

Bilongo  
(Be-long-oh)

Written by

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1

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

1

A clear blue sky floats over a valley, off in the distance we see a bridge and two figures intertwined.

MUERTO OSCURO (30's) fiery, intense, the embodiment of black and gold matter, embraces a woman we can't fully see.

A large lock dangles from Muerto Oscuro's hand.

MUERTO OSCURO (V.O.)

It's unprecedented...our love story.

Mountainous open space, Muerto Oscuro leads LIBERTAD (30's) curious, lost, and vulnerable; the two are enamored.

At an opening that leads to a bridge, they come across ancient Yorube symbols written in chalk on the bridge, they enter.

MUERTO OSCURO (V.O.)

I met her while she was searching.  
Looking for some kind of magical existence.

Libertad examines chains and locks affixed to the bridge. Like the ones we see around the world on the many bridges of love.

From behind Libertad enjoys a caress from Muerto Oscuro across her shoulder.

MUERTO OSCURO (V.O.)

She knew nothing of her ancestry,  
wandering...unconnected...  
unprotected.

They squat and attach a lock to a chain on the bridge, they enjoy the moment, two become one.

Muerto Oscuro caress's Libertad.

MUERTO OSCURO (V.O.)

Or maybe I needed her. As they say  
plátano, maduro it's basically the  
same thing right?

2

INT. DARK SPACE - NIGHT

2

2

Ancient chalk drawings on an enclosed black space, candles illuminate giving off blue, violet, and golden hues.

Offerings surround the structure, including Aguardiente, candles, and playing cards.

Embodying a Palo Mayombe (Afro-Cuban religion) alter sits Muerto Oscuro.

Sitting next to her, confined in the space is Libertad. Libertad struggles to move, she opens her mouth no words exit, overcome with sadness, she slumps into herself.

MUERTO OSCURO

The years of pain, torment, and depression proved to be to much.

Muerto Oscuro plays with the flames from the candles.

CUE ANTIATI ENGANGA

Muerto Oscuro hears it. She looks up.

MUERTO OSCURO (CONT'D)

(to Libertad)

Do you here that?

3 INT. MISA - NIGHT

3

In a basement hues of red, white, brown, and gold surround two figures.

Dressed in white, with a head covering and swaying to the music focused on the task at hand we meet El SANTERO (30's).

Squatting in all white, a turban frames her face, her long white skirt gathered n one hand at her thigh, and chalk in another, LA SANTERA (30s) completes Yoruba symbols she's drawn on the floor.

White flower petals are placed in a large pitcher of water, Agua de Florida (a clear spiritual tonic) pours in, next cascara (a chalk like substance) drop in.

The Santeros salute the alter, then clean themselves with water, releasing toxic energy with snaps of the fingers. They make the sign of the cross in front of the Saint. We see candles, flowers, the pitcher of water with flower petals, water with a rosary, and photos of ancestors.

La Santera breaks out into Afro-Cuban dance, an invitation to the spirits.

El Santero faces Libertad. El Santero dabs Liberdad with water from the pitcher...on her forehead, then places water in her open palms.

La Santera dances.

El Santero stands behind Libertad. He blows tobacco smoke on shrub's, he then blows the smoke on Libertad's bent neck.

El Santero faces Libertad with the shrubs he touches her head and shoulders. She is statue like, eyes closed arm's slightly outstretched.

EL SANTERO  
(to Libertad)  
In the name of your Eggun (En el  
nombre tu Eggun).

Then he brushes the back of her body, next the front of her body, then her arms. After each brush he shakes out the shrub's...he is cleaning her.

EL SANTERO (V.O.)  
Margarita Montes...Juana Espinoza,  
Roque Hernandez, Arellio Garcia,  
Maria Luisa Castro.

La Santera dances.

El Santero blows smoke, on the side of Libertad's face her eyes tightly shut. He takes a swig of Aguardiente (fermented Sugar Cane water) and spits it out close to Libertad's face.

La Santera dances.

Tears roll down Libertad's tormented face.

La Santera dances.

El Santeros faces Libertad, La Santera is just behind her...his body language aggressive as he leans into her...calling her out.

EL SANTERO (CONT'D)  
I am going to take out that curse  
and restore your blessings (Te voy  
a sacar esa maldision para que te  
cambie el Ashe).

Behind Libertad, La Santera rips her blouse revealing her bare back...

The DRUMMING stops.

La Santera circles to face Libertad. El Santero shoots a look towards the corner to reveal Muerto Oscuro standing, eyeing them.

EL SANTERO (CONT'D)  
 (to Muerto Oscuro)  
 Come forward. Tell us who you are?

Muerto Oscuro laughs she makes her way just behind Libertad, hovering. Libertad is afraid, La Santera notices.

LA SANTERA  
 (to Libertad)  
 Don't be afraid.

Libertad slightly turns opens her lips, La Santera warns.

LA SANTERA (CONT'D)  
 And don't talk to her.

MUERTO OSCURO  
 Don't talk to me? Why are you so harsh?

EL SANTERO  
 (to Muerto Oscuro)  
 Reveal yourself (Que quien eres?).

MUERTO OSCURO  
 Someone that was rotting in a grave, until, ugh a second chance at life...

Muerto Oscuro speaks into Libertad ear while maintaining eye contact with the Santeros. Libertad is petrified.

MUERTO OSCURO (CONT'D)  
 (to Libertad)  
 A life through you.

El Santero, and La Santera remain calm...cool.

EL SANTERO  
 She's a dark spirit, someone cast a spell on you (algen te echo bilongo).

MUERTO OSCURO  
 Come on don't be so dramatic (dramatico)...bilongo.

LA SANTERA  
 Libertad you're free.

Again Muerto Oscuro talks to Libertad.

MUERTO OSCURO

Free? Libertad you will never be  
free of me.

EL SANTERO

(to Libertad)

Don't listen to her, (No le hagas  
caso) they always say that.

Muerto shoots El Santero an evil look, assured he smiles. La  
Santera makes a rounded up gesture.

LA SANTERA

To the cauldron with you (Pa la  
cazuela contigo.

Muerto Oscuro is gone, Libertad, releases a SIGH of release.

4 INT. DARK SPACE - NIGHT

4

Muerto Oscuro weeps, like a genie in the bottle she's  
confined by chains smoke enters her space.

MUERTO OSCURO

And that was that the end of our  
relationship. What will I do now?  
I'll wait. Until I get to accompany  
another, a new love. Be careful..be  
very careful (Cuidense...cuidense).

More smoke surrounds her, devastation covers her as tear's  
roll down her face. Muerto Oscuro stares helpless.

The sound of CHAINS

5 EXT. YARD - DAY

5

We hear CHAINS

El Santero bends over arranging chains around a cauldron,  
inside a human skull. He blows smoke at it and places a  
bottle of Aguardiente at the front of the alter. It's  
identical to Muerto Oscuro dark space only smaller.

Libertad and Muertos lock secures the chains around the  
cauldron.

SUPEREMPOSE OVER BLACK: There's no evil that can last 100  
years nor human that can withstand it.