

Orenda

I am because you are

By Cassandra Ruiz

COLD OPEN

EXT. FOREST - DAY

FADE IN

CLOSEUP- TREE.

The tree lights up at its center. The light resembles a circle and moves as a heart beat.

CAMERA ZOOMS OUT to reveal more trees, which aren't lit.

The light in the lit tree then spreads throughout the entire tree. This lit tree then lights the trees near it through its branches; and those trees continue the process until every tree is lit.

The trees are lighting from the small circle at their centers to their entire bodies at different times, making them resemble keys in an instrument being played, much like a piano.

ADAM, a lumberjack, appears and decides to chop down the tree that was lit first, which happens to be an apple tree and the tree in the center of the screen.

An already grown child, EVE, appears in the hollow of the tree. Adam and Eve use the remains of the tree to make a house where the tree used to be.

More and more trees are cut down resulting to more and more people, different races, and houses existing, which also increases pollution, lessens the amount of available land, and leaves the forest to be but a memory.

CAMERA ZOOMS OUT, revealing the whole world to be this forest.

INT. MORIKO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CAMERA ZOOMS OUT, revealing that the story told was a picture book where DAIKI (late 20s), a hard working father, is flipping the pages of this book for his 6 year old daughter, MORIKO (6 years old), who happens to be laying next to him on her bed.

Daiki points at the last picture, which consists of the world being made up of human faces.

DAIKI

Moriko, don't just be an observer.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

It's autumn and the leaves are falling.

An old lady, AKIKO, is raking the leaves. Some leaves are still illuminated and the wind takes them to Akiko.

A lit leaf touches and lights Akiko and she smiles as if she's happy and thankful.

Daiki and 6 year old Moriko appear and see Akiko having trouble raking due to the wind.

Daiki goes to help her rake and when Akiko touches Daiki to hand him the rake, he becomes lit.

Moriko grabs handfuls of raked leaves and puts it inside the bag that Akiko is holding. And so when Moriko accidentally brushes her arms against Akiko's arms, Moriko's light is lit.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

It's still autumn and a man, HARU, is on a ladder fixing a sign, but the ladder is wobbling and Haru is about to fall. Daiki and 6 year old Moriko appear and Daiki makes it just in time to hold the ladder before Haru would have fallen.

Both Daiki's and Haru's light becomes bigger.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY - ALMOST 2 YEARS LATER

It's summer and Akiko and Haru meet 8 year old Moriko and Daiki.

Akiko and Haru then give a jacket with the words "Neighborhood Big Brother" to Daiki for all his efforts and help in the town.

Daiki and Moriko both smile. And the lights of all four people grow.

EXT. PARK - DAY (SNOW)

It's winter and it's snowing.

Moriko is attempting to make a mini-snowman.

Daiki makes a mini-snowman next to Moriko's.

Daiki and Moriko look at each other and smile. Both of their lights grow even more.

EXT. CROSSWALK - DAY

It's spring and the cherry blossoms are falling.

A 6 year old little girl, HARUHI, is captivated by the falling cherry blossoms, which causes her to lose her parents in the crowd while crossing the street.

The cherry blossom that Haruhi was following with her eyes lands in front of her, making her forget about the street light.

Haruhi is bending down in order to acquire the cherry blossom, making her unseen by the impatient car that is waiting for the light to quickly turn green.

Daiki and 9 year old Moriko appear and they see that they no longer have time to cross. Daiki then sees Haruhi and runs towards her.

Daiki makes it in time to push Haruhi out of the way but not in time to save himself.

The impatient car proceeds to run over Daiki.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY (RAIN)

It is clouded and appears to be night because there's a thunderstorm.

Moriko is holding a small suitcase and she's not standing in a place that covers her from the rain.

Moriko's light is being diminished.

Moriko is crying and her tears are mixed with the rain.

Moriko turns into a PIANO and the RAIN pounds on it, striking the keys hard in DISCORDANCE and making STRONG, DARK SOUNDS.

Moriko turns back to normal with the rain still pounding on her and the PIANO'S DARK SOUND is still being heard. Moriko's light is very dim and is going in tune to the DARK SOUNDS. Moriko's tears are also in tune to the DARK SOUNDS, each tear being a key played.

Moriko turns back into a PIANO and the DARK SOUND RESONATES.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY - 6 YEARS LATER

It's autumn and an old man with a cane, AKIO, is having trouble carrying his groceries.

Moriko, who is now 15 years old with boy-short hair and wearing Daiki's jacket, proceeds to help Akio and her light starts to grow anew. It lights up for a brief moment but then diminishes quickly after.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Haruhi drops a huge stack of papers in a crowded hallway. No one seems willing to help her.

Moriko then appears and collects the papers. She hands them to Haruhi as her light lights up even more than the previous scene.

EXT. PARK - DAY (SNOW)

It's winter and it's snowing.

Moriko proceeds to make a mini-snowman.

Moriko turns to look next to her mini-snowman, where Daiki's would have been.

Moriko's light dims to her center.

Moriko then starts to make Daiki's mini-snowman next to hers. Moriko's light slightly grows.

Moriko turns into a PIANO. The SNOW hits the keys, SOFTLY, NOT MAKING A SOUND. The snow then piles and sound is emitted. The SOUND is mixed with STRONG and LIGHT SOUNDS, allowing it to sound like KREISLER'S "LIEBESLEID," which means love's sorrow.

Moriko turns back to normal with the snow still falling on her and "LIEBESLEID" is still being heard. Moriko's light is in tune to the song, raising and falling with the notes.

Moriko turns back into a PIANO with "LIEBESLEID" still being playing.

Moriko turns back to normal with the snow still falling on her and "LIEBESLEID" is still being heard as she smiles with a tear going down her cheek. Moriko's light is in tune to the song, raising and falling with the notes.

FADE OUT

ACT ONE