Tlaloc, Quetzal, and Yeye peek out from it.

WHAT THEY SEE: Jaguars block the great pyramid's stairs.

TLALOC

Alright, team, we need to reach the top of that pyramid and close the vault as soon as Tezca falls.

The group ducks their at the sound of a growling jaguar. A group of jaguars pass them by, patrolling the place.

They peek out again.

TLALOC (CONT'D)

Looks like we're gonna need a distraction. And, well, unfortunately for me, it seems that I'm best suited for the job.

Yeye and Quetzal both nod in agreement.

TLALOC (CONT'D)

(resigned)
Ready when you are.

Tlaloc jumps out of his hiding spot and uses his beard as a wave to surf past the jaguars and away from the pyramid.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
Hey! Hey look at me! Follow me!

The jaguars chase after him, giving Quetzal and Yeye a window to fly past them and up the stairs. Because he is still a little worm, Yeye bites onto Quetzal's mane to keep up.

Tlaloc surfs around the town square, dodging jaguars.

Suddenly, he sees a pack of jaguars stalking Chalchi. She hides in a corner, terrified. They cross eyes.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
(Whispering)
Chalchi?
(Dramatic)
My beloved, Chalchi!

The jaguars notice Tlaloc's soap-opera-like look.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
(Infuriated)
Do. Not. Lay. A. Finger. On.
HEEEEEEEER!

Tlaloc floats into the air. He turns red with anger. A storm forms around him. Clouds and lightning gather in the sky.

TLÁLOC
Rain, come to me!

Lightning strikes all around the town square. The jaguars crouch in fear; run into hiding.

Then, a heavy rainfall thunders over the town square.

The rain dissipates.

After a few moments, the jaguars open their eyes. Nothing extraordinary seems to have happened to them. Only one was hit by the lightning and was transformed into a TURKEY.

TLALOC
Well, that's no good.

The one turkey and other jaguars chase after Tlaloc.

TLALOC (CONT'D)
Ah!

Tlaloc flees.

67 INT. CEREMONIAL TEMPLE - INDETERMINATE

67

Tezca floats in the middle of the ceremonial circle, surrounded by magic. His transformation is about to begin.

Suddenly, he sees Quetzal charging right at him from the temple stairs. He smiles, unconcerned.

Quetzal crashes into an invisible barrier that surrounds the ceremonial circle. He bounces and falls to the ground.

A moment later, Yeye follows and bounces from it as well.

Tezca looks at them, bemused.

TEZCA

Pathetic.

Tezca closes his eyes and ascends to the sky through the ray of light that shoots from the pyramid.

68 EXT. CITY OF TOLLAN - INDETERMINATE

68

The eclipse is complete.

Tezca ascends through the ray of light, toward the eclipse.

TEZCA

At last! I have returned!

A giant shadow obscures the entire city of Tollan.

Tezca looks beyond the eclipse and is suddenly concerned. The shadow comes from a giant fist made of rocks.

TEZCA (CONT'D)

Oh... No...

This is POPOCATÉPETL, a mountain giant. His head streams colorful magma from head to chin; his eyes are two huge SAPPHIRES; his back is a crater that casts colorful smoke.

Right as Tezca is about to reach the eclipse, Popocatépetl's giant fist punches him back down to earth so fast that he crashes through the temple atop the pyramid.

69 INT. CEREMONIAL TEMPLE - CONTINUOUS

69

Tezca smashes against the rubble where he had trapped Huitzilopochtli and Xipetotec.

When he goes to recover, Huitzilopochtli appears and pins him down with his spear.

HUITZILOPOCHTLI
You're done, brother.

Xipe joins him.

XIPETOTEC
No more cheating.

Quetzal and Yeye join them, along with Tlaloc, who reaches the top of the pyramid riding a wave and carrying Chalchi.

TLALOC
It worked! It worked!

Popocatépetl peeks in from the side of the temple and sticks his hand inside for Diego and Xóchitl to get off.

They slid off and wave him goodbye.

DIEGO
Thank you, my friend!

XÓCHITL
Let's do it again sometime!

Popo retreats with a growl.

TLALOC
Popocatépetl himself! Wow... How did you do it?

DIEGO
Well, when you know--

XÓCHITL
(Winking)
--Just a bit of imagination

They laugh together, but it soon turns sour when Tezca joins them with his ominous laughter.

TEZCA
Ha, ha, ha! You fools.

Tezca uses his staff to emit a pulse of black magic that pushes everyone backward enough for him to free himself.

TEZCA (CONT'D)

You have stopped my ascension, but
without a sun, the world will fall
into darkness... I may have lost,
but you will not win.

The gods battle; Tezca's black magic against
Huitzilopochtli's magical spear, and Xipetotec's *Xiuhcoatl* (a
fire-serpent-like weapon); a spectacle of light, and magic.

Tlaloc, Yeye, and Quetzal watch from the sidelines, cheering
Huitzilopochtli a Xipetotec on for the fight.

Diego watch the battle as well. Feeling helpless, Diego looks
to the ceremonial circle. It still glows with some magic.

He looks above, to the the black sun. It's getting smaller
and smaller and will soon go out completely.

He looks at Xóchitl, then at the gods fighting.

DIEGO

Xo, I think I could do it.

XÓCHITL

Do what?

Diego reaches into his back pocket and pulls out the check
that he got from the contractor.

DIEGO

I could be the sun.

Diego shows the check to Xóchitl.

XÓCHITL

What?!

DIEGO

I could give you everything that
you need.

Diego breaks the check in front of Xóchitl.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

I want you to live your life to the
fullest, and be whatever you want
to be!

Diego looks at the magic fire in the ceremonial circle.

XÓCHITL

Dad, no!

Huitzilopochtli and Xipetotec fall to the ground, defeated.

Tezca cleans off his staff, confident. Then, he sees Diego running to the ceremonial circle. Tezca panics.

DIEGO
If there must be a sun for you to
live, then so be it!

Diego jumps into the bonfire.

Nooooooooo! XÓCHITL Nooooooooo! TEZCA

A gust of wind freezes Diego in the air.

Diego opens his eye a little.

DIEGO
Well... This is... Anticlimactic.

A deep, but friendly laughter rumbles in the air.

QUETZALCOATL
Ho, ho, ho, ho!

A ball of energy surrounds Quetzal. It explodes into magical bursts that fill the room with overwhelming light.

Each pulse returns a portion of Tollan back to normal.

One of the pulses removes the smoke.

Another disappears the jaguars.

Others restore Tollan to its grandious appearance.

A final one returns Yeye back to normal.

He rises, happy to be his large-snake-like-self again.

And behind him, the face of an enormous feathered dragon, ten times his size, appears; QUETZALCOATL in all his splendor.

Quetzalcoatl unwinds and rises through the air over the temple. Tezca looks on, incredulous.

TEZCA
Hey... Little... brother.

QUETZALCOATL
You lost the bet, dear brother.
Mortals do have hope.
(MORE)

QUETZALCOATL (CONT'D)
 With a noble and forgiving heart,
 they can achieve unimaginable
 things.

TEZCA
 No! This is not over!

Tezca charges all the energy he can muster and shoots it directly at Quetzalcoatl, who summons the power of the wind to counteract it. The energies clash. Tezcatlipoca struggles to keep his blast going. Quetzalcoatl hasn't broken a sweat.

TEZCA (CONT'D)
 You... Can't... Win!

Quetzalcoatl chuckles and, with another great gust of wind, overwhelms Tezca and fills the room with light.

TEZCA (CONT'D)
 Aaaaaaaaaaah!

70

EXT. CEREMONIAL TEMPLE - MOMENTS LATER

70

Huitzilopochtli, Xipetotec and Quetzalcoatl (in his humanoid form) are each seated on their thrones. Tezca sits next to them, tied from head to toe with a rope.

Tlaloc finishes tying the last knot. Tezca tries to talk, but can't with the rope that covers his mouth.

TLALOC
 There we go! Lest you go around
 making a mess of things again.

Diego and Xóchitl stand before the gods.

QUETZALCOATL
 In the name of all the gods of
 Tollan, I thank you.

Several dozen gods watch the proceedings in the temple.

XÓCHITL
 But if no one is the sun anymore,
 what's going to happen?

The gods whisper amongst themselves.

NENE (O.S.)
 Hello Xóchitl.

The gods turn to discover Nene on the edge of the temple.

XÓCHITL

Nene!

The gods make way for Nene to walk to the ceremonial circle. He looks around to reveal that the ghosts of the macehuales have come with him. They are all around the temple.

TLALOC

And how climb all the way up here
so fast?

Nene looks at Tlaloc, dusting off his shoulders, smug. Then, he goes to speak with Xóchitl.

NENE

Thank you for giving me hope.

TLALOC

He says thank you for giving him
hope.

Nene steps into the ceremonial circle and starts floating. The ghosts of the macehuales join him.

XÓCHITL

Nene... are you sure?

Nene nods, smiling. This comforts Xóchitl

XÓCHITL (CONT'D)

Thank you for taking care of us.

Nene and the macehuales rise to the sky, until they explode into a burst of magical energy that reveals a colorful sun.

All of the gods watch it wearing sunglasses.

They cheer.

QUETZALCOATL

All is as it should be.

DIEGO

(To Tlaloc)

And thank you for taking care of
Xóchitl.

TLALOC

Take care of her? She was the one
to get us out of Mictlán! This
one's a true warrior!

Xóchitl swells with pride. Tlaloc hugs her.

DIEGO
 (to the gods)
 Take care!

Diego looks at Yeye and signals with his fingers "I'm watching you"; Yeye raises a complicit eyebrow.

XÓCHITL
 (to the gods)
 Good bye!

The gods cheer and wave goodbye to Diego and Xóchitl.

Quezalcoatl creates a wave of magical wind that covers Diego and Xóchitl, until they disappear.

71 EXT. SANTO DOMINGO PLAZA - DAY

71

ANCESTRAL TACOS is now a permanent fixture of the plaza. The stand is a bit larger, with several tables and PAINTINGS of MEXICA MYTHS that hang from the walls.

There are two COOKS working the stand. Diego goes from table to table to see how his customers are doing.

Xóchitl hangs her latest work in the back wall, next to the shelf that holds a picture of Tata's and her ashes in an urn.

It is a painting of Diego and Xóchitl in Mexica outfits, holding a sun in front of the city of Tollan.

A TOURIST approaches to appreciate it.

Diego follows.

DIEGO
 (Proud)
 It's a good one, no?

TOURIST
 How much is it?

DIEGO
 Well, these paintings aren't really for sale.

TOURIST
 Oh, I insist.

DIEGO
 I do too! It's just not negotiable.

Xóchitl smiles from her corner of the room.

TOURIST
So why hang them?

DIEGO
Well, every painting tells a story,
just look around.

They look at all of the paintings on the wall. They include scenes from their entire adventure.

They end back up at the one that Xóchitl just hung.

TOURIST
Huh, and what's this one about?

Diego and Xóchitl look to one another, complicit.

DIEGO
This is our favorite story to tell.

Xóchitl watches Diego go into his tirade. Tata smiles from her picture. The painting starts to shine, until it bursts into an explosion of color, magic, and light.

-END-

DURING THE CREDITS A SERIES OF SCENES APPEAR:

- DIEGO AND XÓCHITL PAINTING TOGETHER.
- TLALOC PLAYING WITH YEYE.
- TEZCA TIED UP ON HIS THRONE WITH QUETZALCOATL LAUGHING AT HIM.
- HUICHI AND XIPE DOING A DANCE AROUND THE CEREMONIAL CIRCLE.
- THE MURAL MADE BY XÓCHITL ABOUT NENE AND THE MACEHUALES.
- THE SUN IN A STARRY NIGHT SKY OVER THE VOLCANOES.