

OIHANBELTZ
"Pilot"

Written by

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COLD OPEN

1 EXT. MAGICAL FOREST - DAY

1

MILIA, a 12-year-old girl with two messy braids, flies through a magical and colorful forest sitting on HERENSUGE, a seven-headed winged snake.

Someone or something is coming after her. It's TARTALO, an enormous, hideous and terrifying one-eyed cyclops holding a shepherd's crook and surrounded by sheep. HE GROWLS.

Herensuge flies faster until he gets out of the forest and stops.

MILIA

Ooh yeah!!! I won again!! You know
you can't beat a brave explorer
like me.

Tartalo reaches her side, and crosses his arms getting into a huff.

TARTALO

(rough voice)
That's. cheating.

MILIA

Someone's a bad loser.

Milia leans out to see one of Herensuge's faces.

MILIA (CONT'D)

Let's go... higher!

And OFF THAT --

2 EXT. MAGICAL FOREST, SKY - DAY

2

Milia SCREAMS IN BLISS flying through the skies sitting on Herensuge, who does somersaults. Milia's braids come undone because of the wind.

MILIA

WOOOOHOOOO!

Beneath them there's a colorful land with green mountains, blue rivers connected by magical rainbows, picturesque villages, elegant castles, and a blue ocean.

ACT 1

3 EXT. BASQUE VILLAGE, PLAYGROUND - DAY

3

It's revealed that Milia -wearing a backpack decorated with Basque mythological being stickers- is sitting on a spring rider, pretending to fly on Herensuge. She's at a playground.

MILIA

You gotta try this!! It's awesome!!!

Surrounding Milia there are SOME KIDS HER AGE. They give her a look, judging her.

Milia laughs awkwardly at the look the kids are giving her. Then she sighs.

4 EXT. BASQUE VILLAGE, PLAYGROUND - MOMENTS LATER

4

Milia is sitting on the ground with an open book on her lap: she's looking at a picture that resembles the landscape we saw on her fantasy. She touches it and sighs, sad. Her open backpack is next to her.

Two hands softly land on Milia's shoulders. She looks upwards to see: HER DADS, two men in their 40s, one of them wears the typical Basque "txapela" and a checkered shirt, the other wears a suit and a tie.

MILIA

Did you know Tartalo was the first shepherd of Oihanbeltz? He lives alone in the forest. He might look frightening, but he has a good heart.

They both sit next to her. SUIT DAD softly braids her hair (in two braids) while TXAPELA DAD grabs her book and closes it. We can read the book title on the cover: "**Basque Legends**". He puts it inside Milia's backpack.

TXAPELA DAD

That's... great, Milia. But we think it's time you get out of your fantasy world, *bihotza* (sweetheart).

MILIA

What? No! I like it there, everything is better there.

TXAPELA DAD
But you need friends, Milia.

MILIA
I have friends.

TXAPELA DAD
Real friends, like your classmates
over there.

Milia crosses her arms.

SUIT DAD
C'mon, Milia, promise us you'll
try. Friendship is important.

Suit dad puts a scrunchy on one of Milia's braids. Both dads tickle Milia. They all laugh.

MILIA
Stop it, *aitas!* (dads)
(beat)
Ok... I'll try.

5 EXT. BASQUE VILLAGE, PLAYGROUND - MOMENTS LATER 5

Milia -with the backpack now on her shoulders- falters toward the kids, who are sitting under a tree, forming a circle.

Milia is talking to herself. She talks FAST, nervous.

MILIA
Hey, guys. So, I was wondering, do
you wanna do something fun? No, no.
Hey guys, so... what you doing?
Agghh!! No!!

Milia gets closer to them, but they haven't seen her. She then sees one of the kids running in circles and pretending to fly, and Milia smiles, happy.

KID 1
Look at me! I'm crazy Milia!

They all laugh.

Milia frowns, angry, sad.

6 EXT. BASQUE VILLAGE, FOREST - DAY 6

Milia runs through the dense forest that surrounds the park, feeling miserable.

She even runs into the brushwood in her way and scratches her hand, but she's too upset to stop.

She's getting too far from the park.

She stops all of a sudden. Something has drawn her attention: a small cave hidden in the brushwood.

She peers into the cave: it's quite dark.

MILIA

Hellooo?

She searches through her backpack: we see a water bottle, the Basque legends book... and she takes a flashlight out.

MILIA (CONT'D)

Well, this feels like the perfect adventure for an explorer.

7

INT. CAVE - DAY

7

The cave's inside is dark and the ceiling is low, Milia has to duck a little to avoid hitting her head. Thanks to the flashlight, she spots something written on the walls: "Oihanbeltz".

MILIA

Oihanbeltz? How is this.. why.. who..?

Milia touches the letters, curious. As soon as she does that, the letters emit a bright colorful light that nearly blinds her.

The letters form a circle that starts growing and glowing with every existing color. The colors move and weave together, forming a circular rainbow. *It's wonderful.* It keeps growing and growing until it hits the size of a door. It looks like a magical portal.

Milia looks at the portal with awe and wonder, not believing what has just happened. Overwhelmed.

She moves her hand closer to the portal, almost touching it. But she stops and recoils her hand, undecided.

MILIA (CONT'D)

I guess an explorer must explore.

She touches the portal with her hand... and it goes through it! Throwing out small colorful sparks!

MILIA (CONT'D)
Woooooow!!! This is SO cool!

Milia takes her hand out and looks at it, amazed. But she fixes her gaze on her scratch, and she frowns, upset. She clenches her fist and looks back at the forest.

MILIA (CONT'D)
Oihanbeltz, here I go.

She takes a deep breath and crosses the portal with a little smile she can't avoid breaking into. The portal throws out colorful sparks when her body crosses the barrier.

8 INT. OIHANBELTZ, CAVE - MOMENTS LATER 8

She's crossing the portal...

MILIA
OHMYGOSH I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GOING
TO OIHAN- Oh, it's... another cave.

... to a huge cave with a big opening in front of her. The walls are covered in tangled tree roots.

She spots a tunnel entrance on her left.

Suddenly, the ground rumbles. Strong footsteps echo from the tunnel. And then WE HEAR A GROWL.

Milia flinches and runs out of the cave into a...

9 EXT. OIHANBELTZ, ENCHANTED FOREST - DAY 9

... dark and foggy forest full of **WEIRD-LOOKING BEECH TREES***, and a dry riverbed. There are no animals or flowers. It's lonely and quiet, ominous.

MILIA
Aaaah!! What was that??!

**(The WEIRD-LOOKING BEECH TREES ARE CALLED "hayas trasmochas" in Spanish. These are beech trees the trunk of which has been pruned several times in the past. Because of that, these trees now look weird). From now on I will be referring to them as "pruned beech tree".*

Milia contemplates the trees.

MILIA (CONT'D)
Woooow.

The *pruned beech trees'* branches are ridiculously long and point to the sky, and the little branches that come out of the main ones are tangled with each other. It looks as if a bunch of hands had abruptly come out of the earth and their long, bony fingers pointed at the sky. It couldn't be creepier.

The fog doesn't allow Milia to see more than 10 meters away, so she climbs up one tree. She smiles on her way up, impatient to see all of Oihanbeltz in front of her. But...

What we see beyond the forest is far from what we saw in Milia's fantasy: scary mountains, dark rivers connected by creepy rainbows, distant gray villages, evil-looking castles, a black, rough sea and a gray sky.

Milia wrinkles her forehead, confused.

MILIA (CONT'D)

What? This can't be Oihanbeltz.

Suddenly, a creak startles her. She looks down: no one is there. The creak is heard again. It feels like it's close. Really close.

Milia turns her head back and she sees... one of the tree's branches starting to move. She freezes in terror.

All the branches of the tree she's on move toward her!- like long, bony fingers trying to grab her. Milia crawls back and falls off the tree.

MILIA (CONT'D)

AAAAHH!!!!

The bed of dead leaves on the ground cushions her fall.

She looks up: the tree looms menacingly above her, it seems angry. Suddenly, the earth beneath the tree starts shaking, the tree is detaching itself from the ground!

It now crawls on its branches toward Milia -similar to a giant spider-.

Milia runs through the forest. The tree runs after her.

MILIA (CONT'D)

AAAAH!! THE TREE IS MOVING!! THE TREE IS MOVING!!!

She heads toward the cave she came from. We see the portal inside: its a bit smaller than before, it's shrinking, closing!

Milia runs faster, but before she gets inside the cave, a stone wall drops down, closing the entrance.

MILIA (CONT'D)
NO, NO, NO, NO!!

She tries to open it, but it won't budge!

One of the tree branches almost gets her! She runs!

And she falls into a hole she didn't see. EVERYTHING GOES DARK as Milia closes her eyes, unconscious...

10 EXT. THE ENCHANTED FOREST, HOLE - LATER 10

Milia wakes up lying inside the hole. She's dizzy.

MILIA
Wow, what a horrible dream...

She climbs the wall and peers out: she sees the tree that was following her walking away. She quickly hides again in the hole.

MILIA (CONT'D)
Okay, don't freak out, you're an explorer, explorers don't get afraid. There was a tunnel that got to the cave, so I just gotta find that tunnel. Easy.

But she looks TERRIFIED.

ACT 2

11 EXT. OIHANBELTZ, ENCHANTED FOREST, BASAJAUN VILLAGE - NIGHT 11

Following the dry riverbed and using her flashlight, Milia walks through two big old trunks whose upper part has been cut down. They look like the remains of an old gate.

As soon as she crosses the "gate", she realizes she's in some kind of deserted village, a village forgotten by a better past.

And a village for quite big people: there are enormous wooden houses everywhere, though they are all consumed by time. Fallen and dead trees everywhere. Wooden derelict huge benches and fountains.

MILIA
The basajaun village..?

She opens her "Basque Legends" book and we see a picture of the same village, but this one is colorful and full of joyful, enormous, barefoot people with long hair.

MILIA (CONT'D)
So this is Oihanbeltz. But...
what's happened here?
(beat)
Wait! The basajauns! They'll help
me find the portal!

She runs through the village looking for basajauns.

MILIA (CONT'D)
Hellooo??!!

No one's there.

She keeps searching and finally sees someone making a fire in the distance. She runs toward them, but...

12 EXT. BASAJAUN VILLAGE, CAMP FIRE - NIGHT

12

... when she arrives, someone jumps on top of her and points their spear at her, threateningly.

It's KORUKO, a 13-year-old basajaun, strong-looking, taller and bigger than Milia, with very long and wild hair, rustic clothing, and barefoot.

MILIA
AH! Wait! I'm harmless, I'm Milia.
And YOU'RE A REAL BASAJAUN!!!!
OHMYGOOSH!! This is SOOOO awesome.

Koruko looks at Milia, confused and suspicious.

MILIA (CONT'D)
You have to help me, I need to find
the portal that will lead me home!
It's not that I looove being there,
but this is not what I was
expecting and I miss my *aitas*.

Koruko doesn't lower her spear.

KORUKO
What portal?

MILIA

The one I came through! Please, you can trust me!

Milia opens her book and shows Koruko the picture we saw before. Milia talks fast, nervous and kind of excited.

MILIA (CONT'D)

See?! I know everything about your community!! You're strong, have a deep knowledge about nature and always help lost travelers. Wait, where's your community? Are they gathering food? Or wood? Are they taking care of some helpless animal?

Koruko looks at the picture, we can tell there's a bit of nostalgia in her eyes.

KORUKO

This picture, the portal, they're not real.

MILIA

But I'm telling the truth! The portal was amazing! It was like a magical rainbow!

KORUKO

A magical rainbow... That's what my *ama* (mom) said.

Koruko lowers her spear and walks away.

13 EXT. BASQUE VILLAGE - NIGHT

13

Milia follows her.

MILIA

Wait! You have to help me! The portal is closing!

KORUKO

Sorry, but no.

MILIA

Please!! If I don't find it, I won't see my family again.

Koruko stops, touched. She hesitates a little, but...

KORUKO
Ok. I'll help you, but stop being
so annoying.

MILIA
Ok. Not annoying, gotcha!

And Milia hugs her- *yeah...* *THIS is her version of not being annoying.* Koruko tenses up, not moving, not knowing how to react.

KORUKO
Don't.

MILIA
Will you tell me your name?

KORUKO
No.

14 EXT. ENCHANTED FOREST - NIGHT

14

Koruko -holding her spear- and Milia walk through a pathway between brushwood. We can see a shadow is following them.

MILIA
Sooo... do you know where the
tunnel is?

Koruko rolls her eyes, fed up with the talking.

KORUKO
All the caves are connected by the
tunnels. Around here is Tartalo's
cave, we find it, we get in, we
find the portal.

MILIA
Ooohmygosh!! I can't believe I'm
meeting Tartalo!

Their conversation gets interrupted by the sound of the shadow running near them and hiding in the brushwood.

MILIA (CONT'D)
Uh oh, what was that?? Please not
the trees again!

Koruko steadily walks toward it and... stabs whatever is in there with her spear!

Tensed up, she lifts her spear to see...

A little galtzagorri (similar to a little elf, not even half a meter tall, red pointy and large ears, big face in proportion to his body, red T-shirt, green pants) hanging from his T-shirt on its tip. He tries to untie himself, but his arms are too small.

He's ASTERI (11) and everything about him is adorable. He's also terrified.

MILIA (CONT'D)

Ohmygosh! He's a galtzagorri!! I know it because of the red-green clothing and the cute pointy ears.

(beat)

Heeeyy, put him down, he's scared!

And with a childlike voice --

ASTERI

(stammering)

I-I-Incorrect, I-I am not s-scared.

Koruko glowers at Asteri suspiciously while putting him down. Asteri is shivering. Milia is excited.

MILIA

He's soooo cute!!!!

ASTERI

I-I beg to differ, I am not cute. I am Asteri, the ferocious warrior.

He pretends to be holding a sword and takes an attacking stance. *He still looks so freaking adorable.*

Milia looks at him, trying to see the ferocious warrior he's talking about.

MILIA

You are?

(beat)

You should come with us! We're looking for the portal that will lead me home.

KORUKO

He's not coming.

Asteri straightens up, trying to look taller and more confident.

ASTERI

I shall accompany you, for you undoubtedly need my protection.

Koruko towers threateningly over him, she's almost four times his height. Asteri trembles, terrified. Milia steps between Asteri and Koruko and makes puppy eyes at the latter.

MILIA

Please...?

Koruko groans and struts past them. Asteri is frozen in terror.

MILIA (CONT'D)

You'll get used to her. She's good, inside.

(BEAT)

I think.

15 EXT. ENCHANTED FOREST - LATER

15

Koruko is leading the way, focused on searching for Tartalo's cave behind every tree and rock.

Milia and Asteri scamper pretending to be flying, fooling around. They're getting along.

KORUKO

Would you stop and help look for the cave?

Asteri does what she says. But Milia doesn't.

MILIA

C'mon, basajaun-girl, I bet you like flying too!

Koruko rolls her eyes. Milia takes Asteri and pretends to be a dragon Asteri is flying on. But she trips on a rock and Asteri flies, this time for real.

ASTERI

I'M GONNA DIE!!!!

Asteri falls on his ass, pale with fear.

Milia is tensed up, but when she sees Asteri is ok, she calms down. And she can't avoid bursting into laughter. Asteri recovers from his "imminent death" and bursts into laughter too. Even Koruko can't avoid laughing.

KORUKO

We found it!

Behind Asteri we see some wooly, enormous sheep grazing. As soon as the sheep see the kids, they start bleating.

We see one of them wears a reddish arm ring shaped like tangled tree roots, it looks like the chief of the flock.

Milia gazes at them with her hands on her cheeks, emphasizing her amazement.

MILIA
Ohmygoosh!! If the sheep are here,
 it means...

Pushing some trees to the ground, Tartalo appears.

MILIA (CONT'D)
 ...TARTALO IS HERE TOO!!

Milia runs excited toward Tartalo.

KORUKO
 Milia, stop!!

Asteri is trembling behind her.

16 EXT. ENCHANTED FOREST -NIGHT

16

Milia is now face to face with Tartalo.

Tartalo carries a shepherd's crook, and the arm holding it wears the same reddish ring as the chief sheep. He also carries something we don't see on his back.

MILIA
 Hiii!! *Ohmygosh*, I can't believe
 I'm meeting you, I'm Milia, well,
 you don't know me, yet, you don't
 know me yet, but you're my friend,
 and I'm yours, and we have this
 thing where we do lots of racing
 games, and, ehm, maybe you wanna do
 some now?

Milia is breathless after talking with such excitement. She goggles at Tartalo. Tartalo looks puzzled at her first, he then grins maliciously and catches her with his hand.

MILIA (CONT'D)
 Oh, ok, we can play something
 different. What's this game called?

TARTALO
 It's. called. eating.

MILIA
 Hum, never played that before. But
 I'm sure I'll like it.

Tartalo cackles and takes a child-sized cage from his back.

TARTALO
 You. will.

He throws Milia inside the cage and throws the cage back to his back, holding it with a rope. Milia staggers.

MILIA
 Wh-what are you doing?? Amm... I
 don't know if I like this game.

Tartalo GROWLS -the same growl Milia heard when first coming to Oihanbeltz- and starts walking, followed by his flock. The earth rumbles with each step.

He pushes some trees aside and a cave appears in front of them.

Milia spots lots of cages hanging on the cave's walls, some of them filled with bones. She gasps, realizing what's going to happen to her.

MILIA (CONT'D)
 Oh no. OH NO!!! LET ME OUT!! LET ME
 OOUUT!!!

She hits the cage bars, but they won't open. Tartalo cackles.

Suddenly, the sheep start to bleat and run, agitated. Milia sees Asteri running away from them. Tartalo runs toward them.

But something hurts his foot and he holds it with both hands, dropping Milia's cage. As it hits the ground, the cage opens.

Milia sees Koruko stabbing Tartalo with her spear. Koruko takes Milia by the arm, forcing her to run.

KORUKO
 C'mon!!!

17 EXT. BRUSHWOOD - NIGHT

17

They hide in a brushwood where Asteri is shivering and sweating.

ASTERI

Wh-why would you do that??? T-t-tartalo feeds on ch-children and animals!!

Milia hugs her book and huddles up into a ball.

MILIA

That's not what the book says.

KORUKO

You know most books are fiction?

MILIA

But not this one. It can't be.

Asteri takes Milia's book and takes a look at it, leafing through it until he sees a galtzagorri.

ASTERI

Hey!! It's me!!!

Koruko takes the book off Asteri's hands and keeps flipping pages: we see pictures of beautiful and colorful Oihanbeltz.

KORUKO

These remind me of a story my *ama* told me. About a time when Oihanbeltz was full of joy. Amalurra, the most powerful creature of all, reigned the world with kindness, helped by her daughter, goddess Mari. Until one day goddess Mari stole all her mother's power and cast a spell, turning light into darkness. She burdened every creature, turning some of them into evil souls and making the rest live in terror.

Asteri hides under his hat, terrified.

KORUKO (CONT'D)

It's just a story. Not real.

MILIA

Not real like the portal?

(beat)

But I hope it's not, I couldn't handle goddess Mari being evil too.

ASTERI

Oh but she is. She's our wicked queen, she loathes rebels...

(MORE)

ASTERI (CONT'D)
and misfits... and, ehm,
foreigners... and anyone who does
not do what she says.

KORUKO
She turns them into her slaves,
or... she gets rid of them.

There's a hint of sadness in Koruko's voice.

MILIA
I thought things would be better
here... Well at least you guys are
nice... because you're not secretly
evil, right?

Koruko and Asteri giggle. Milia smiles.

KORUKO
Wait, shhhh.

18

EXT. TARTALO'S CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

18

Through the kids' perspective we see...

Tartalo entering his cave and locking a sheep inside a cage.
Then he lights the fire under a big pot.

KORUKO
We wait till he falls asleep and we
get in.

Asteri is shivering, afraid.

ASTERI
I-I was not honest before. I-I am
no warrior.

KORUKO
You don't say.

ASTERI
I am just looking for my family.
They vanished.

Milia looks at him, feeling his pain.

MILIA
You don't have to come with us if
you don't want to.

ASTERI
 (voice quivering)
 I-I would be pleased to.

MILIA
 Great! We could really use your
ferocious warrior abilities.

19 INT. TARTALO'S CAVE - LATER

19

The three children sneak into the cave. Tartalo and the sheep snore.

Milia spots the cage Tartalo locked the sheep in before: it's filled with bones now. The pot has boiling water in it.

The three children reach a stone door at the end of the cave. It's closed and it doesn't have a doorknob.

Koruko tries prying it open with her spear and Milia holds the spear too, trying to help. But Koruko pushes her away.

MILIA
 I'm just helping!

KORUKO
 (whispering)
 I don't need your help.

They fight over the spear, until -- it falls to the ground, making A REALLY LOUD NOISE. They stay dead still, hoping Tartalo didn't hear that.

BUT HE HAS. A huge shadow hangs over them.

They turn around and see Tartalo looking at them, he flashes an evil grin and tries to catch them, but the children run under his legs and head toward the exit (Koruko has taken her spear).

TARTALO
Itxi, Txarranka. (Close, door)

As soon as Tartalo says that, a stone wall drops down, closing the entrance of the cave -the same as in the cave where the portal was. They're trapped.

The only light in the cave now is the fire under the pot. The sheep have woken up and are bleating and running around Tartalo, who gets distracted by them.

The children hide behind the pot. Milia leans her hands on the pot and burns them! She blows at them in pain and, suddenly, smiles, she's had an idea! So, she stands up.

MILIA
(to Tartalo)
Hey, Tartalo! Over here!

KORUKO
(whispering)
Seriously?

Asteri shivers and huddles up into a ball, pale with fear.

Tartalo grins and runs toward them and when he bends down to get Milia, she introduces her water bottle into the pot and takes boiling water to... shoot it at Tartalo's eye!

MILIA
Sorry, old friend!

Tartalo screams in pain. He's blinded now. And he's FURIOUS.

MILIA (CONT'D)
C'mon!!

The three children run toward the stone door at the end of the cave (the one they couldn't open before).

KORUKO
Do you ever think before acting??

MILIA
Sorry, I got carried away!

Though being blinded, Tartalo runs after them, colliding with everything in his way. He feels around trying to catch them.

ASTERI
Wh-wh-what now??

MILIA
Ah... I didn't think that far.

KORUKO
Shh! Follow me.

Koruko gets on all fours and crawls under the sheep. Asteri and Milia do the same as her.

Tartalo keeps looking for them, trying to catch them, but all he touches is sheep.

He stops for a moment. Then he looks for the chief sheep and takes off its reddish ring.

All the sheep stop moving, they seem confused.

Milia, Koruko, and Asteri get to the stone door.

KORUKO (CONT'D)
Ireki, Txarranka. (open, door)

And the door opens.

20 INT. SUBTERRANEAN LABYRINTH - NIGHT

20

The three children run through the tunnels, which have torches on the walls to -slightly- light the way.

SOME OF THE TUNNELS HAVE THE WALLS COVERED IN TANGLED TREE ROOTS.

The three kids run, turning innumerable corners. There are lots of splits, but they don't have time to stop and think. It's like a subterranean labyrinth.

Tartalo follows them, recovering his sight and groaning furiously. Getting closer and closer.

MILIA
The portal!!

We can see the portal in the distance, and it's almost closed! They run faster.

21 INT. SUBTERRANEAN LABYRINTH, PORTAL SPLIT - MOMENTS LATER 21

Koruko, Milia, and Asteri stop at a split: the portal is at the end of one of the tunnels ahead.

KORUKO
It's just like *ama* said.

Tartalo's steps are terrifyingly close.

Milia, Koruko, and Asteri look awkwardly at each other, it's time to say goodbye.

MILIA
Well... I guess this is it...
(beat)
Thank you. And sorry. And... thank you.

Asteri hugs her.

ASTERI
M-my memory of you shall not fade.

Koruko looks at the ground, avoiding looking at Milia, hiding how affectionate she actually is.

KORUKO
Go.

Milia looks at them for the last time, she smiles warmly, glad to have gotten to know them.

Suddenly, the reddish ring Tartalo took from the chief sheep reaches Asteri and wraps around him, re-adjusting its shape to his body.

ASTERI
AAAAAH!!!!

Asteri, terrified, and Milia, shocked, lock eyes with each other for a moment. A glowing red ring flashes for a moment around Asteri's eyes.

He now turns to run toward Tartalo.

ASTERI (CONT'D)
I am here! I am here!

Tartalo emits a sinister dark laugh and grabs Asteri. He turns around and walks away from Koruko and Milia.

MILIA
What was that??

She takes her book out and flicks through the pages.

MILIA (CONT'D)
It says nothing here about enchanted rings.

KORUKO
Go! I'll get him.

Milia hesitates, conflicted.

MILIA
But... How?

KORUKO
Go!!

Koruko runs toward the tunnel where Tartalo has disappeared, leaving Milia standing by herself.

22 INT. PORTAL TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER 22

Milia is in front of the portal, indecisive, pacing back and forth. The portal is almost entirely closed.

MILIA

Ok, ok, think fast, Milia. If I go, I'll be abandoning Asteri and Koruko, but I'll be back with my *aitas*. And if I stay I could help my friends but I won't see my *aitas* EVER AGAIN!!

This is too hard!!

MILIA (CONT'D)

An explorer must always do the bravest thing!

She walks with determination towards the tunnels, getting away from the portal. But...

MILIA (CONT'D)

I can't stay, I have to go!

She runs back to the portal and introduces a foot in it, ready to go. But she stops.

MILIA (CONT'D)

Wait... My friends...
(she remembers something)
Friendship is important.

She now knows what she needs to do, but it breaks her heart. She takes a deep breath and takes her foot out of the portal.

MILIA (CONT'D)

Barkatu (sorry), aitas.

The portal closes and disappears in front of her eyes. She watches it with a heavy heart.

ACT 3

23 INT. SUBTERRANEAN LABYRINTH - LATER 23

Koruko lumbers, dragging her spear, scraping the ground, angry. Tartalo's loud footsteps are heard in the distance.

Someone runs into her from behind.

KORUKO
(angry)
Hey! Watch out!

She turns around -lifting her spear threateningly- to see...

Milia is in front of her! Koruko calms down, relieved, but confused.

KORUKO (CONT'D)
Wha... Why are you... What are you
doing here?

MILIA
We gotta help our friend.

Koruko tries to hide a little smile.

MILIA (CONT'D)
You gonna tell me your name now?

KORUKO
It's... Koruko.

MILIA
Ohmygosh, I LOVE it!! It's
reaaaally nice to meet you, Koruko.
I'm Milia.

They shake hands, laughing- *of course, Milia takes the initiative.*

24 INT. TARTALO'S CAVE - LATER

24

Tartalo is adding spices into the pot while licking his lips.
This is going to be sooo yummy!

Asteri is locked inside a cage, but he's sitting still as if it didn't bother him.

It is revealed that we're seeing all this through Milia's and Koruko's eyes, who are peering into the cave. They look at each other and nod- *they have a plan.*

They sneak in, stealthily walking toward Asteri's cage. They try to open it, but it's locked.

MILIA
Hang on, Asteri.

ASTERI

They are here! They are here!

Asteri doesn't seem to control what he says. Tartalo turns his head toward them, growling, and goes after them.

MILIA

Aaah! Quick, quick, quick!

Koruko forces the cage open with her spear and picks Asteri up, lifting him over her shoulder. Koruko and Milia run out of Tartalo's cave toward the tunnels.

25 INT. SUBTERRANEAN LABYRINTH - NIGHT 25

They run through the tunnel labyrinth following the scrape mark left by the spear on the ground. Tartalo chases them, furious, foaming.

ASTERI

We are here! We are here!

26 INT. SUBTERRANEAN TUNNELS, TREE ROOTS TUNNEL - NIGHT 26

THEY ENTER A TUNNEL THE WALLS OF WHICH ARE COVERED IN TREE ROOTS. Milia and Koruko look at each other and run faster, getting to the end of the tunnel.

MILIA

NOOOW!!

They hit and kick the roots on the wall. And these roots start creaking and detaching themselves from the walls and are about to attack Milia and Koruko....

27 INT. SUBTERRANEAN TUNNELS, ROOTLESS TUNNEL/TREE ROOTS TUNNEL - NIGHT

... But the girls get out of the tunnel and hide behind the corner, in a rootless tunnel.

As soon as the roots lose sight of the kids, they (the roots) turn around and find Tartalo, who is running toward the girls.

And all the roots attack Tartalo.

Koruko and Milia walk through the rootless tunnel, getting away from the "crime scene", high-five-ing and laughing! They're PUMPED! They won!

BUT Milia stops and listens cautiously: a heavy creaking is heard. Closer and closer.

And suddenly LOTS OF roots come in toward them, including Tartalo -fighting the roots that surround him, but more than this would be necessary to stop him.

MILIA

Uh oh.

28 INT. SUBTERRANEAN TUNNELS - NIGHT

28

Milia and Koruko run through the tunnel labyrinth avoiding the roots trying to grab them.

All the roots from all the tunnels they go through detach themselves from the walls and follow them.

The girls spot a way out of the tunnels.

KORUKO

There!

They run toward it and get outside!

29 EXT. ENCHANTED FOREST - NIGHT

29

Koruko pushes a big rock to seal the exit. They pant heavily. *It's over.*

BUT IT'S NOT. The earth shakes. Something BIG is trying to get out of the ground. HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS! OF ROOTS (and Tartalo) COME OUT OF THE EARTH, LIKE AN EXPLOSION.

Milia and Koruko fall to the ground- thus Asteri falls too.

MILIA

What we gonna do???!!!

KORUKO

Run!!!!!!

Koruko grabs Asteri again and they RUN FOR THEIR LIVES!!!

BUT THAT'S NOT IT. We see that the subterranean roots belong to the forest trees! The pruned beeches detach themselves from the earth and follow the kids too, like giant spiders.

MILIA

Oh no, not the spider-trees again!

Tartalo is fighting with lots of branches and trees that are trying to choke him.

One branch grabs Koruko. She stabs it with her spear, dropping Asteri to do that. The branch releases her. But...

Another branch grabs Asteri!

MILIA (CONT'D)

Noo!!!

Milia runs to save Asteri- *but she doesn't think HOW*. So, the same branch that has grabbed Asteri grabs her too.

KORUKO

WHY. DON'T. YOU. THINK???!!!!!!

Koruko stabs the branch that has grabbed her friends with her spear, but some thick branches grab her too. Koruko drops her spear.

More trees surround the children and grab them, choking them.

They try to fight them back, but *how are you supposed to fight a 15 meter tall tree??*

Asteri doesn't even fight back, hanging limply from the branch... and he's being seriously choked. Milia sees it, *she has to do something!!*

She slaps Asteri, trying to wake him up. Nothing. She tries prying the ring open with her hands. Nothing. *What can she do???*

She fixates on the ring: really observing it. And she gasps!

MILIA

Tangled roots! The ring is shaped like tangled roots!

While fighting the branch that's choking her, she tries to untangle the ring. And it works!

Once untangled, THE RING WHISPERS something unintelligible, it has the voice of a woman, a scary voice.

The ring -now brownish, as if it had been switched off- falls to the ground.

Asteri's back to his normal self now, but when he realizes he's being choked HE TURNS PALE WITH FEAR.

ASTERI
 AAAAAAH!!! WH-WH-WHAT'S
 HAPPENING??? AM I D-D-DEAD???

MILIA
 I'm glad you're back!

Milia sees the branches from some trees untangle themselves and stop fighting, going back to being normal trees.

MILIA (CONT'D)
 Did you see that??

Her eyes stop on Tartalo's arm ring: it's the same as Asteri's.

MILIA (CONT'D)
 That's it! We have to untangle
 Tartalo's arm ring.

ASTERI/KORUKO
 What???

MILIA
 The story your *ama* told said
 goddess Mari cast a spell on
 Tartalo! Well, I think it's all
 real! And the ring he's wearing is
 like Asteri's, that must be his
 enchantment. And I believe it's
 connected to the trees.

Milia tries hard to free herself from the branches, but she can't.

Koruko uses all her strength to try to break the branches that surround her. But the trees are a lot stronger than her. She keeps trying though. And she breaks one of them and falls to the ground, falling near her spear!

She takes the spear, but the branches grab her feet.

KORUKO
 Milia! Catch!

Koruko throws the spear at Milia, who clumsily catches it. She stabs the branches that choke her and jumps to the ground.

Milia runs toward Tartalo, clumsily stabbing the branches that try to grab her.

She climbs atop Tartalo, being attacked by the branches and by Tartalo himself and almost falling several times! But she makes it to the ring.

But the ring is too tight and big! Milia is not strong enough to untangle it! Besides, she can't even focus as she keeps defending from the branches attacking her.

Until Tartalo grabs her with his hand. And the branches grab Tartalo's hand. Milia can't even breathe.

She spots Asteri and Koruko being seriously choked too.
Everything is lost now.

The evil forest trees crowd in around them.

ASTERI
(struggling to talk)
Milia, you c-c-can do this, I b-
believe in you.

KORUKO
(also struggling to talk)
Just think before acting.

From Milia's POV: we only see darkness.

MILIA
(EFFORTS)

Milia is using all her strength to untighten Tartalo's hand around her and now some rays of light come inside. She stabs Tartalo and gets out of the hand.

Feeling more determined and stronger than ever, she stabs the branches that crowd in around her as she climbs towards the ring.

She thinks for a second. Then, she grabs onto one of the tangled roots and follows its contour with her hands until she reaches the tip.

Helped by Koruko's spear, she untangles the roots.

MILIA (CONT'D)
(GREAT EFFORTS)

And... it works!

The brownish now untangled ring falls to the ground while WHISPERING THE SAME STRANGE WORDS as Asteri's did.

MILIA (CONT'D)
Ohmygosh!!! I did it!! WE did it!!!

Tartalo stops growling and foaming. Milia falls to the ground.

All the branches from all the trees untangle and the trees stop fighting and return to being normal trees.

Koruko and Asteri fall too, and they breathe anxiously, recovering their breath.

Milia runs toward them and hugs them tightly. Koruko looks tense but also heart warmed in a weird-uncomfortable way.

TARTALO (V.O.)

What. happened?

Tartalo is confused. Koruko, Milia, and Asteri look at each other, trying to understand what's happening. *Is it really over?*

33 Tartalo walks toward them. They get scared, but don't move.33

When he reaches them, he grabs the roots that formed his rings from the ground and snaps them with his own hands.

TARTALO

Now. they. won't. hurt. anyone.

It REALLY is all over!

TARTALO (CONT'D)

I'm. sorry. I. don't. know. what. happened. One. day. I. woke. up. unable. to. control. myself.

MILIA

I knew that couldn't be you.

SUDDENLY, THE FOREST STARTS TO CHANGE. The trees grow beautiful and colorful leaves.

30 EXT. ENCHANTED FOREST - DAWN

30

THE SUN RISES and the sky turns blue. The river starts flowing again. Birds fly by and sing. It's like spring has come all of a sudden.

Pink and reddish leaves float in the air. The forest doesn't seem enchanted anymore, it seems magical, but this time in a positive way.

Milia is looking around in awe and amazement when a pruned beech tree extends one of its branches toward them.

The kids are doubtful at first, but then they sit on it. The tree lifts the branch up with the kids on it.

All the branches from the trees are moving, like dancing!

TARTALO

Thank. you. kids, I. will. never.
forget. what. you've. done. for.
me.

Tartalo walks away surrounded by his flock.

KORUKO

This is the forest my *ama* told me
about.

MILIA

We did it!!!! We broke the spell of
Tartalo and The Enchanted Forest!!

Milia and Asteri high five, pumped!

Milia surfs on the branches and unbraids her hair, feeling
the wind on her hair.

MILIA (CONT'D)

WOOOOHOOOOO!!! This is SOOOOOOO
AWESOME!!!

Asteri -clumsily- and Koruko surf on the branches too. They
enjoy themselves.

Sliding from tree to tree, they reach the edge of a cliff
from where they can see the rest of Oihanbeltz:

It's the exact same scenery Milia saw when she got to
Oihanbeltz in the first place. It hasn't changed, apart from
the Enchanted Forest, the rest of Oihanbeltz remains dark and
scary.

31 EXT. THE CLIFF/OIHANBELTZ - DAWN

31

Koruko, Asteri, and Milia surf down to the edge of the cliff
and gaze at Oihanbeltz.

KORUKO

All my *ama*'s stories were real.
There's an enchantment over
Oihanbeltz.

MILIA

And we can break it!!!

Milia looks broken-heartedly at her scrunchy she's now holding in her hands.

MILIA (CONT'D)
But my *aitas* will be worried sick.

Koruko points to the most distant mountain.

KORUKO
That's Amalurra. There might be enough power *there* to create another portal.

MILIA
But the story says Queen Mari takes power from there, how on earth will I make it if she's there?

KORUKO
It won't be easy.

Milia is not sure about this plan.

KORUKO (CONT'D)
But you won't be alone.

ASTERI
We shall aid you.

Milia breaks into a little smile, feeling her friends' love. She puts the scrunchie on her wrist.

MILIA
I'm going home, *aitas*. I promise.

They gaze at the scary yet wonderful Oihanbeltz in front of them.

END OF PILOT.