

Gen **Z** Media

EVERYBODY LISTEN



Script for Episode 1

MAYAN CRYSTAL - EPISODE 1

101-1 EXT. INTRO

MUSIC - Theme of MAYAN CRYSTAL, fantastic, wondrous.

ANGELINA (V.O)

Do you want to hear a story? It's a story as old as the jungle itself. It's a story about our village - Little Parrot and our country - Belize. This is a tale of our ancestors, the ancient Maya who knew Math and Science so well - they built great stone pyramids and tracked the movements of the planets. Many years ago, our ancestors had miraculous powers - The ability to change into animals...

Low growl of a tiger.

GRANDMA

...and even to talk to the gods.

Low rumble from the sky, as an evil laugh starts.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

But an evil man named Specter tried to harness that power for himself.

B.g. sounds of ancient warfare, swords, and the characters in her story, as she continues telling it:

SPECTER

(laughs loudly)

Soon, I will be as powerful and everlasting as a God.

GRANDMA

Specter's rise could only be stopped by one person. A girl from this very village. Her name was Yax Tun. And she came from a long line of women called Crystal Keepers.

YAX TUN

Once I place the crystal in this altar, your reign of terror will be over.

SPECTER

*Step away from the altar, or you'll
feel the point of my sword.*

GRANDMA

This was no ordinary crystal Yax
Tun held. You see, this crystal
could summon the mighty God,
Kulkulkan - a great eagle.

An eagle flies down and lands next to Yax Tun.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

With the help of Kulkulkan, the
Crystal Keeper banished Specter to
the underworld. Never to be heard
from again.

SPECTER

(afraid)

*Wait. Stop. What.. What's happening
to me?*

(gasps)

Nooo..

Echo as Spectre is banished to the underworld.

GRANDMA

But when Spectre was swallowed by
the underworld, the magic of the
world was swallowed up with him.
The stories say that one day, the
world will again be threatened by a
great evil. And once again, the
fate of our people will rest in the
hands of a girl. A girl who does
not yet know how powerful she will
become.

101-2 INT. HUT - LITTLE PARROT - DAY

We are in the village of Little Parrot, a Maya village in
rural Belize.

ZAITA

Aurela! Hey, wake up, Aurela!

AURELA

No no nooo!!!

ZAITA

Aurela, you're having a bad dream.
Wake up!

AURELA
(groggy)
Huh? Kulkulkan...

ZAITA
I hope he was trying to wake you
up, whoever he is.

AURELA
Crystal...

ZAITA
Crystal? What kind of dream were
you having?

AURELA
There was...an ancient city...
There was this girl, Yax Tun, she
called down the eagle god Kulkulkan
to stop an evil man -

ZAITA
I dream about living in a house
with a swimming pool. You dream
about bird-gods. Even when you
sleep you're obsessed with the old
stories.

AURELA
It's going to be my job one day!

ZAITA
Being the Crystal Keeper is not a
real job. It's not even an ACTUAL
magic crystal. It's just some
ceremonial rock.

AURELA
How do you know? The girl in my
dream used the crystal to save the
Mayan people. Maybe someone will
need to use it again.

ZAITA
Maybe you can summon the god of
housekeeping to come and clean our
hut. Now *that* would be useful.

Big Sister ZAITA, 13, has taken on a motherly role, which she
sometimes resents. She would prefer to live in the city, not
the backwater village of Little Parrot.

Aurela hops out of her hammock.

AURELA

Okay, okay.
(yawn)
I'll go feed the chickens.

ZAITA

Tie up your hammock first, I need
to sweep.

AURELA

Yes, Zaita.

Aurela puts up her hammock as Zaita sweeps.

ZAITA

And hurry up. It's festival day.
Can't be late to hear the silly
elders do their dance about the
ancient city and all that.

AURELA

They tell it to teach us a lesson.

ZAITA

Yeah, well... We have real
problems. Those bulldozers and
chain saws get closer to our
village every day.

Aurela exits the hut, we hear the Chain saws etc. Louder as
we stay with her through the door. She calls back to Zaita
inside.

AURELA

Maybe that's why I had that dream.
Someone's trying to warn me about
the danger.

ZAITA

Or maybe you shouldn't eat hot
peppers before bed.

101-3 EXT. HUT - DAY

We're outside hearing the clucks and cheeps of the chicken
pen. Aurela feeds the chickens.

AURELA

(to the chickens)
Here you go, little ones. What's
the matter silly gallinas? Why
aren't you eating?

The chickens cluck as if in reply to her question.

AURELA (CONT'D)

I know. No one understands me
either.

More clucking and skittering. Zaita exits the hut and joins
her, shaking out a rug.

ZAITA

(as she shakes the rug)
How do these rugs get so filthy?

AURELA

Listen, Zaita. Do the chickens seem
worried to you?

ZAITA

They're chickens.

More clucking.

AURELA

Maybe they're worried that the
people doing all the chain sawing
are going to force us to leave the
village.

ZAITA

It wouldn't be so terrible if we
had to move from Little Parrot. In
the city we could sleep in real
beds and have a flat screen
television to watch novelas -

AURELA

This is our home. It was Mama's
home. Our people have lived here
thousands of years.

ZAITA

Our people? I've only lived here
thirteen years and it's enough.
Time for a change.

Proud, strong PAPA comes out to the yard from the house and
teases his daughters.

PAPA

Change? Why would we want to
change? So we can walk around
staring at screens all day like
your cousins in the city?

Aurela and Zaita's PAPA is a barrel-chested, heartily laughing man with spindly beard and the hands of a laborer. Aurela bounds into his arms.

ZAITA

What's wrong with *that*, Papa?

PAPA

(sighs, with affection)

Zaita, if you need me to answer that question, then I have failed as a father and as the village *Alcalde*.

Chickens continue clucking.

AURELA

Those men are cutting down so many trees every day. Even the chickens are upset!

PAPA

Chickens!

ZAITA

Aurela is finally going crazy, Papa.

PAPA

I'm going to have a talk with their boss, Claude, again. I am losing hope of a compromise. They are greedy men.

AURELA

I had a dream, Papa...I think it's time that I start taking care of the crystal.

ZAITA

(sighs, fed up)

I'm going inside to start breakfast.

Papa and Aurela are alone outside.

AURELA

Zaita doesn't understand. In the old days, the gods protected the Maya people, right? When the village was in danger, the Crystal Keeper would -

PAPA

It is a different time, Aurela. In our world, we must solve our own problems.

AURELA

But Papa, in my dream, the crystal glowed like the sun -

PAPA

The crystal only glows in dreams and story time. Get moving, Aurela. Angelina the storyteller needs your help at the festival!

MUSIC -
INTERLUDE.

101-4 EXT. MARKET IN LITTLE PARROT VILLAGE, A BIT LATER

Zaita and Aurela are walking across town. Village ambi - chickens, pigs, goats in background, kids' voices, etc.

ZAITA

(disdain)

Ugh. Aurela, look at her there, all high and mighty... Angelina. The teller of stories.

AURELA

I love her stories.

ZAITA

I still remember when Mama told stories... She was the best.

AURELA

You ever wonder... Maybe if Angelina had tried something different, you know, got another plant, called upon the right god, that things might have been different for Mama?

ZAITA

Things might have been different if they had gone to a hospital, Aurela. They didn't. They thought that magical herbs could save Mama. But they couldn't.

ANGELINA

Hello my darlings!

ANGELINA is the village daykeeper, organizing the community around her reading of the astrological signs, as well as the village's healer/midwife; and most importantly to Ziata, a keeper of local legends since the death of the girls' mother NIMA.

AURELA
Hi Angelina!

ZAITA
Hey.

ANGELINA
I see Papa Miguel has sent you girls to help me with the crafts table? Thank you so much.

Zaita's PHONE RINGS.

ZAITA
It's Auntie Natalie in the city. I hope she bought me those new jeans I asked for.

She answers as she walks off.

ZAITA (CONT'D)
(as she walks away)
Hey Auntie! Oh yes, just another day in Boring Parrot...

ANGELINA
(sighs)
Aurela, your sister believes she's too *big* for Little Parrot.

AURELA
She doesn't mean it. She's just -

A loud sawing sound stops her.

AURELA (CONT'D)
(jumps from the sound)
Ugh! How many trees can they cut down in one day? The village is supposed to be a safe place.

ANGELINA
We've faced many threats from the outside over the years, we will get through this one too.

AURELA

Our people used to summon the gods to help them. Do you think it could still work?

ANGELINA

(sighs)
Aye, Aurela.

AURELA

But you believe the stories are real. Don't you?

ANGELINA

Of course I do. And your mother believed them with all her heart.

AURELA

How did the ancient Maya get help from the gods?

ANGELINA

With the crystal, of course.

AURELA

Yeah, but we have the crystal, and it doesn't do anything.

ANGELINA

Nobody understands its great power. But the stories say that in the right hands it could summon the gods themselves.

AURELA

Zaita says it's just an old rock.

ANGELINA

What do you think?

AURELA

I think it's not right that Papa keeps it hidden away. It belongs to the Crystal Keeper!

ANGELINA

Which you are not. Not yet at least, little Aurela.

AURELA

But my mother was! And her mother before that. It's my turn now.

ANGELINA

Yes, you come from a long line of Crystal Keepers, Aurela, but your mother was thirteen when she got the honor, and you're only eleven. A few more years yet, my dear.

AURELA

Did she ever use it?

Things turn serious.

ANGELINA

(direct)

The last time the crystal was used was many centuries ago, when the conquistador General Mendoza and his men conquered the ancient city of Guela B'alam.

AURELA

Mendoza. Was he also called Specter?

ANGELINA

Yes.

AURELA

I had a dream about a conquistador last night!

ANGELINA

A dream?

AURELA

I saw the Crystal Keeper, Yax Tun. She wasn't much older than me and she called down Kulkulkan the eagle god to stop Specter.

ANGELINA

Yes, it's said that ever since that day that the crystal has been lifeless, nothing but a dull rock.

AURELA

So why do we keep carrying it around? Why do we still have Crystal Keepers?

ANGELINA

Because some day the Crystal will awaken again.

(MORE)

ANGELINA (CONT'D)

Its power will raise the ancient gods, so they can save the Maya people once again.

AURELA

Like now! The crystal can stop the loggers!

ANGELINA

Aurela, listen to me closely. The Crystal Keeper is responsible for great power. That power is not for children. It can help the Maya, but it's also very dangerous...

AURELA

We're in danger NOW. If we wait --

Papa rings a large BELL, then calls out, his voice ringing out through the village square. Villagers assemble bringing DRUMS, FLUTES, and other traditional instruments.

PAPA

Come now, friends and family! Let the festival begin! Soon, Angelina will recite the story and we will honor the ancestors by telling the story of the great crystal -

But suddenly, several loud, scary JEEPS come RUMBLING through the town. HORNS HONKING, ENGINES GRINDING. Villagers dive out of the way. A voice calls from the loudspeaker.

CLAUDE

(through p.a.)

Attention. Out of the way! Please clear the streets.

Papa walks out into the street.

AURELA

What are they doing? Why are the men in the trucks coming into the town?

(calling out to her father)

Papa! Come back!

PAPA

(stepping into the street)

Why have you come here today?

The JEEP screeches to a halt and a door opens. Out walks CLAUDE, the haughty land developer.

CLAUDE

What are you doing, Chief?

PAPA

I told you I am not a chief. I am Miguel Caldone, the elected Alcalde of this village.

CLAUDE

Either way, it's not safe to stand in front of our trucks.

PAPA

This is a sacred festival day in our village. You and your men are not welcome here.

CLAUDE

Look, Chief - *Alcalde*. We have the authority to harvest the rainforest around this village. And your people keep getting in the way.

PAPA

The rainforest does not belong to a company. It is for everyone.

CLAUDE

The law says if you people keep interfering with our operation I can remove you from your village.

(as he walks back to his jeep)

Let's hope it doesn't come to that.

Claude hops back into the JEEP and the trucks take off out of town.

CLAUDE (CONT'D)

(over the truck's p.a.)

Citizens of Little Parrot...this is your last warning! Stay out of the jungle. Enjoy your little festival!

The trucks drive off with a loud roar of their engines, which trail off into the distance.

AURELA

Papa, are they going to destroy the jungle?

PAPA
It's okay, little one. We'll figure
this out.

CUT TO:

101-5 INT. AURELA'S HUT - DAY

Aurela sneaks into her hut.

AURELA
Hello?...Papa?
(beat)
Is anyone here?

Aurela closes the door. She sneaks into Papa's room.

AURELA (CONT'D)
(with a laugh)
You think I don't know you keep the
crystal in a suitcase under your
bed.

She opens a suitcase, removes a pile of papers, discovers the
crystal.

AURELA (CONT'D)
Ah, here it is.

Magical music cue as Aurela picks up the CRYSTAL.

AURELA (CONT'D)
It looks just as it did in my
dream. Except, it's dull, like a
dead fish.

We hear a strange HUM, as if the crystal is ACTIVATING.

AURELA (CONT'D)
The crystal! It's glowing! I knew
it....

Suddenly, a voice STARTLES Aurela.

ZAITA
What are you doing, Aurela?!

AURELA
(shocked)
Zaita!

ZAITA

Why are you in Papa's room? What's that you're holding?

AURELA

Nothing.

ZAITA

The crystal.

AURELA

Please, Zaita. I know you think my dream was meaningless and the stories are silly. But look, the crystal is -

ZAITA

Is *what*?

AURELA

It was glowing!

ZAITA

(through gritted teeth)
Papa is going to be so angry with you.

AURELA

Please don't tell him you saw me.

ZAITA

Why not?

AURELA

I need it. Let me take it. I'll be safe. I promise.

ZAITA

You *promise*. I know all about your promises.

AURELA

Remember that time you "*borrowed*" the speaker from Auntie Nata's house so you could place dance music from your phone when Papa's out?

ZAITA

You swore you wouldn't say anything. And why is this place so backward that I can't use bluetooth?

AURELA
(whispering)
Papa's coming!

They hear noises outside the hut. People talking.

PAPA
(in the distance)
I'll get the crystal, the ceremony
must go on as planned.

ZAITA
(whispering)
I don't know what you think you're
doing, but I won't say anything.
Go.

AURELA
(whispering)
You're the best.

ZAITA
(whispering)
Yes, of course I am.

Aurela closes the box and rushes out.

CUT TO:

101-6 EXT. JUNGLE OVERLOOK - DAY

Jungle Ambience now - moments before the hurtling fireball
passes by. Parrots, monkeys, etc.

AURELA
In the dream, Yax Tun was using the
crystal at the temple. There's no
temple anymore - maybe it's enough
just to be here in the jungle?

JAGUAR
You have this ceiba tree.

AURELA
(shocked and scared)
Who said that. Oh my gosh! A
jaguar! Don't eat me!

JAGUAR
Your people used to think that this
tree was holy. Is that why you can
hear me?

AURELA
You're talking!

JAGUAR
Look in your hand.

The crystal glows slightly.

AURELA
The crystal. It's glowing.

JAGUAR
Yes. You are the Crystal Keeper,
are you not?

AURELA
And you're a talking Jaguar!

JAGUAR
Only you have the power to summon
protection from those evil men that
are destroying our rain forest --
and your village.

AURELA
But how? What do I say?

BALAM
Search your heart, Aurela. The
crystal is waiting for you to
unleash its power.

The crystal begins to glow brighter.

AURELA
It's glowing brighter.

JAGUAR
Good, good. You are connected to
the Ancestors. Now call on them.

AURELA
(realizing)
Like Yax Tun did in my dream.

The glowing intensifies.

AURELA (CONT'D)
Uh, yes... Okay... Here we go.
(trying to sound very
important)
Um, great spirits, we call on you.
By the power of the gods and the
ancestors, hear our pleas!
(MORE)

AURELA (CONT'D)

The village is in real trouble,
Kulkulkan. I know you saved us
before, a long time ago. You
couldn't save my mom, but please
...send help. Your people need you.

The glowing reaches its climax -- and subsides.

Aurela waits for something to happen. All we hear are the
sounds of the jungle and the distant music in town.

AURELA (CONT'D)

It didn't work. Jaguar? Jaguar!
Where did you..
(sighs)
Zaita was right. I am going crazy.
They're just silly stories.

But as she's about to walk down from the hill we hear a faint
WHOOSHING from a distance.

AURELA (CONT'D)

Huh? What's that noise?

Suddenly we hear RUSTLING and SCREECHING, as if many animals
are scared and running. Something is freaking them out!
Monkeys and other small and terrified animals SCURRY past.

AURELA (CONT'D)

Where are all the animals going?

CUT TO:

101-7 EXT. LITTLE PARROT TOWN SQUARE - DAY

We're back in the village where the whooshing is growing
louder.

PAPA

Zaita, where's Aurela?

ZAITA

Nowhere.

PAPA

Nowhere means trouble.

He goes INSIDE the hut.

PAPA (CONT'D)

(calling out)
Aurela?! Aurela?!

Zaita follows behind him.

 ZAITA
I'm sure she'll be back soon.

 PAPA
Was someone in my room?

 ZAITA
No, I...

 PAPA
The crystal! Zaita, where is the
crystal?!

The WHOOSH sound suddenly grows very loud and there is a loud
bang. we hear SCREAMING in the village.

 ZAITA
What was that?

 PAPA
I don't know. Follow me.

They rush back out in the village which has descended into
CHAOS.

 ZAITA
Papa...where did the sun go?

 PAPA
An eclipse? It can't be. Angelina!

 ANGELINA
The stories speak of this. The sun
disappears, blocked by something
powerful heading towards our world.

 ZAITA
(worried)
What is that?! In the sky? It looks
like...a ball of fire...

 ANGELINA
Something very old.

 PAPA
Everyone...get to shelter!

As everyone in the village runs...

ZAITA
Aurela! Where are you?

CUT BACK TO:

101-8 EXT. JUNGLE OVERLOOK - DAY

Back to Aurela as the fireball flies over her head.

AURELA
What is that ball of fire?
(realizing)
The crystal worked! Kulkulkan is
here to help!

Ka-Krack! With a big, rumbling, smack, the FIREBALL strikes the mountain and incinerates the trees, revealing something beneath.

A scary RUMBLING.

Deep rumbling crossfades into a rumbling, powerful, EVIL LAUGH.

AURELA (CONT'D)
What? Who is that?

SPECTER
I am finally free! Released from the crystal that has held me captive! Specter...HAS RETURNED. And he shall never be imprisoned again!

Specter continues to laugh.

AURELA
Oh no! What have I done?

MUSIC - Maya Crystal Theme, mysterious.