

*Marcus; Or the Secret of Sweet*

Marcus Side 1

**Oba** Marcus! Marcus...

Enter Oba calling for her son...

**Marcus** Whom she babies...

**Oba** Marcus!

**Marcus** Yes, Mama?

**Oba** Baby...

**Marcus**

**Oba** Where you been? I was up and down  
Looking for you.

**Marcus** Sorry, I didn't feel like going to the grave.

**Oba** Why, what's wrong baby?

**Marcus** I got this...  
Mama, stop calling me baby.

**Oba** But you my baby

**Marcus** Mama...

**Oba** Marcus, you feeling alright? You Got up  
Two three times in the night last night.  
You having movements?

**Marcus** Tell me about my daddy.

**Oba** Oba's face.  
Huh.  
The Father is in heaven and all is right

**Marcus** No, Mama, I know all that. The bible talks to  
Me about all that But I'm talking bout my real  
Daddy. Tell me bout, Legba.

**Oba** Why?

**Marcus** Cause I'm asking. Cause you never do.

**Oba** Ooh, it's hot out here, lets go.

**Marcus** It's always hot. You notice that every summer  
Some same reason it gets hot.  
Shrugs.

**Oba** Have you... Who you talking to?

**Marcus** Ma'am I'm just saying every time we get near  
Bout this conversation it gets hot or the meter  
Running or the chickens burning. All the time,  
Every time, something starts to happen too long  
When I mention the name Elegba.

**Oba** Huh...

**Marcus** I just want to know about him.

**Oba** What you need to know?

**Marcus** Am I ... like him?

**Oba** Some traits we gets from our peoples are  
Sleeping...

**Marcus** The way I act.

**Oba** Sometimes its better to let sleeping traits lie.

**Marcus** Was he...

**Oba** What, Marcus, What?

**Marcus**

**Oba** Oba looks to the ground. Lord.

**Marcus** Mama I...

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Marcus Side 2

**Marcus** Trust. I know. Ain't no answers out here. Not to  
Me particular  
Just sky and dust but ain't we all?  
Don't you wish it was?  
Don't you wish the days, all damn day, running into  
Everything that scares the... Outta you would just wash  
Out into the waters, drain away. That the disappointed,  
You strange boy stares would light up and leave-like, not  
Look down on you wondering, 'what you doing?  
What you thinking? what you dreaming?' Specially when  
On't know yo ownself. Looking at you like you a problem  
Staring at you like, 'where your shame?'  
Right when everything seems simple. I might be...  
Or at least it might be alright to be...here come some secret.  
Some dream.  
And you just smile and  
Smile. You know that feeling? To just smile and smile and  
Smile and smile and smile and smile and... when you wanna  
Just get up on table tops and scream you want to say, say... huh  
Huh.  
Its nice out here, you think? The bayou. Maybe its magic out  
Here. I always thought so...Magic. 'Secret of sight.' More like  
The... more like the secret of sweet. The secret is ain't nobody  
Think it's a secret 'cept me, 'cept those who don't want to see.  
And those who do keep talking bout me saying things to me  
Man even my own dreams won't let me...these the times  
You wish for a daddy, maybe not, maybe he wouldn't be proud of  
Me... but at least you can scream at somebody you can... stand up  
To 'em and tell him tell how it hurt you to be... say 'I ain't  
Put this black skin on me I didn't press these ... boy-boy  
Thoughts into my head. You think I set out to be dreaming o' dis  
Man  
Old  
Enough  
To be my ...you

Talking to me slowly I' th' water n rain crying, laughing  
Singing sometimes all in the rain. I didn't make him up I ain't  
Conjure him to me. All I am is here  
Heard, here so... so you don't got to understand me cause I don't  
I don't hardly either just ...just love me.  
You ever wish it would all just wash away?  
never heard  
A black boy say that I bet. Not out loud.  
But I do. I do. I wish Wish them waters would  
Rise up like that water in my dreams  
and take it all me too, out and away. You  
Wish that sometimes? I do. I do.