

DOOR WORLD  
EPISODE 1: THE LABYRINTH

Written by

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Special Thanks To  
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**A Note:**

The sections in the 'IRL,' AKA Cloudy Cove and Coastal High, are all meant to be filmed in live action. Think something stylistically toggling the line between *Heartstopper* and *Overcompensating*.

Meanwhile, the sections in The Collective Unconscious are meant to be done in beautiful, eye-catching animation. Imagine this section as gorgeously animated as you possibly can. If you imagine something and it isn't completely and entirely aesthetically pleasing to your mind, body, and soul, try again. You can do better. I believe in you, and Cece does too.

INT. COASTAL HIGH - GYMNASIUM LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Focus on a MIRROR. In its reflection, we see CECE SOPATRA (15, Black, she/they, awkward failgirl but kind of owns it) paces back and forth. She wears a nervous expression and a flannel much too big for her.

CECE  
(under her breath)  
Greetings, Coastal High! No, too formal. What is up, Coastal High-

A BROWN SMUDGE in the corner of the mirror catches her eye. She moves towards the mirror- towards us- and tries to wipe it with her flannel. No luck.

The door opens. PRINCIPAL VETROVSKY (42, white, she/her, stick up her ass) enters.

PRINCIPAL VETROVSKY  
Cece! You're on.

CECE  
One second!

Cece scrambles to get herself together. Like a lake, the mirror ripples as she leaves the locker room.

INT. COASTAL HIGH - GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS

It's election season, and the gym's bleachers are packed with SOPHOMORES. They're CHEERING WILDLY for ARTY MACCARTHY (15, White, male, perpetually in a state of doing a kick-flip).

ARTY  
Remember! If you wanna bring the party, Vote Arty MacCarthy!

He skateboards away, blowing kisses to the audience. Principal V takes the mic.

PRINCIPAL VETROVSKY  
Thank you, Aty. Next up we have Cece Sopatra!

SCATTERED APPLAUSE. Cece, feigning confidence, takes the mic. The entire student body stares her down. Pressure's on.

CECE  
What is up, Coastal High?

Dead silence. A single student, BRUCE OSHIMA (15, East Asian, he/him, the one true hypebeast) CHEERS. The other students give him a Look. He stops.

CECE (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Thanks, Bruce.

(louder)

My name's Cece Sopatra, and I want to be your sophomore year student-body president! You might know me as the girl who hangs out in the parking lot handing out educational pamphlets on climate change that I later find in the trash- not the recycling bin, by the way- and like, it's cool. I'm cool.

A heavy pause. Someone COUGHS.

CECE (CONT'D)

Ahem. As president, one thing I would like to focus on is taking preventive measures against bullying! Just last week, a close friend of mine was literally kicked in the stomach. I believe that we owe it to each other to care about-

MARCO

It's coz she stepped on my foot.

MARCO JIMENEZ (15, Hispanic, he/him, weird face) stands up. Everyone turns.

CECE

Uh, Marco Jimenez, everyone. Really cool guy. Killer football player. People are saying he might be quarterback next year-

MARCO

She stepped on my foot and it hurt like hell so I kicked her.

SAM

Yeah, coz' that's a sane reaction.

The gym turns to see SAM VELASCO (15, Filipino, she/her, punk is dead but she's the reanimator), sitting by herself.

CECE

Sam Velasco, everybody! Y'all should really check out her band-

MARCO

What's that supposed to mean?

SAM

Well, I'm no psychologist, but I think driving your foot into my abdomen for scuffing your sneaker isn't exactly the response of a normal, well-adjusted individual. Psychopath.

CECE

Hey now. Sam, what Marco did was wrong, but if we could-

PRINCIPAL VETROVSKY

Jimenez! Velasco! Settle down.

Marco pushes his way over to Sam. Cece starts making her way up to them.

MARCO

Take it back.

SAM

Make me.

CECE

Y'all, this is what I was talking about. We owe it to each other to care about our community and our companions-

MARCO

SHUT IT, FREAK-

Marco swings at Sam- just as Cece steps between them. It's a direct hit right into Cece's noggin. Lights out.

We focus on Cece, laying down in a dazed state. Around her, panic and chaos.

We focus on Cece's (now bruised) face, despair slowly creeping in.

TITLE CARD: DOOR WORLD

**END COLD OPEN**

ACT I

INT. COASTAL HIGH - NURSE'S OFFICE - DAY

Cece sits on a dusty, old couch, with Bruce leaning on the wall next to her. THE NURSE (mid-30s, she/her) shines a light in Cece's eyes. Cece squints.

CECE

I dunno. I just want to make this school not suck. Am I crazy? Is that too much to ask?

Bruce gestures to the lone lightbulb flashing above them. This school is underfunded as hell.

BRUCE

At Coastal High? Yeah. Yeah, it is.

Cece SIGHS, slumping into her chair.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Hey, man! Don't blame yourself. Blame Marco and Sam. That was like, their third fight this week.

CECE

No, it's not their fault. Marco can be real sweetheart, and Sam's like, my best friend!

BRUCE

I thought you guys were fighting.

CECE

Yeah, in like, the 7th grade. We're cool now.

Sam passes by in the hallway, escorted by Principal V.

CECE (CONT'D)

Hi, Sam!

SAM

Go crawl in a pit, Cece.

CECE

Don't read into that.

NURSE

No sign of a concussion. Just walk it off.

She hands Cece a lollipop. Bruce gives her big ol' puppy dog eyes. She hands it to him.

INT. COASTAL HIGH - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Cece & Bruce - lollipop in mouth- walk down the hall.

CECE

Do you ever feel powerless?

BRUCE

Sometimes, but then I imagine myself as a really muscular shark and I feel better.

CECE

Huh. Maybe I should try that. It's just, I thought that if I became president I could make a change around here, but we all know that's not happening.

BRUCE

Aw, how come?

Cece points over to Arty, who is doing a sick skateboard trick in the middle of the hallway. STUDENTS CHEER.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Yeah, I'd vote for him.

CECE

Right? Me too!

Cece leans against the locker, cupping her head in her hands.

BRUCE

Okay dude, that's enough. Sure, the speech went off the rails, but it crashed right into DestinyTown, USA. You've got, like, this kindness seed in your heart, and one day it's gonna blossom into a big, beautiful kindness garden, and as that's happening I'm gonna be with you 110%.

CECE

Aw, that's actually really sweet. I don't know. Sometimes I get in my own head. It really means a lot-

BRUCE

Dude, shut up. Lourdes and Hunter.

CECE

Huh?

He points, and we see... her. LOURDES CLERMONT (16, Black, she/her, wrapped in about seven layers of irony at a time) walking down the hall. Cece stares, mouth agape.

At her side is HUNTER CHAM (17, Middle Eastern, he/him, general aura of douchery). They walk side by side, King and Queen of the school.

CECE (CONT'D)

(in love)

Lourdes...

BRUCE

And Hunter. Dude, they're coming over. Be cool. Can you be cool.

Cece shits her body into a few positions she thinks might be "cool." None of them are.

LOURDES

Hi. Cece, right?

CECE

(sweating)

Yeah, if you want me to be.

LOURDES

I do. So I saw what happened in the gym. Marco is a good friend of ours, so we just wanted to apologize on his behalf.

HUNTER

He sucks.

LOURDES

Yeah, we hate him. Hey, do you wanna come smoke with us at lunch tomorrow?

CECE

You wanna smoke... with me?

LOURDES

Sure. It'd be funny.

CECE

Well, I would, but elections are being announced at the end of lunch tomorrow and I-

Bruce comes over, nearly tackling Cece.

BRUCE

We'd love to come smoke with you!

HUNTER

Who are you?

BRUCE

Name's Bruce. You mighta heard of me. Just got on the swim team. It's pretty legit.

LOURDES

Coooool. Anyway, all the weed was grown by me in my walk-in closet, so by not coming you're basically saying you don't support Black, queer-owned businesses.

CECE

What? I support Black- wait, you're queer?

DING, DONG, DING, DONG. The announcements crackle to life.

PRINCIPAL VETROVKY (O.S.)

Cece Sopatra. Please report to the front office. Cece Sopatra. Please report to the front office.

CECE

I, uh- I-

Lourdes is already leaving, trailed by Hunter.

LOURDES

Show up tomorrow, or I'll start openly sobbing. Just kidding. I won't care.

(pauses, then turns)

Or will I?

BRUCE

We'll be there!

(to Cece)

Dude, did you hear that? This is our chance to get in.

CECE

Yeah! Totally! I have to- um-

Cece takes off.

INT. COASTAL HIGH - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Cece sits in a chair, right between Sam and Marco. Principal V sits on the other side of her desk, arms crossed.

CECE

(visibly not fine)

Honestly, I'm fine. The punch barely even hurt.

PRINCIPAL VETROVSKY

Cece, you're not getting them out of in-school suspension.

CECE

Dr. Vetrovsky, I know how it looks. Marco's this big, brutish bully. Sam's the delinquent who stole the soap dispenser from the boys' bathroom. But they're not-

PRINCIPAL VETROVSKY

Sam did *what*?

SAM

Cece!

CECE

Wait, she didn't know? I'm so sorry. I thought you got caught for that one-

PRINCIPAL VETROVSKY

Another week of in-school suspension for you, Ms. Velasco.

Sam HUFFS, gets up, and storms out of the room.

MARCO

"Big, brutish bully?"

Cece tries to respond, but nothing comes out. Marco leaves. Cece also gets up to leave as well.

PRINCIPAL VETROVSKY

Ms. Sopatra. You're familiar with the first rule of airline safety, right?

CECE

Oh, I haven't really flown that much.

PRINCIPAL VETROVSKY

Put on your own oxygen mask before assisting others. I suggest you remember that, Cece.

CECE

Thank you, Principal Vetrovsky.

Cece nods, then leaves.

EXT. COASTAL HIGH - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

It's raining. Cece runs out the building, seeing Sam speedwalking away.

CECE

Wait! Sam! Sam!

Cece chases her to a crosswalk. Red light, busy traffic. A car ZOOMS by, stopping them both.

CECE (CONT'D)

Here, hold on.

Sam reaches into her bag and pulls out an umbrella. Sam shoos her away. She holds the umbrella limply, not using it herself.

CECE (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry. I wasn't thinking-

SAM

Stop following me.

CECE

I was just trying to help.

SAM

Well, Cece, I know this might be hard to see through your rosy glasses, but you can't. I'm taking matters into my own hands.

The traffic clears. Sam starts to walk away. Cece pauses.

CECE

You're not going to, like, blow up the school, right?

SAM

What?

CECE

Sorry! It's just, I don't know. It sounded like a bomb threat.

SAM

Go choke on a nail, Cece.

Sam flips cece off, and leaves. A HONK. Cece turns to see a Honda Civic in the school parking lot.

CECE

Oh no.

INT. MARTY'S CAR - AFTERNOON

MARTY SOPATRA (43, Black, he/him, puts the pro in over-protective) sits in the driver's seat. Cece sits shotgun, her face still bruised.

CECE

(visibly not fine)  
It's fine.

MARTY

It's not fine. I mean, who are this kid's parents?

CECE

He barely touched me.

MARTY

Barely still means touched you.

CECE

I said it's fine!

A pause.

MARTY

Okay. How was your day besides...

CECE

You know. Doing what I can.

MARTY

Do you still wanna go see Mom?

CECE

Yeah. Yeah, I do.

They sit in silence. Then, Marty turns on the ignition.

EXT. GARDEN - FOUNTAIN - AFTERNOON

Cece and Marty stand besides a large fountain. There's no water. In the center, a statue of a goddess with a plaque at its feet. "IN MEMORIAM: MISTY SOPATRA." After a long pause...

CECE

Is it alright if I have some alone  
time with her?

Marty pauses. There's concern. Then, he nods and walks away. Cece takes a seat at the edge of the fountain.

CECE (CONT'D)

Hey, Mom. How are things? You look good. Did you get some new polish? It's cute! Can hardly notice they cut off your water.

(she laughs, weakly)

Yeah, today wasn't great. I can't skateboard, so I'm probably not gonna be president. I tried to break up a fight. Didn't work. I got punched in the face.

(sniffling, then growing)

I've been missing you. I mean, I always miss you, but wow. Lately? It's been bad. Coz' if you were here you could say something or do something and everything would be okay. But you're not here. I'm here. And I want to make things better- I keep trying to make things better, but I can't. I'm not you.

Cece's sobbing. She takes off, shielding her face.

CECE (CONT'D)

I need to use the bathroom.

MARTY

Cece!

She shoves past Marty. He watches her go.

INT. GARDEN - BATHROOM - DAY

Cece's at the sink. She wipes her face, because big girls don't cry. Suddenly, another brown smudge on the mirror catches her eye. She bunches up her flannel and wipes it.

And this is where things get weird. As though it were the surface of a lake, the mirror ripples and her arm falls in. Panicked, she tugs it away. Her arm is SOAKED.

CECE

*Hello?!*

MARTY (O.S.)

Cece? Are you okay in there?

CECE

Uh. Yeah! Everything's good.

She looks back at the mirror. She touches it again. It ripples again. She pulls back, and runs out teh bathroom.

EXT. COASTAL HIGH - BLEACHERS - DAY

Cece is rambling to Bruce.

CECE

- and my arm literally went into the mirror. Like, *into* the mirror-

BRUCE

Dude. I believe you, but I need you to keep your head in the game and come smoke Lourdes' closet weed.

CECE

Bruce, are you serious right now? I feel like I'm going insane.

BRUCE

Yeah, maybe! But we've got to get in good with Hunter and Lourdes. Come on. Just smoke one weed.

Cece pauses. Across the hall is Sam, who looks both ways, and then runs down the hall.

CECE

That's not- hold on.

Cece chases after Sam.

INT. COASTAL HIGH - GIRL'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Cece enters the bathroom, about to call out for Sam. She stops. Sam takes a deep breath in, and then dives into the mirror. Cece mouths 'What?'

BRUCE

Cece? What's going on?

CECE

Hey, Bruce. Do you think I should do something insane?

BRUCE (O.S.)

Always, dude.

CECE

Okay. Don't wait up.

Cece takes a deep breath, then dives into the mirror.

**END ACT 1**

ACT 2

INT. COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS - BATHROOM - DAY

Cece falls out the mirror and into water. She GASPS for air, but realizes that she can breathe just fine.

CECE

What the...?

Her eyes slowly open. She's in the bathroom, but it's as if someone recreated the place from memory, then drowned it.

CECE (CONT'D)

Alright! No thank you.

She turns back to the mirror, and immediately stops in her tracks. She's wearing what can only be described as a "cottagecore magical girl fit." She holds an umbrella.

CECE (CONT'D)

Whoa! Hello! What am I wearing?  
What is this place? What-

She knocks on the mirror. It's solid.

CECE (CONT'D)

Right. One way entrance. Love that.

She hears a METALLIC CLANG outside and looks out the window to see Sam, who also has new threads. Spikes, leather, patches, very new-wave punk. Sam's trying to pry open a door with a pocket-knife.

CECE (CONT'D)

Sam! Sam!

Sam jerks at the sudden noise, nipping herself with her knife. Black smoke spills out where blood should be.

SAM

No. No, no, no. Out, now.

CECE

Hold on. Let me get down there.

EXT. COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS - FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Cece breast strokes her way down to the field. It has a sickly appearance to it. Everything is infected with ghostly white. Cece's feet touches the rot, making a nasty squish.

CECE

Oh, gross.

The source of this rot seems to be coming from a stone door in the middle of the stadium labeled "MARCO JIMENEZ."

SAM

Swim up.

CECE

Huh?

SAM

Breach the surface of the water and you'll be back in the real world.

Sam snaps her fingers and her body turns into black smoke. The smoke swarms into the door.

CECE

Wait, what do you mean 'real world?' That's not how you end a conversation! Sam!

Cece follows Sam into the door.

INT. COASTAL HIGH - HALLWAY - MEANWHILE

Bruce waits outside the bathroom, twiddling his thumbs.

BRUCE

Yo, Cece. You in there?

No answer. Across the hall, Lourdes, Hunter, Marco, and a gang of jocks approach. Bruce's eyes light up.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Hey! Hey! Hunter, Lourdes... Marco. We still on for lunch?

LOURDES

Oh yeah. Juice, right?

BRUCE

It's Bruce.

LOURDES

Mmm. No. Not to me. C'mon, Juice.

They walk. As soon as the posse has their backs to him, Bruce looks back at the bathroom, shrugs, and follows.

EXT. COASTAL HIGH - BLEACHERS - MOMENTS LATER

Some GARBAGE BREAKCORE MUSIC plays from a speaker. A group of JOCKS, their GIRLFRIENDS, Hunter, Lourdes, Marco, and Bruce, sit in a circle. Bruce is insanely tense.

LOURDES

(holding up some bags)  
So this one's called Cyanide Blood  
Vomit. Really good for creativity  
and focus. We also have The  
Chuggler. It's more of like a  
chill, sleepy high. Then there's  
Let's go Pikachu...

HUNTER

Oh, pass me some of that Cyanide  
Blood Vomit.

BRUCE

I'll take some Let's Go Pikachu.

The music at the party stops.

HUNTER

You want Let's Go Pikachu?

BRUCE

Yeah, that's what I said.

LOURDES

Damn. That's some hard stuff. Isn't  
this your first time?

BRUCE

Uh, no. I'm like, super good at  
weed. They call me The Weed Demon.

LOURDES

My mom calls me that when she yells  
at me.

MARCO

I don't think we should give him-

HUNTER

Marco, shut up.

MARCO

(quietly)  
Piss off.

HUNTER

What did you say?

MARCO

Nothing.

Lourdes rolls a joint and hands it to Bruce. He's sweating. He takes the joint, and puts the end of it in his mouth.

LOURDES

That's the wrong side-

BRUCE

Yeah, yeah. I know. It was a joke.  
I'm doing a joke.

LOURDES

Okay.

Bruce turns the joint around and puts it in his mouth.

LOURDES (CONT'D)

You also have to light it.

BRUCE

It's a joke!

INT. COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS - THE LABYRINTH - MEANWHILE

Cece creaks open the door, entering a darkened hall.

CECE

Look, I just wanted to talk after  
yesterday- Whoa.

She takes it in. Cobblestoned halls, stretching for as far as the eye can see. It's dark, claustrophobic. Grecian paintings and statues line the walls, depicting Hunter and Lourdes.

CECE (CONT'D)

Where are we?

SAM

We're in Marco's mind, and you  
shouldn't be here.

CECE

What? No. That's insane-

Cece stops, looking up at the walls. They depict Marco, kneeling beneath Hunter and Lourdes. Peasant and royalty.

CECE (CONT'D)

Oh my God. We're in Marco's mind.

SAM

Yep. That door gave us first-class privilege to Marco's psychological damage. A pocket dimension that takes the mind and puts it into matter. I call these places... Door Worlds.

CECE

Oh! Because you get to them through the doors in that underwater place-

SAM

Yes, because you get to them through doors. God. Watch out.

A click as Cece steps on a stone plate. Sam kicks Cece's legs out from under her, just as a square chunk of the wall juts out and nearly crushes her.

CECE

Oh my God!

SAM

Yeah, this place is chock-full of defense mechanisms. I scope it out last night.

CECE

What do you mean, 'scoped it out?' What're you even doing here?

Sam swirls a cloud of black smoke in her hand, forming it into a pocket-knife.

SAM

Well, it's a labyrinth, yeah? I'm killing the minotaur.

Suddenly, a ROAR that shakes the Earth.

SAM (CONT'D)

Damnit. It knows we're here.

CECE

*What* knows we're here?

The wall next to Sam EXPLODES, and she's SLAMMED into the ground by a massive, furred hand. The dust clears, revealing the towering figure of THE MARCOTAUR (17, he/him, Marco Jimenez's ego, a bovine beast of mythological proportions).

THE MARCOTAUR

I thought I told you to stay out.

Sam struggles against it. Cece raises her umbrella.

CECE  
Who are you?

SAM  
Cece, it's a physical manifestation  
of Marco's anger issues. Don't talk  
to it!

With a grunt, The Marcotaur picks Sam up and SLAMS her  
against the ground.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Case in point!

CECE  
So if you kill it then-

SAM  
Marco will stop being a massive  
tool? You got it, Cece.

CECE  
Are you sure there won't be any  
greater consequences of doing this-

SAM  
God, either help me kill this thing  
or get out of here.

CECE  
What? No, I'm not leaving you!

SAM  
Then help me!

Sam attempts to apparate into smoke, making a quick dash  
away. The Marcotaur grabs the smoke, forcing them to reform.

CECE  
How do you do that?

SAM  
Being in The Door World gives you  
powers. Just focus on what you  
want, and do it.

The Marcotaur ROARS, and rears up to gut Sam with his horns.

Cece looks at her umbrella. The buds in her hair shift.

Cece lunges forward. The buds in her hair start to bloom. She  
points her umbrella, unleashing all of her power!

An EXPLOSION of pollen. Cece's eyes are clenched tight. She slowly opens them, to find that a small, red poppy has blossomed out of The Marcotaur's forehead.

A pause. The Marcotaur picks the flower and sniffs it. He SNEEZES, then ROARS.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Jesus Christ.

Sam delivers kick to the The Marcotaur's muzzle, giving her the time to grab Cece's hand and run.

CECE  
Maybe we can try and calm him down.

SAM  
Oh, yeah. Let's just have a sit-down with the murderous man-beast. I'll get my tea set ready.

The two spin a corner and The Marcotaur follows behind, crashing into a wall. The Labyrinth shakes. She pulls out her phone.

CECE  
Does the Collective Unconscious have cell service?

SAM  
It's all mental. If you think it makes a call, it makes a call.

CECE  
Great.

EXT. COASTAL HIGH - BLEACHERS - MEANWHILE

Bruce is coughing his lungs out, holding a smoking blunt in his hand.

HUNTER  
Feeling anything yet?

BRUCE  
Uh, no. Not really.

Bruce's phone rings. It's Cece.

BRUCE (CONT'D)  
Sorry, gotta take this.

Awkwardly laughing, he walks away from the bleachers. He picks up the phone, before looking back to see if the populars have any reaction to him leaving. They don't care.

BRUCE (CONT'D)  
Yo, Cee. Where are you? I'm with-

CECE  
(quickly)  
Hi Bruce. So long story short, I'm with Sam inside Marco Jimenez's mind and we're being chased around a giant Grecian labyrinth by, like, a physical manifestation of his inner-rage. Can you maybe try calming him down so his minotaur-self doesn't gut us alive? Thanks, love you, bye!

A CRASH. We hear Cece SCREAM and Sam CURSE as the phone cuts out. Bruce slowly turns to the rest of the kids.

BRUCE  
I think it just hit.

INT. COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS - THE LABYRINTH - MEANWHILE

Cece and Sam make a break for the exit, when The Labyrinth shifts beneath their feet. The exit falls away, changing with the maze. The Marcotaur corners them.

SAM  
Labyrinth's shifted. We're trapped inside.

CECE  
What do we do?

SAM  
Well, we tried flight. Now we fight.

Sam leaps at The Marcotaur, and the two battle it out. Unsure of what to do, Cece steps backwards, when-

She bumps into a small Grecian statue depicting Hunter and Lourdes. The Marcotaur throws Sam off and runs to the statue, carefully catching it and putting it back in its place.

THE MARCOTAUR  
You dare defile the sacred altar of the cruelest gods?

CECE

What, no! I didn't mean to- why is it Lourdes?

SAM

I told you not to talk to it!

Sam stabs The Marcotaur in the thigh. It ROARS.

EXT. COASTAL HIGH - BLEACHERS - MEANWHILE

Bruce stares at his phone, high out of his mind.

HUNTER

So I'm like, whatever, as long as it ain't gay.

The rest of the jocks laugh, except for Marco, who is still his usual pissed self.

BRUCE

Ha, wow. Hunter, that was so funny. Hey, Marco. Are you good?

A pause. Marco looks up.

MARCO

What?

BRUCE

Sorry. That sounded mean. I was wondering if you were okay? Mentally?

LOURDES

Heh. Get his ass.

MARCO

What's that supposed to mean?

HUNTER

Marco, God, shut up. Bruce is right. You're being weird.

BRUCE

Did I say that?

MARCO

No, I wanna know what's-

HUNTER

Dude, take a walk. And grab me a water while you're at it.

Marco HUFFS, then gets up and leaves. Bruce watches him go.

BRUCE

Hey, so it might be the Let's Go Pikachu talking, but wasn't that kinda mean? You guys are friends.

LOURDES

Mmm. Friend's a strong word. He's more like a...

HUNTER

Cheaper alternative to a guard dog?

LOURDES

Yeah. He's annoying, but he keeps people off our back, so...

BRUCE

I think you made him upset.

HUNTER

Oh no! I'm so scared. What's he gonna do, stop hanging out with us?

Bruce looks at his phone. He's gotten about five texts from Cece all along the lines of "hey any updates about Marco??" He looks over to Marco.

BRUCE

Uh. Hey. I'm gonna... go. Not to check on Marco. Coz' we don't like him. I was just going to, uh, do more weed. Coz' I'm the Weed Demon.

HUNTER

Okay?

LOURDES

Hell yeah, Juice.

Bruce nods, then quickly speeds off.

INT. COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS - THE LABYRINTH - MEANWHILE

The fight rages on between The Marcotaur and Sam. Cece watches, unsure of what to do.

CECE

Do we know for sure what happens when we kill him?

SAM

Either Marco calms the hell down or goes braindead. Both work for me.

CECE

Sam, that's not okay!

SAM  
 Why do you care? I'm fixing the  
 problem. That's what you want. To  
 fix every goddamn problem!

Sam lunges forward.

CECE  
 Not like this!

Cece raises a hand, and a vine shoots from the ground,  
 wrapping around Sam's leg. She tumbles to the ground.

CECE (CONT'D)  
 Sorry!

SAM  
 So now your powers work?

CECE  
 I just have some concerns-

SAM  
 Let me go!

CECE  
 I don't know how!

Cece waves her umbrella, but the vine just tightens around  
 Sam's leg. Sam is able to cut herself free when-

The two look up. The Marcotaur stands above them.

INT. CU - THE LABYRINTH - CELL - MOMENTS LATER

The Marcotaur throws Cece and Sam into a holding cell and  
 SLAMS the door shut.

THE MARCOTAUR  
 And keep it down!

He trudges away, grumbling.

CECE  
 Guess you could say I really *beefed*  
 it.

SAM  
 Shut up.

CECE (CONT'D)  
 (immediately)  
 Sorry.

**END OF ACT II**

ACT III

INT. COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS - THE LABYRINTH - CONTINUOUS

Sam paces back and forth, fiddling with her dagger and eyeing the cell door. Cece sits down, typing on her phone.

Bruce has sent her a text back: "idk man. i think him n hunter n lourdes are like... toxic?"

SAM

Don't know why you're bothering with him. You can't do much from the outside.

CECE

Okay, I'm going to ask a question and I don't want it to come off as accusatory-

SAM

Too late.

CECE

How do you know so much about this place? Is there like, a guide or something-

SAM

Because I figured it out! What? Do you think I'm stupid?

CECE

When did I say that?

Sam EXPLODES into a wall of smoke and trails out of the cell bars. Cece gawks.

CECE (CONT'D)

You could've done that the whole time?

SAM

I was trying to figure out if I should leave you. Thanks for making the decision easier.

Sam starts to walk down the hallway, a dagger forming in her hands, when-

CECE

Wait! Sam!

She stops. She doesn't turn around, but she stops.

CECE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I just- I get it. I'm a nag, but it's because I don't like seeing you upset, and I hate myself because I can't help.

Sam turns, not meeting Cece's eyes.

SAM

Don't you have anything better to do than worry about me?

CECE

You're my friend. And- and I know you might not see it that way, but I want to help you.

There's a pause. Sam disappears into a puff of smoke.

CECE (CONT'D)

Hey, wait-!

Suddenly, a CLINK! The door to the cell slowly comes open. Cece looks down to find that the padlock to the cell has been sliced in two by a pocketknife.

Sam reappears, and the pocketknife vaporizes.

SAM

Look, this is just for the sake of our mutual survivability. Don't be weird about it.

Cece rushes her for a hug.

CECE

I'm so being weird about it.

SAM

Ugh, get off of me.

She pushes her off.

SAM (CONT'D)

And, if you have to know, I discovered this place a week ago. My Not-dad was pissing me off so I punched a mirror and fell in.

CECE

Oh. I mean, no hate. Just doesn't seem like enough time to figure out the entirety of human subconscious?

SAM

Yeah, well I got the basics down, didn't I?

CECE

True, except I think The Marcotaur might be a bit more complicated than just "Marco's anger issues." I mean, he was weirdly protective of those Hunter and Lourdes statues. That didn't read angry to me.

SAM

So what do you think he is?

CECE

I think he might just be *Marco*. Or, how he sees himself in here.

SAM

Okay. Might be completely off-base, but sure. Let's say you're right. What's the plan?

CECE

We probably shouldn't kill him. I feel like that might have some not-great consequences?

SAM

In my defense, I said him going braindead was an option.

CECE

Yeah, we're not doing that. Oh! Maybe if we get him away from those statues, we can calm him down!

SAM

Pfft, good luck with that. The man worships them.

CECE

You aren't wrong...

Cece suddenly trips. She looks down, and sees that one of her vines has wrapped around her leg. She smiles.

CECE (CONT'D)  
I think I've got an idea.

INT. CAFETERIA - HALLWAY - MEANWHILE

A crowded lunch room. Marco is at war with the vending machine. He slides a dollar bill in. It slides out. Enraged, he kicks the machine.

Bruce stumbles into the cafeteria. He walks towards Marco.

BRUCE  
Dude, are you seriously getting him  
a water?

MARCO  
What's it to you?

BRUCE  
Just saying. Seems like he was kind  
of being a dick to you. I don't get  
why you hang out with him.

Marco closes the gap between the two of them.

MARCO  
Why are you hanging out with him?

BRUCE  
I dunno! I want to feel like I'm  
'in,' you know?

MARCO  
That's stupid. He's a jerk.

BRUCE  
Then why do you hang out with him?

MARCO  
Because I have to!

BRUCE  
What do you mean you have to?!

MARCO  
I have to hang out with him but you  
don't so you shouldn't hang out  
with him!

BRUCE  
Why're you telling me this?

MARCO  
Because you seem like a cool dude!

BRUCE  
I thought you hated me!

MARCO  
Why would you think that?!

BRUCE  
Why're you yelling at me?!

MARCO  
Why're *you* yelling at *me*?!

BRUCE  
I don't know! I'm really high and  
your breath smells so bad.

MARCO  
MOTHER-

Marco shoves Bruce, sending him crashing into a trash can. Surprised, some kids at a nearby lunch table stand up. A DUDE from the lunch table starts a chant:

DUDE  
FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!

Others join in. Bruce gets up, scared and looking for an exit. Marco hesitates, but slowly, he raises his fists.

INT. CU - THE LABYRINTH - CENTER - MEANWHILE

A large open corridor. The Marcotaur kneels, above a Grecian statue of Hunter and Lourdes, as if he were in prayer.

SAM (O.S.)  
Hey, burger-meat.

The Marcotaur whips around, blowing steam from his nose. His eyes come upon Sam and Cece.

THE MARCOTAUR  
Why can't you just leave me alone?

He charges. Sam and Cece look at each other, then nod.

**BEGIN BATTLE MONTAGE:**

We dance between the fight between Cece, Sam, and The Marcotaur and between Marco and Bruce.

- Sam blinds The Marcotaur with smoke. Cece tries to pick up the statues with her vines, but her control's sloppy. The Marcotaur tosses Sam aside, and his eyes narrow in on Cece.
- Bruce clumsily avoids Marco's swings. He gets hit.
- The Marcotaur runs past her and claws at the vines. Ripping them free, he swings his fists back at Cece. She dodges.
- Bruce tries to run, but the crowd blocks his path.

BRUCE  
(to himself)  
I'm a muscular shark. I'm a  
muscular shark.

- He gets punched in the face.
- Sam grabs The Marcotaur by the horns and throws him off-balance. She looks towards the statues, then slides her hand across her throat. Cece nods.
- Bruce gets his ass kicked. He's on the ground now.
- Cece pulls the statue's neck with a vine. Sam vanishes from The Marcotaur's head, just as the statues crash down on him.
- Across The Labyrinth, every single statue crumbles.

**END MONTAGE**

INT. CU - THE LABYRINTH - CENTER - MEANWHILE

The Marcotaur is trapped beneath the rubble of the statues.

SAM  
Well, hopefully this will make him  
chill in the real world. Come on.

Sam turns to leave. Cece turns to follow, when she turns back to The Marcotaur. He's stopped struggling. He's crying.

CECE  
Wait.

Cece slowly approaches The Marcotaur. The Labyrinth shakes, and multiple defense mechanisms are activated at once. Cece narrowly dodges a booby trap.

CECE (CONT'D)  
Hey, hey. I don't want to hurt you.  
Can we just... talk?

The Marcotaur grunts. Slowly, the defense mechanisms lower. Likewise, Cece allows the vines to fall away.

THE MARCOTAUR

First you come into my Labyrinth  
and now you mock me. Was already  
miserable enough without you here.

CECE

If it's miserable, why not leave?

THE MARCOTAUR

It's the god's will to be trapped  
in this tomb.

CECE

Well, maybe if your gods trap you  
in a punishment labyrinth, they're  
not worth being worshipped.

THE MARCOTAUR

I never said they were kind, but no  
other, man nor deity, would accept  
a creature as monstrous as I. I  
cannot leave. I am truly...

CECE

Powerless?

The Marcotaur nods. Sam raises a brow.

CECE (CONT'D)

You know, lately I've also been  
feeling out of control too, and  
it's frustrating. But I try to  
remember that it's just a feeling.  
You've always got the power to make  
a change, and hey! Keep at it and  
maybe you'll help someone.

She holds out a hand to The Marcotaur.

CECE (CONT'D)

And maybe you'll help yourself.

The Marcotaur hesitates, then takes Cece's hand.

INT. COASTAL HIGH - CAFETERIA - MEANWHILE

Marco stands over Bruce. He's about to deliver the final  
blow, when he stops. It's quiet. What is he waiting for?

Marco is full-on ugly crying. Bruce slowly rises to his feet.

BRUCE

Hey, dude, everything alright-?

Marco hugs Bruce. Bruce is so confused. Not entirely sure what to do, he sort of just pats Marco on the back.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

There, there, bud. It's okay.

INT. CU - THE LABYRINTH - MEANWHILE

Cece and The Marcotaur stand, hand in hand. The roof of the labyrinth begins to shift, revealing a sky full of stars.

THE MARCOTAUR

I don't think the me out there is quite ready to leave yet.

CECE

When he is, we'll be there for him.

EXT. THE COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS - CONTINUOUS

The rot on Marco's door flakes away, replaced by lush greenery. An emblem of an umbrella appears on Marco's door.

INT. COASTAL HIGH - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sam and then Cece fly out the mirror and ragdoll on the floor of the bathroom. They both slowly get to their feet.

CECE

Ugh. Gross...

SAM

You don't really get used to it.

Cece looks at her phone. 1:10 PM.

CECE

Oh my God. The election!

INT. COASTAL HIGH - GYMNASIUM - AFTERNOON

Cece rushes into the gym to find Principal V and Arty already there. SOPHOMORES watch from the bleachers.

PRINCIPAL VETROVSKY

And your sophomore year student-body president is Arty MacCarthy!

The crowd CHEERS as Cece enters. Her shoulders drop. Arty steps up to the mic in the middle of the gym.

ARTY

Thanks y'all, this has been sick.  
But ch'know, I kinda vibed with  
Cece's say-no-to-bullying thing.  
Yo, Cee, do you wanna be my VP?

CECE

Uh, yes! Thank you!

ARTY

Sick. I'll make a group chat later.

CECE

A group chat with only two people?

ARTY

Baby, with me it's always a group  
chat. Arty, OUT!

He skates off. The sophomores trickle out of the gym. Bruce comes up and slaps Cece on the back, Sam trailing behind him.

BRUCE

Hell yeah! That's my bestie!

MARCO (O.S.)

HEY. VELASCO.

The whole gym turns to see Marco marching towards the trio.

SAM

Jesus- What do you want, Marco?

MARCO

I just wanted to say...

A heavy pause. Is there gonna be another fight?

MARCO (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have blown  
up at you like that. But what you  
said didn't make me feel good. It  
made me feel... not good.

SAM

Uh, yeah, okay. I'm sorry?

MARCO

Thank you. Also, sorry for punching  
you in the face, Cece.

CECE  
Hey, water under the bridge, man.

MARCO  
Cool. Bruce.

BRUCE  
Marco.

He quickly walks away. Everyone is confused.

CECE  
So, how was the closet weed?

BRUCE  
Fine, but Hunter and Lourdes are kinda lame. I think I'm gonna try to find another crew to roll with. Hey, Sam, what do you do?

SAM  
Uh, I'm in a girl band?

BRUCE  
Sick! Can I join that?

SAM  
What?

CECE  
Hey, speaking of...

INT. COASTAL HIGH - BATHROOM - AFTERNOON

Sam, Bruce, and Cece all stand in the bathroom. Bruce touches the mirror, and it ripples.

BRUCE  
Whoa...

SAM  
Why're we showing him this?

CECE  
I'm gonna make this quick so we can get Bruce out of the girl's bathroom. Sam, we can go into anyone's Door World from the mirror, right?

SAM  
Sure, if they trust you. Or you can break in, like I did.

CECE

Concerning! Anyways, today we helped someone. Like, really actually helped someone, and I was thinking why stop with Marco? Let's use this power we have to make a change. Real change!

SAM

So what? We keep an eye out for the next kid having a breakdown and hop into their Door World to fix it?

CECE

I wouldn't phrase it like that, but yeah! So, are y'all in?

BRUCE

Hell yeah!

CECE

And Sam?

Cece gives Sam the biggest puppy-dog eyes. She sighs.

SAM

If it decreases the surplus population of absolute nightmare people at this school, I'm in.

BRUCE

Oh! Oh! We need a sick name for our group. The Brain Gang! The Psych Squad. The Cranium Crew!

SAM

Okay, yeah, let's talk about this outside of the communal piss room.

Sam pulls Bruce out of the bathroom. Cece gives her reflection one last smile before running off.

The mirror shifts, and smudges form on the rim. We cut to-

INT. THE COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS - NIGHT

Still water. The Collective Unconscious has fallen to an inky blackness, reflecting the sleeping residents of Cloudy Cove. We hear HUMMING. Something sway-y. Preferably a song that's modern but a little esoteric.

The "person" humming is MYCAH (male-ish, ageless, just here to have a good time).

His hair is a giant mushroom, and his body is just covered in fungi, but like, in a hot way. More interesting is the fact that his chest is vivisected, exposing a green, sickly heart beating in his ribcage.

With every step, the pale rot spreads from his feet, corrupting the Collective Unconscious. He *is* the nasty. He reaches out his hand to Marco's door. The infection starts to spread, but stops. He tries again. No dice. The umbrella sigil glows faintly- a protecting aura.

MYCAH

Bummer. Looks like someone's trying to crash my party. 'S cool, though.

With a sick grin, Mycah reaches into his chest, and RIPS out his heart. He holds it in his hand, a polluted green smoke wafting from the separated organ.

MYCAH (CONT'D)

The more the merrier, yeah?

SMASH TO BLACK.

**END OF ACT III**