

DOUEN

Written by

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Based on, Douen Folklore

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FADE IN

DREAM SEQUENCE - EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

SANIA (30s) African American, walks in the middle of an unevenly paved road. Corn fields are to her left and right. The full moon light gleams on the field and road in front of her.

Incoming car lights peaks on the hilly road behind her. The driver slows down, pulls up beside Sania. She hesitantly stops.

An African American man (50s) roles down the car window, lowers the radio volume.

MAN

Need a ride?

Sania lowers her body to speak. His face isn't clearly visible in the dark. A glimpse of the man's huge square bifocals shimmer as he speaks.

SANIA

No thank you sir. I'm not far from home.

MAN

You sure? It's a little dark for you to be on out her by herself.

Sania smiles, uncomfortably.

SANIA

I appreciate it but really, I'm just up the street.

(pointing)

Right there. So, I'm good.

The man silently stares at Sania. She looks uncomfortable but keeps calm.

MAN

Be safe now.

His eyebrows frown, turns serious. Sania awkwardly nods her head, raises up to walk.

He raises the volume, slowly drives off. A reporter speaks from the radio, fades as he drives away.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

It's unprecedented. Life as we know
it, may never be the same.

Sounds of corn stalks shuffles behind Sania. She turns,
breathes deep. Nothing is there.

A sudden loud door knocks three times.

Sania jolts back, turns in front of her. There's a white door
in the middle of the road. Sania's breathing gets heavier,
frozen in fear.

The door begins to open slowly. Sania steps back. Her feet
are heavy.

SANIA

(to herself)

Come on!

She looks down, feels confused, keeps trying.

The door is half-way open. She, looks at the door, moves her
feet very slowly. It's still heavy.

Long fingers, dark almost skinless, grips the end of the
door. Sania's face fills with fear.

A MOKO JUMBIE bends it's long, slender body in the door,
stands up. Sania turns around tries to run. The Moko Jumbie
can be seen coming quickly behind her.

INT. SANIA'S HOUSE - LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Sania awakes suddenly from her sleep. **(how would I include
Center Framed Close-up of Main Character?)** She's on the
couch, the TV news on beside her.

She breathes in relief, wipes the sweat from her face.

Suddenly, three knocks on the door. She jolts in fear, grabs
the remote from the center table.

NEWS REPORTER (O.S.)

We don't know what tomorrow will
bring, but we wish you and your
families a safe journey.

Sania clicks the OFF button. The TV won't turn off. She puts
the remote down, drops quietly to the floor, creeps toward
the door.

The door opens slowly, then stops. Sania crawls quickly behind the wall. **(360 Shot (high or low angle) or a Whip Pan)**

A shadow moves in from the door behind her. She quietly grabs the firepit poker, slides up the wall on her feet.

The door creaks, then closes.

Footsteps get closer to Sania. She grips the fire poker. The footsteps stop a few feet behind her.

WOMAN (O.S.)
(whispers)
Sania.

Sania sighs, releases the fire poker from her grip.

SANIA
Shit! Annelise, why you knocking
the damn door like a mad woman?

Sania walks in front of the woman, still a dark figure.

SANIA (CONT'D)
Annelise? You ok?

They stand still in a few seconds of silence. Sania gets weary, steps back. Her feet are heavy.

The woman's body slides (rolls on skates) towards Sania. Sania panics, screams.

END OF DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. SANIA'S HOUSE - LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Sania awakes suddenly from her sleep. She's on the couch, the TV news on beside her.

She breathes in relief, picks up the remote from the center table.

NEWS REPORTER (O.S.)
It's all a matter of survival.
Don't let these creatures hold you
captive. Physically... or
otherwise.

ANNELISE (O.S.)
Sleep well?

Sania abruptly sits up, turns, looks at ANNEЛИSE (30s)
African American, behind her.

SANIA

Shit!

ANNEЛИSE

Sorry, didn't mean to scare you.

The news reporter speaks in the background.

Sania wipes the sweat from her forehead, sighs.

Sania shifts her body, puts her feet on the floor.

NEWS REPOERTER (O.S.)

Stay safe. Be well.

Sania clicks the remote, turns the TV off.

ANNEЛИSE

Another bad dream?

SANIA

Were you knocking on the door?

ANNEЛИSE

You were really out cold huh.

Sania scratches her head.

ANNEЛИSE (CONT'D)

I was boarding the back door. I
just got back.

SANIA

You left?

ANNEЛИSE

We need food, right?

SANIA

So, you just left me here fast
asleep and didn't bother to wake me
and let me know you were leaving
out?

ANNEЛИSE

I figured you need the rest.

Sania looks at Annelise in disbelief.

ANNELISE (CONT'D)
Plus, I was only in the shed. Not
long.

Sania plops her head back on the coach. Annelise does the
same.

SANIA
Anything change?

Annelise chuckles.

ANNELISE
From two hours ago? Sorry Sis.
We're still in the world of the
Douens. Little shits.

They sit silently for several seconds.

SANIA
You know, as a kid, I always
thoughts those stories Mom and Pop
told us were just made-up tales. I
guess it had to come from some
truth.

Suddenly, three bangs on the door.

Sania and Annelise drop to the floor.

SANIA (CONT'D)
They must have followed you. Damn it
Annelise! You should of just woke
me up so I could keep an eye out.

ANNELISE
Sania, I looked around. I swear. I
didn't see anything.

SANIA
Well, they're here so they had to
see you.

Three harder bangs on the door.

ANNELISE
Fuck this.

Annelise gets up.

SANIA
(quietly)
What are you doing! Stay down!

ANNELISE

How long we gonna hide? You wanna just lay there and wait for these little fucks to go away... again?

Sania ponders in thought. Annelise grabs the fire poker then watches Sania.

Sania reluctantly gets up, grabs the shotgun.

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

How many bullets left?

Sania goes in her pocket, takes out one bullet, shows it to Annelise.

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

Shit!

Their breathing intensifies. Sania grabs the shotgun, loads it, cooks it back.

SANIA

May as well use it. If we go down, at least we go down fighting... Right?

They look at each other with bittersweet determination, nod in agreement.

They tip-toe towards the window.

Three sudden bangs on the door. They drop lower, crawl to the window, slowly peak out.

In the middle of the lawn stands a short human-like CREATURE in bear skin, wearing a floppy straw hat. Its feet are backwards.

Sania and Annelise face each other. Annelise gestures for them to go to the back door.

They miss the Creature drop to the ground, swiftly walks towards the house.

Sania looks back as they creep towards the back door. The Creature is out of sight.

SANIA (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Where'd it go?

Annelise turns around.

They quickly crawl to the back window, slowly peek out the window.

The same human-like Creature stands in the middle of backyard, seeming to stare at them. The straw hat shadows its eyes.

Suddenly, it's eyes light red.

Sania and Annelise gasp.

The Creature drops to the ground, quickly walks on all fours towards the window.

Sania and Annelise drop down low, crawls towards the back wall facing the window, sits on the floor.

They breathe heavy, chest rising and falling intensely, then watch each other in a moment of silence.

ANNELISE

Ready?

Sania nods in a fearful confidence.

A scratching sound at the window. They look up, sees the Creature peeking at them through the widow, bright red eyes.

Sania slowly gets up, points the shotgun at the window. Annelise follows beside her, grips the fire poker.

Sania shifts her head behind the FRONT SIGHT of the shotgun, aims at the Creature. Her finger moves slowly on the trigger.

SANIA

Whatever happens, I love you Sis.

ANNELISE

(sighs)

I love you too.

GIRL

Sania. Annelise.

They look at each other confused. The Creature drops out of sight from the window.

A shuffling sound behind them. Fear fills their face. They turn around cautiously.

The Creature stands at a distance behind them.

Suddenly, it drops, runs on all fours towards them.

FADE TO BLACK.

Shot fires.

INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

SYBIL (70s) Trinidadian, sits in front the fire place. ALICIA (8) and NATASHA (8) sit beside her as she tells the story. The wood burns behind them, the light gleams on their faces.

ALICIA

It got them?

SYBIL

They were not supposed to turn around.

NATASHA

But they heard a noise. They had to look.

SYBIL

No, they heard someone call their names. That's how the Douens trick you.

ALICIA

But... who called their names?

SYBIL

You two.

The girls are confused.

ALICIA

They heard us?

NATASHA

How'd they hear us?

SYBIL

That's how it works. I told you in the beginning... Don't. Call. Their. Names. The Douens are so powerful, they can pull your voices into the story.

ALICIA

What is a Douen?

SYBIL

Douens are little creatures of the forest. They wear a big, floppy straw hat to hide the fact that they have no face except for a small mouth to speak with. Their feet are backwards and when they get vex, they show their sharp vampire teeth. They are known to prank people, raid gardens, and enjoy leading children astray until they are lost in the woods. And when they call your name, you're not to answer. Because if you do... they will get you and you will never be found again.

The girls face fill with fear.

ALICIA

Where do they take you?

SYBIL

No one knows. But it is believed that the Douens are spirits of dead children that unfortunately, due to circumstances, died at a young age. They haunt people, especially children. No different than a stranger, if they call you, Do not go. Do not respond. Just run home.

NATASHA

But they're not real.

Sybil sits silently, face turns firm.

ALICIA

Right?

The girls lock their eyes on Sybil, waits for her response.

GIRL

(whispers)

Alicia. Natasha.

Alicia and Natasha breath heavy, faces frozen in fear. Their eyes simultaneously move to the corner of their eyes. They begin to turn slowly.

SYBIL

I just said, do not answer them.
Don't look when they call.

The girls turn back, face Sybil.

A shadow of the Creature can be seen behind them.

FADE TO BLACK.

