

Aquarena

Concept

Aquarena is the story of the transformation and coming-of-age of Maya del Manantial and weaves South Texas sub-cultures, Mayan magic, and a cool new mobile-enabled Latina superheroine up for facing the 21st century's dark edges. South by Southwest sexy sophomore Maya del Manantial unexpectedly stumbles into malevolent forces of Texas Big Oil & Water in the new high-tech, but still wild, Tex-Mex West. Featuring Mayan hieroglyphic magic and an emergent new superheroine for the age of information, Aquarena is a funky new 21st century fantasy-adventure.

Aquarena Synopsis

Maya del Manantial is a Texas State archeological linguistics major going to university in the Hill Country south of Austin. Tubing down local Aquarena river springs one day with her friend Angel, she has a sunlight-reflected hallucination that moves from strange aquatic cave painting to Spanish colonial conquest to Mayan hieroglyphic iconology.

In 15th Century South Texas, the first Spanish Conquistadors threaten the home of a Mayan priestess. Picking flowers in the forest to weave a magic garland, the medicine woman tells the girl Water-of-Spring to flee into the nearby river, invoking ancient river gods to preserve her.

Still wondering whether the tubing misadventure was a hallucination or drugs, Maya asks one of her school librarians regarding her vision's strange elements. The librarian mentions the images reminds her of the "Aquarena" Goddess cave/paintings next to the old West Blanco river banks and advises Maya to seek out Othello Alexander, a Gulf war veteran. Alexander is a nature interpreter and sometime psychic geographer who gives tours on "Aquarena" Springs glass bottom boats. If anyone is crazy enough to entertain Maya's hallucinations and knows anything regarding those strange blue cave scratchings, it would be Othello.

Maya visits Othello but Alexander is unusually petulant and warns, "You don't wanna go dreaming about that cave painting voodoo. Aquarena have a funny way of flow."

After the strange rebuke, Maya is unexpectedly attacked on the way back to her dorm, by a TxMFD (Texas Mobile Firefly Drones).

Just as things look bleakest, she is rescued by Othello, now transformed into a Beyoncé-type Aquarena superheroine. He informs Maya that the only reason she would be attacked is if the Texas rangers' psychic unit has suspicions that she will become the next vessel for Aquarena.

Othello explains that Aquarena assumes a host in the world when nature requires human intervention to keep the planet on track. Alexander, a previously homeless Gulf War veteran, was the previous Aquarena. As they hide from the FireflyDrones, the weakened and fatally injured Alexander instructs Maya to create image spells from her Mayan linguistic school syllabary to become the new Aquarena. Exploding onto the scene, Aquarena defeats the Firefly in a synthetic use of superheroine powers surrounding the primal forces of water and information.

In her dreams, Maya meets other previous individuals who have been the vessels for Aquarena: Pocahontas, a Western Canteena girl Named Louella May, a female Russian linguist investigating Mayan Glyphic languages, Svetlana Vlastic, and 70's country and Western Chorus Singer, Wammy Wynette from "Shoes cryin' now" fame.

In the days that follow, the VA hospital where Maya takes Othello is attacked by ghost dreams of past US combat nightmares, an act that leads to Othello's premature incapacitation and death. Othello's death further motivates Maya to investigate Aquarena's past: including Mayan Hieroglyphic writing, Indian mythological archetypes (White Buffalo Calf Girl) and the magical history of South Texas so Othello's soul can have a peaceful transition to the afterlife.

Throughout their magical journal through various subcultures, the spirit of Alexander and Aquarena encounter unexpected challenges such as imprisonment in Austin City Limits music posters, Aquarena's original deadbeat dad Estevan Gloria Carlos Manantiel (an illiterate Spanish conquistador who returns back from the dead to pursue Texas Big Oil and water interests) and Alexander's guardian angel, a shadowy figure called "the Godfather of Soul". Aquarena's also meets her Mayan priestess mother, the source of the pictographic magic Mayan language. Eventually Alexander is able to navigate the transition to the afterlife through the Godfather of Soul, through a strange synthetic magic ritual - "a Little Bit Country, a Little Bit Rock'n Roll.

Aquarena now must keep one final step ahead of the tracking Texas Ranger triangulating psychic ops. They want her incarcerated. At stake is planetary exploitation and the obliteration of nature. However, after being found once more by the Texas Psychic Ops, Maya reluctantly becomes Aquarena a last time setting nature again to flow unimpeded and helping avert the end of the world – at least for the 21st Century. Moments before the special ops posse arrives, Aquarena's deadbeat dad, the conquistador, Estevan Gloria Carlos del Manantiel, abandons his renewed big oil ambitions. He instructs Aquarena as to how to defeat the malevolent forces redeeming himself in his wife, Maya's Mayan priestess mother's eyes. Century's earlier wrongs are righted so the circle is complete and both ancestral parents can return peacefully to their rightful place in the afterlife.

This chapter of Aquarena's adventures now ends with Maya relinquishing her Aquarena role for the time being and stepping out of Corpus Christi's ocean waves into a beach side marriage with her trusted campadre, Angel.

Aquarena Main Characters

Aquarena

Originally, Water-of-Spring is a young girl whose mother, a Mayan priestess (possible [ref](#)) is killed by Spanish Conquistadors in 1542. Alone by Aquarena Springs after escaping the conquistadors, she is taken by the deities White Buffalo Calf girl and the Mayan King Lord Pakal who leads her a fertile plane where she becomes Aquarena, the river goddess and powerful force of nature's fecund flow. Aquarena is drawn in various styles from the various historical periods but always as the same general figure, the abundant feminine and the latest incarnation manifest as Latina Texas State sophomore, Maya Manantiel. She is drawn as voluptuous, and possessing the full power of the feminine.

Maya del Manantiel

The series heroine, Maya del Manantiel is a hot-blooded voluptuous Latina (Possible [ref 3](#).) who originally becomes Aquarena after following the advice of Othello Alexander. In making Maya a linguistic archeology student, Aquarena uses Mayan glyphic mythology and Mayan secret codex texts which make use of Mayan Glyphs ([ref.](#)) in a more funky style. Aquarena is laden with mythological mystical Mayan symbolism symbolism, drawing out many South Texas religious and SXSW sub-cultural references.

Estevan Gloria Carlos del Manantiel

Estevan Gloria Carlos is a 16th Century conquistador whose mindless plundering causes devastation to both himself and his family through the centuries. He is the dark shadow of man's relationship to the Spring or life forces. He is first seen as a handsome young but uncouth and wild young man. He returns from the afterlife to continue his insane conquests in Big Oil and the exploitation of the water supply. Estevan Gloria in his second coming is the bad father deity trying to tempt Maya/Aquarena by playing on her heartstrings as her absent father.

Othello Alexander

Othello Alexander is a Gulf War veteran, Aquarena Springs Tour Guide and sometimes psychic geographer. He is drawn as a muscular strong African American man in his late 40's, a cross between Sergeant Rock ([ref](#)) and the Hulk. He is a hulking African American or Mexican Gulf War veteran. Historically, Othello was also the last Aquarena before Maya takes inherits this mantle.

Angel Martinez

Angel is Maya's worthy sidekick, a Che Guevara young Latin American Revolutionary from Guevara's Motorcycle diaries and chill young engineering student. Angel wants to experience life to its fullest and caught up in Maya's adventure and also getting her out of scrapes. Angel's advice over the course of the story lead to Maya realizing that everything she wants and needs is right in front of her. He is drawn as young bearded and muscular, a biker and renegade associated with his bike and working on this but also confidant and stand-up guy.

Secondary Character Examples

Brooding Latin Hamleto and El Toro Blanco

Brooding Latin Hamleto and El Toro Blanco are a series of advertisement characters interspersed throughout the series: on billboards, mobile devices and laptops featuring a 21st century brooding Latin Hamleto and a White Bull Minotaur, El Toro Blanco. Brooding Latin Hamleto is a cross between a cartoony Luke Skywalker ([ref](#)) and James Dean ([ref](#)). Both brooding Hamleto and El Toro Blanco are used as a Greek Chorus for the advertising age.

The Texas Triangulating Rangers

The Texas triangulating rangers are a work for hire cops recruited to protect US Corporate national and multinational interests. They look like a cross between a low-grade multicultural X-Men and low riders Chips team accompanied by somewhat lifelike robot birds (Firefly Drones).

Previous Aquarenas

Svetlana Vlastic

An early Mayan linguist who had a central hand in cracking the Maya Code and who wrote under several pseudonym. A champion of the native people of Central America and Mexico.

Wammy Wynette

Virginia Pooh Wynette, known professionally by her stage name Wammy Wynette is an American country music singer-songwriter ([ref](#)) Wammy becomes Aquarena in the wake of her best-known song, "Shoes cryin' Now".