LA LLORONA

Child: Yunus

Parents: Anggina, Daffa

Old Hag: Lingga

Narrator: Ariel

Dumb Play: Maldini

THEME

Primary: Guilt — remorse serves as its own punishment. Secondary: Hope — where there is life, spiritual or physical, there is hope.

LOG LINE

A parent tells a child the legend of a village woman who drowned her twins, losing the bodies in the river, and is doomed to roamthe earth searching for her babies.

SYNOPSIS

A CHILD cries out for its mother or father, unable to sleep because of the mournful wind. The PARENT tells the story of "La Llorona." In an old village, an unmarried woman, GUADALUPE, gives birth to TWINS, who are cursed because they have no father. She carries them to the river and drowns them, losing the bodies in the water. She marks a grave but is doomed to roam the earth searching for her babies. As the mother's story ends, the mournful wind dies down, and the child decides that Guadalupe has found her babies at last.

CHARACTERS

Child: either boy or girl, innocent, looks for the good Parent: either father or mother, comforting, storyteller Guadalupe: young village woman, troubled with remorse Village extras, including Old Hag

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

A CHILD sleeps. Perhaps MUSIC plays. The SOUND OF MOURNFUL WIND is heard. The child's eyes open wide.

CHILD

**Mama! Mama! [or Papa! Papa!]**

PARENT (O.S.)

Yes, my child, I'm coming.

PARENT enters

PARENT

(continuing)

What is it, sweetheart?

CHILD

The wind, Mama [Papa]. The wind sounds strange, like someone is crying.

PARENT

Ah. la Llorona.

CHILD

What is la Llorona?

PARENT

La Llorona means "the weeping woman." It's an old, old legend.

CHILD

Tell me, Mama [Papa]. Please tell me so I can sleep.

The parent settles onto the child's bed.

PARENT

A long time ago, a beautiful woman named Guadalupe lived in a village.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY OR NIGHT

VILLAGERS are gathered around a hut, MUMBLING.

PARENT (O.S.)

(continuing)

She had no husband.

SCREAMS OF CHILDBIRTH come from within the hut. An OLD HAG steps out excitedly. MUSIC PLAYS.

OLD HAG

Twins! Guadalupe has given birth to twins. A boy and a girl. But these twins are cursed. They have no Papa.

The villagers mumble in agreed shame and shunning and then disperse. The MUSIC builds to a FOREBODING CRESCENDO.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

The MUSIC TRANSITIONS to a new day. The hut sits alone. The door opens. A figure emerges. It is GUADALUPE. She carries a basket, from which comes the SOUND OF CRYING BABIES.

As she walks through the village, the old hag and the villagers gather around her, forming a gantlet. They CURSE and HISS at her. She walks through the crowd to the edge of the village. She keeps walking.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Guadalupe walks to the river, alone now. She sets down the basket and stares at the water. The SOUND OF CRYING BABIES continues from the basket.

ANGLES ON HER FACE, THE BASKET, THE WATER, PERHAPS THE SKY

Guadalupe begins to HUM A LULLABY. She reaches for the basket, taking from it two BABIES, wrapped in cloths. She walks slowly into the water, humming her melody. The BABIES' CRIES SUBSIDE.

Guadalupe takes a breath and submerges herself with her babies.

THE WATER ROILS AND STIRS TO A FRENZY. MUSIC CRESCENDOS.

Guadalupe's head emerges. She remains in the water, submerged to her neck, straining and shaking violently.

Slowly, she stops shaking, tears streaking down her face.

THE WATER ALSO SETTLES, AS DOES THE MUSIC.

Guadalupe comes out of the river, her arms empty. She collapses on the riverbank. She sees the basket and picks it up. SHE HEARS THE HAUNTING CRIES OF BABIES. She looks at the river.

She jumps to her feet, drops the basket, and runs back into the water, frantically parting it with her hands, looking, looking.

MUSIC BUILDS. She grows hysterical, weeping and flailing about.

Beside herself, she SHOUTS TO THE HEAVENS. SILENCE. Panting, she makes her way out of the water and drops at the river's edge. Exhausted, she reaches for the basket but cannot grasp it. Her head drops. Her hand drops. STILLNESS.

EXT. RIVER – NIGHT

Dressed in a FLOWING GARMENT and a VEIL, Guadalupe, kneeling, finishes pounding a simple, homemade, wooden cross into the ground with a stone. SHE HUMS HER LULLABAY. She leans over, pulls the veil back and kisses the ground.

When she raises her head, her MAKE-UP suggests DEATH AND TEARS.

She removes her veil and drapes it on the cross. She stands and walks away, slowly, mysteriously.

MONTAGE - GUADALUPE WANDERS

She roams through forest and meadow, past river and brook.

HAUNTING, SPIRITUAL MUSIC PLAYS.

PARENT (O.S.)

To this day, it is said that the spirit of Guadalupe wanders the earth, searching for her babies.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The parent is seated on the bed by the child. THE WIND SOBS.

PARENT

(continuing)

And when you hear a sorrowful wind, my child, it is the cry of Guadalupe.

CHILD

Do you think she will ever find her babies, Mama [Papa]?

PARENT

Ah, that is for each person to decide. It is only a story, so you can make up your own ending. What

do you think?

CHILD

Listen, Mama [Papa].

SILENCE. Perhaps a few SOUNDS OF NIGHT.

CHILD

(continuing)

The wind has stopped. I think la Llorona has found her babies this night

PARENT

And so she has, sweetheart. So she has.

The parent strokes the child's cheek, kisses the child and tucks the child in.

CHILD

Goodnight, Mama [Papa].

PARENT

Goodnight, my child.

The parent stands. MUSIC PLAYS.

ANGLES ON PARENT AND CHILD

The **parent** exits. MUSIC OUT.

FADE OUT