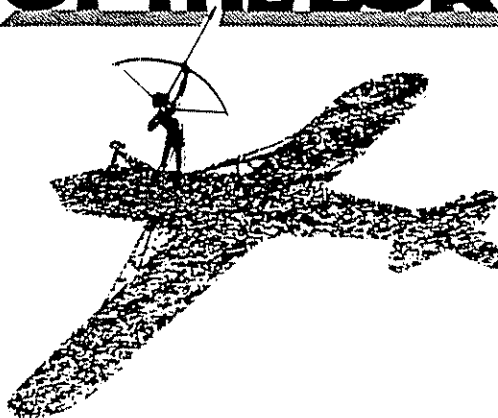


AT PLAY IN THE FIELDS OF THE LORD



Based on a Novel by Peter Matthiessen

Screenplay by
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Moving rapidly through a threatening shield of gray and darker gray and near black tufts of smoke, a flash of lightening ignites the screen. The sound of rolling thunder and an anxious voice:

MOON

Mayday! Mayday! This is November
427 Uniform Charlie. We're out
of fuel - Repeat, out of fuel.
Help us out there! Help us!!

RADIO VOICE

Aqui e Mae de Deus. Eu nao
entendo. Por favor, fale
Portugues. Voce necessita ajuda?

MOON

Nao falar Portuguese. Speak
English. Read my position, read
my position! I am at 1400 feet
with no visibility -repeat out
of fuel. Help us! Over!

Rolling thunder.

RADIO VOICE

Aqui e Mae de Deus. Quem esta
falando? De onde esta chamadno?

In the cockpit of a small plane Lewis Moon, the pilot, and Wolf are wound tighter than two drums - as they are being thrown by fierce winds and air turbulence.

Wolf seizes the radio transmitter and:

WOLF

Habla Ingles - read your position
- help us for Chrissake, we got
no fuel.

A flash of lightening illuminates their faces in an eery glow. Another roar of thunder follows. There is no response on the radio. Rain pelts the windshield of the plane. It is jostled fiercely by the storm.

Moon smacks the fuel gauge with his fist hoping beyond hope that the needle (now well below "E") is only playing tricks - it's a futile effort.

Continued:

1 CONTINUED:

1

Lightening flashes the reflection flickering on their faces. In their stony silence, they already look like ghosts.

A bone-jarring crack of thunder follows.

The plane sputters once - flying on the last fumes of gasoline.

Wolf swallows hard. Moon pushes on the joystick - the plane rapidly starts to drop - 1300 feet, 1200 feet, 1000 feet...

WOLF

Lewis, are you crazy! What if there's a mountain in front of us?

The plane continues to dive - 800 feet - 600 feet - shaking like a cocktail mixer.

The jagged vein of another belt of lightening chases the tiny Cessna.

All of a sudden, they burst out of the storm. The plane emerges from the black clouds into a sky of pale blue. Below them, they see a large river and the sweeping rain forest of Amazonia.

They continue their descent. The plane sputters again for lack of gas. They look at each other quickly, then Moon says:

MOON

Wolfie....Over there!....

They see a small city built on the banks on the river, and an open field with a landing strip.

WOLF

(grinning)

Hoe-lee shit!

2 EXT. - AIRPORT - DAY

2

The small plane lands with a bump and rolls to a halt. Inside, Wolf and Moon breathe deep sighs of relief - and keep silent.

A group of children run toward the plane. A sign says PRIVATE PROPERTY (in Portuguese). There is only a little building in need of repair.

Continued:

2 CONTINUED:

2

Wolf and Moon hop out of the plane. They're about 35-40. Moon wears a little red scarf around his neck: Wolfie, a beret and an earring. They look around and Wolf asks the kids:

WOLF
(in Spanish)
Hey hombres....Donde es Gasolina?
Gasolina?

The children laugh. A man appears, the local commandant, Guzman. A bodyguard carrying a rifle is by his side. Guzman approaches the plane noting a faded American flag painted on the tail section, and says quite politely:

GUZMAN
Americanos?

WOLF/MOON
Yeah.

GUZMAN
I am Commandante Guzman. Be
welcome to Mae de Deus. Your
passaportes I see, por favor.
And I look for this airplanes
papers.

They hand over tattered passports. Moon walks back to the cockpit to fish out the plane's documents. Guzman examines the two passports. A moment of silence.

GUZMAN
Senor pilotos - you know your
passaportes are no good.

MOON
Oh, hey look - it's just....we're
heading up to Colombia, got lost,
ran outta fuel...sort of an
emergency, y'know?

GUZMAN
And some big rains, it doesn't
help, eh?

WOLF
Right! You got it....

Continued:

2 CONTINUED:

2

Moon returns with the plane's papers. Guzman takes them and glancing at them, says:

GUZMAN

So, you don't want stay here?

WOLF

Oh no, no....For sure. We just wanna gas up and go.

Guzman, passports and papers in his hand, moves over to the plane, followed by Wolf, Moon and the armed bodyguard. Guzman notices two holes in the side of the plane - they could easily be bullet holes. He runs his fingers over one of the holes, but doesn't seem surprised. He only says:

GUZMAN

Eez good this airplane, no?

Wolf and Moon exchange glances. Maybe they're anxious that Guzman will examine the interior - but he doesn't. He turns back towards them and holding out the papers and documents to his bodyguard, he says:

GUZMAN

I am very sorry but must check papers for this airplane.

WOLFIE

How long will that take?

GUZMAN

You wan' go now, eh?

WOLFIE

Well, we....

GUZMAN

Maybe one or two days. There is in Mae de Deus a good hotel. Please to be my guests.

He motions toward the city. Wolf and Moon look at each other. They're puzzled.

3 INT. - HOTEL ROOM - DUSK

3

End of the day. Through the open window of a small rat-hole of a room we see the tropical storm, the lightening and its accompanying thunderbolts. Flies buzz around a bare lightbulb. Loud music filters up to them from downstairs. Wolf and Moon are lying on two twin beds. They're sweating heavily.

WOLF

You know the thing I like most
about this room?

Wolfie slaps a mosquito on his arm.

MOON

What?

WOLF

It don't fly.

4 INT. - BAR-SALOON - NIGHT

4

The bar-saloon at the Gran Hotel. A rather small and gloomy place. Naive paintings on the walls. Moon is sitting alone at a table, having a beer. There's a wild animal painted on the wall, next to his face. A few people are dancing. Among them Wolf, partnered with a beer and a young prostitute in a very cheap, flimsy dress. One of the girls sidles up to Moon and flirts unabashedly - leaning over him to reveal the ample depth of her cleavage. Moon doesn't react. She tries to coax him to the dance floor.

GIRL

Vem, gringo bonito, danca
conmigo...

He's not interested. Dancing by a window, Wolf glances outside. He seems surprised at the sight of a white woman who walks toward the hotel, followed by an Indian. They're both carrying boxes. Still cheek to cheek, holding the girl firmly against him, Wolf dances to the door. When the white woman enters, he drops his partner and faces the newcomer, as if taken aback.

WOLF

I don't believe this! - You're
American, ain't you?

The woman, who is about 26, stops and replies smilingly,
spontaneously and naturally:

Continued:

4 CONTINUED:

4

ANDY

Yes, I'm Andy Huben.

WOLF

Just call me Wolf. Wolfie's even better. How in hell is the old U.S. of A.?

ANDY

I don't know. I haven't been there in almost two years...

WOLF

Lewis! Look!

He takes Andy by the arm to pull her to their table, but she turns away from him to free herself.

WOLF

We got an American lady here tonight. Ain't that something?

(to Andy)

Allow me to introduce my partner, Lewis Moon.

Andy nods at Moon at the table.

ANDY

Hi...

Moon nods back.

WOLF

Will you join us for a drink?

ANDY

No, no, I can't....

She moves to the staircase.

ANDY

I have things to...

Wolf goes after her.

WOLF

Wait! Wait! There's something I just gotta know...

Continued:

4 CONTINUED:

4

She stops again, in spite of her burden.

ANDY

Yes?

WOLF

What are you doing in such a rat hole?

ANDY

I've chosen to be here.

Wolf looks at her with astonishment.

WOLF

Chosen....?

ANDY

(with simplicity)

My husband is in charge of the Evangelical missions in this territory. We're here to bring the word of God to the Indians.

WOLF

Oh, well that's great! It couldn't be any better!

He tries again to take her arm.

WOLF

See, you're a missionary and me and my pal who is - feature this - half-breed Cheyenne Indian, are probably the worst sinners you ever met. So it's up to you, lady, to save our damned and drunken souls!

A man approaches, coming down from the rooms. He is handsome, with blond hair - Leslie Huben - Andy's husband. He seems very displeased to see his wife in Wolf's clutches.

LESLIE

Andy, what are you doing here?

ANDY

Oh, Leslie, this is mister....

Continued:

4 CONTINUED:

4

Leslie interrupts, rather dryly:

LESLIE
Let me take that.

Ignoring Wolf, he takes the box from her and starts out.

WOLF
Whatsamatter? I got the plague
or something?

Leslie stops and addresses him:

LESLIE
If you had the plague, I'd tend
to you. But you transmit things
much worse than that. And we
certainly don't need it here.

ANDY
Leslie...

WOLF
Look Preacher, I ain't here to
kick ass but you could talk me
into it - I don't know why we had
to spend even one lousy night in
this stinkhole.

LESLIE
You may not, but I do.

Leslie briskly turns away and leaves, taking Uyuyu with him.
They pass among the dancing couples and go towards the stairs.
Andy follows, with a last look at Wolf. Wolf reunites with his
drink and his dance partner, the prostitute, who has been
patiently waiting. They glide past Moon's table and:

WOLF
We're living in Nutsville, Lewis
- take it from me.

5 EXT. - LANDING STAGE - DAY

5

On the riverbank, a group of eight Indians - men, women and
children - all dressed in white, are singing an American hymn
in Indian. Uyuyu is among them.

Continued:

5 CONTINUED:

5

Leslie Huben is conducting the choir to the accompaniment of a portable cassette player. Andy stands by him. A riverboat, old and slow, approaches the landing stage in Mae de Deus. Some men and women - fruit-sellers, porters, beggars - make their way toward the shaky platform where the boat will berth.

On board, three people stare at the choir, extremely moved by what they see and hear. They are Martin Quarrier (35-40, wearing glasses), his wife Hazel and their young son Billy, who wears a white shirt and red tie. Quarrier snaps a photograph of the choir.

They pick up the hymn and wave at the Hubens, who wave back. The boat docks and the passengers get off including the Quarrier family and some poor settlers carrying their meager belongings.

The two couples meet.

HAZEL

Leslie Huben!

MARTIN

I'd have known you anywhere -from
your photo in the Mission
newsletter...

Martin displays Leslie's picture on the front page.

LESLIE

Martin, Hazel and Billy Quarrier
- Happy to have you here.

The men shake hands.

HAZEL

We're very proud to have been
chosen to work with you. You are
already a legend.

MARTIN

Why we've even read your letters
out loud.

Leslie smiles.

LESLIE

My wife Andy.

Continued:

5 CONTINUED:

5

HAZEL

Hi, Andy.

ANDY

Hi.

They warmly hug each other. The choir keeps singing.

HAZEL

And this is our Billy.

ANDY

Hi, Billy. Welcome to the Amazon.
My name is Andy.

BILLY

Hi, Andy!

LESLIE

Well, God has sent you to us.
It's a glad, glad day for Jesus.

HAZEL

Oh yes.

6 EXT. - MAE DE DEUS - MAIN STREET - DAY

6

The five are walking along the town's main street followed by Uyuyu and several Indians from the choir, and by a mule-drawn cart carrying their luggage. Some children follow along.

LESLIE

Our faithful flock back home has
dispatched to us two spanking new
Evinrude outboard motors for which
we surely thank the Lord. The
moment they arrive, at most in
three weeks, we'll hasten to our
calling.

Hazel looks around at the misery and the dirt of the place. She
is sweating and feverishly fans herself.

HAZEL

We have to wait here for three
weeks?

Continued:

6 CONTINUED:

6

LESLIE

We need to prepare ourselves.
Our work surely will be difficult.
(and he adds, quoting
the Bible)
"But my God shall supply..."

MARTIN AND LESLIE

...all your need"

HAZEL

We spent four days and nights on
this filthy boat with all kinds
of bad-smelling people and
horrible insects...

BILLY

We even saw men with lanterns
killing a crocodile!

ANDY

You did! - I've been here years
and never saw anything like that,
Billy - were you scared?

BILLY

Nahh, because....wow! Look!

Billy points at a group of Indians, sitting by the road -their
faces painted and wearing clothes.

BILLY

Are they Niaruna?

ANDY

Oh no, no. The Niaruna are much
farther away in the forest. They
never come here.

Leslie takes out a notebook from his pocket and hands it to
Martin.

LESLIE

With the help of Uyuyu and a few
others, I've compiled a little
dictionary of Niaruna words.
Here's a copy for you. Already
more than two hundred entries.

Continued:

6 CONTINUED:

6

MARTIN

Oh, thank you. Who is Uyuyu?

Leslie turns back to indicated the Indian.

LESLIE

The one on the left. We managed
to tear him away from the Catholic
Opposition - he's ours now and
follows the true path to God.

Martin smiles his approval.

Hazel is still looking around her, with concerned curiosity.
She's alarmed to see a man pissing, women sitting on the ground,
a dead dog, birds of prey perched on the broken fences.

HAZEL

And they call this degradation
Mae de Deus! Mother of God! Oh
my poor God!

She laughs a little too loudly. Not far from a little church,
they run into a white-haired priest in a white cassock, who
greetes them, smiling.

Leslie introduces him, coldly:

LESLIE

Quarrier family. This is Father
Xantes.

XANTES

How do you do, Mister Quarrier?
How was your trip?

He holds out his hand to the new arrivals. Martin hesitates but
finally accepts and says:

MARTIN

OK...Muito obrigado...

XANTES

Oh no, no! Please! Allow me the
opportunity to practice my poor
English.

(turns to Hazel)

Mrs. Quarrier...

Continued:

6 CONTINUED:

6

Hazel finds it sufficient to say:

HAZEL
Please to meet you, I'm sure.

XANTES
If I can be of service in any way,
don't hesitate....

Hazel spots Billy, who is going to accept a piece of fruit from an Indian woman.

HAZEL
Billy, don't touch that!

She hurries to him.

HAZEL
Don't take anything from anybody
here. Can't you see everything
is dirty! Everything!

XANTES
It's just a piece of pineapple,
Mrs. Quarrier....

Hazel ignores him. Uyuyu and Father Xantes exchange a look, as the Indian passes by. Martin whispers to Leslie about the priest:

MARTIN
He's the leader of the Opposition
you mentioned?

Leslie answers as if it were a subject he would rather avoid.

LESLIE
Yes, it's him. Come.

7 EXT. - HOTEL - DAY

7

They arrive in front of the hotel. Wolf and Moon are busy playing with short cues at a small billiard table on the terrace. Wolf keeps an eye on two young prostitutes, who chat nearby. Hazel notices the prostitutes and looks horrified. When the four missionaries and Billy, followed by Uyuyu with the luggage, walk into the hotel, Wolf mutters to Moon:

Continued:

7 CONTINUED:

7

WOLF
The God Squad...

Moon adds in a low voice (but Andy overhears):

MOON
Welcome to Hell....

8 EXT. - MAE DE DEUS - DAY

8

Midday. A few shots of the small city. The heat paralyzes all human activity. Through the open window of his office, Guzman keeps an eye on the airstrip and on the small plane. Now he's puffing a cigar, playing dominos with a malevolent-looking man we call Guzman's friend.

9 INT. - HUBEN'S ROOM - DAY

9

In Leslie's and Andy's room, the two couples are sitting face to face on the two twin-beds with Billy alongside his parents.

Leslie explains the situation with precision, using a map:

LESLIE
Our mission has already established good contacts with the Tiro and the Mintipo. Here and here. With the Niaruna the situation is quite different. Some of them were obliged to accept the teachings of the Catholics. But most of them are still wild. They live naked, in an unbelievable state of barbarity, filth and sin. Less than a year ago, they killed an agent of the Opposition, by name of Fuentes.

MARTIN
Oh Lord Jesus...

ANDY
And they raped two nuns.

HAZEL
The wild ones?

Continued:

9 CONTINUED:

9

LESLIE

Yes. That's when the Catholics
abandoned their mission. And why
we were able to take it over.

MARTIN

I see.

LESLIE

There's real danger out there.
We must decide whether to take
Hazel and Andy with us. And Billy
of course.

HAZEL

I came here to bring the real word
of God. To those who need to
receive it.

ANDY/BILLY

(simultaneously)

Yes, me too.

They both laugh together.

HAZEL

No one will escape the great net
of our Lord. And Billy is to come
with us wherever we go.

MARTIN

"Let not your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid...."

LESLIE

Let us sing together.

He holds a hand out to Hazel, who takes it. Andy does the same
to Martin, who is all too conscious of Andy's hand, then takes
it. They get up and all four of them, holding hands, start to
sing a hymn.

10 INT. - CORRIDOR - DAY

10

Moving down the corridor, Lewis Moon hears the singing and
halts, surprised. At that moment, Uyuyu, balancing six sodas
on a tray, arrives. He knocks on the door of the room. Once,
then a second time, more loudly.

Continued:

10 CONTINUED:

10

Leslie replies, without the hymn being disturbed.

LESLIE (off)
Pode entrar!

Uyuyu opens the door and goes in, leaving it ajar. Moon looks inside. He sees the four missionaries singing. Andy has her back to the door. The afternoon sun goes through her light cotton dress. Moon takes it in, then leaves quickly.

11 INT. - HUBEN'S ROOM - DAY

11

The hymn completed, Andy takes the sodas and offers them to the Quarriers, saying:

ANDY
We're awfully glad you Mart
Quarriers have come.

Leslie raises his glass.

LESLIE
Welcome to Mae de Deus!

HAZEL
Glory be to God!

Uyuyu raises his own glass (he brought one for himself) and says:

UYUYU
Jisu!

MARTIN
What?

LESLIE
Oh, yes. To Jesus!

They all drink. Then Martin asks Leslie:

MARTIN
Is Uyuyu a Niraruna?

LESLIE
No - but he speaks a little
Niaruna. He's been very useful
to us.

Continued:

11 CONTINUED:

11

HAZEL

And a good Christian now. Right,
Uyuyu?

Uyuyu smiles stupidly. They drink to him.

LESLIE

There's something else I should
mention. The land of the Niaruna
is now coveted by a lot of people.
People who have everything in mind
but the glory of the Lord.

MARTIN

I understand.

LESLIE

The local wheeler-dealer here,
an opportunist named Guzman, I'm
quite sure is waiting for a good
occasion to invade their land.

MARTIN

What do you mean by "invade", Mr.
Huben?

LESLIE

Leslie.

MARTIN

Leslie. What do you mean?

LESLIE

I mean attack, Mart. Force them
out! Take over their land.

MARTIN

But that's Indian land! Attacking
them is against national law!

Leslie takes a sip of orange soda, and looking at Martin, says
with great seriousness:

LESLIE

One of the first things you have
to learn, Mart, is that here in
the jungle, there is no law.

12 INT. - BAR-SALOON - EVENING

12

Wolf and Moon are eating a rather poor dinner and washing it down with beer.

Guzman draws near, followed by his Indian bodyguard. He looks at the food.

GUZMAN

Senor pilotos - I see you deny nothing to yourself.

WOLF

You call this slop food?....

GUZMAN

(interrupting)

I wonder how do you intend to pay for this? The room? The drinks?

WOLF

Hey, come on!....You said we were your guests.

GUZMAN

For one or two days, but eez already almost two weeks.

Moon smacks his beer bottle hard on the table.

MOON

Why are you keeping us here?

GUZMAN

Thees I don't know. I am waiting, just like you the okay for your plane's papers. I hope there is no problem...

WOLF

Look, the only thing we want is to get the fuck outta here!

GUZMAN

Please, to esspeak more slowly.

Wolf pulls out several crumpled and rolled up bills stuffed in his pocket.

Continued:

12 CONTINUED:

12

WOLF

How much will it take to clear
up the problem?

GUZMAN

No, senor pilotos - don't even
mentione this. Not for so serious
business, because...if we don't
get okay for your papers, I will
be forced to confiscate your
property.

WOLF

You mean....the airplane?

GUZMAN

What else?

WOLF

Are you nuts? You know how much
that plane is worth? Don't jerk
us around. We're American
citizens

(he pounds the table)

You got that? American citizens!

GUZMAN

Please - call your embassy, senor
pilotos. You can even use my radio
- no charge.

He looks at the two men, who say nothing. Guzman throws them
a satisfied grin, gets up and leaves without another word. His
bodyguard follows.

13 INT. - QUARRIER'S ROOM - NIGHT

13

Night time. Martin and his son Billy are standing at the
window. They are looking at the dark, dense forest.

MARTIN

Many of the tribes consider
animals their ancestors. They
think their shaman is a Jaguar.
I mean, that he can become a
Jaguar at night....

Continued:

13 CONTINUED:

13

BILLY

Can he?

Martin shrugs.

MARTIN

And also that the mother of all
Anacondas, a gigantic snake that
crushes its prey in its coils
lives somewhere deep in the
jungle...

BILLY

Is the anaconda the biggest snake
in the world, Pa?

Hazel interrupts at this point and says:

HAZEL

Stop filling his head with such
nonsense...All he can think about
is savages, and these awful
snakes...Come to bed now...

Martin kisses Billy, pats him off to bed, and leaves the window
to join her. She sits up in bed, rubbing her fleshy arms with
anti-mosquito cream. Martin undresses, climbs in alongside her.

MARTIN

You know what would be useful,
Hazel, during the two or three
weeks we're waiting here? To
learn a few words in Portuguese.

HAZEL

A Catholic language?

MARTIN

It would make things easier for
you.

HAZEL

And do you also think I should
take Billy and go back to the
States?

MARTIN

Well...

Continued:

13 CONTINUED:

13

HAZEL

And leave you here with these
naked little Indian girls and
those prostitutes downstairs?
Is that what you want?

Martin doesn't answer. He pulls the covers up around him.

14 INT. - GUZMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

14

Wolf and Moon are facing Guzman in his small office, which overlooks the river and the marketplace. Guzman's friend is present during the whole scene, apparently disinterested and more intent on playing cards. Guzman's tone has changed. He now speaks in a stern and firm manner.

GUZMAN

I tell you, very few people go
to Colombia on vacation in a small
plane with bullet holes, you know
what I mean?...

He raises his hand to his nose and sniffs as if ingesting cocaine.

GUZMAN

What you had did is none of my
business, but look, if I let you
go and then it turns out you are
fugitives - or worse, what I can
say?....

Wolf looks briefly at Moon. They both keep silent. Guzman leads them to the window.

GUZMAN

To look here.

15 EXT. - MAIN STREET AND DOCK - DAY

15

Some very poor looking settlers, carrying bags and tools, some of them with families, are walking along the street. A few of them are sitting on a sidewalk, in front of an office which is closed. Some arrive in a boat.

Continued:

15 CONTINUED:

15

GUZMAN

You see? Everyday, all thees peoples get here, everyday. They wan' only to settle, to grow something, to feed their families....

16 INT. - GUZMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

16

Moving away from the window, Guzman points at a map on the wall.

GUZMAN

And now, to look here....this is Mae de Deus, very small... Up there, beyond thees rivers, there's this very big Indian Land...The Niaruna...See?

(Wolf and Moon examine the map)

Now, my job is to stop invasion of this Indian land. But sometime, when people are starving, nobody can stop them. Some already go to thees land. When they meet Indians, what you think will happen? You know the answer, you Americanos.

MOON

(to Guzman)

How do we fit in?

GUZMAN

I like thees Niaruna very much...

(Guzman touches his heart with his hand)

....I am please to protect them. But they don' deserve all thees land. Is too much for a few dozens people who do nothing from morning to night. 400 hectares each! And thees Indians not be very nice.

(a pause, then eyeing the plane)

....If you could do me one favor...I just had an idea who happened to me....

Continued:

16 CONTINUED:

16

MOON

What kind of favor?

GUZMAN

A foreign little
airplane...passing over...Some
little bombs to scare them...They
would scatter deep in the
jungle...

A short silence, then:

WOLF

Uh-huh? You feature this, Lewis?
Some "little" bombs.

(to Guzman)

I mean, a "little" bomb here, a
"little" bomb there. It adds up.
We would kill a few, at least.

GUZMAN

Ohhh-nohhh! The idea eez not to
kill them! Don' misunderstand.
Is only to scare them.

(a short pause)

Anyway, they mus' go, for their
own good. Thees Indians will find
another place. They have been
nomads forever.

He keeps silent, as if dreaming. Moon says:

MOON

When we come back, do we get our
papers?

GUZMAN

I don' see why not -

17 EXT. - MAIN STREET - DAY

17

Leslie Huben is walking along the street. He leads the mule and
the carriage carrying two modern outboard motors.

Leslie suddenly sees Wolf and Moon coming out of the Guzman's
office. Guzman walks them to the door and pats Wolf's shoulder.
He then steps inside.

Continued:

17 CONTINUED:

17

On their way out, Wolf and Moon meet Leslie. Wolf smiles at him and says:

WOLF

Very good news for you, preacher!

Leslie stops, puzzled.

WOLF

In another two or three
days...Pfft! Good-bye Mae de
Deus! You ain't never gonna see
us again!

He laughs and goes. Leslie looks at the two men. He just realized something.

18 INT. - LESLIE'S ROOM - DAY

18

The four missionaries and Billy are in the Huben's room. Engrossed, Billy is leafing through the pages of a book with black and white pictures of Indians. Martin is still under the shock of what he has just learned from Leslie.

MARTIN

Would that really be possible?

LESLIE

Oh yes. Listen, Mart, I don't
have to tell you everything. But
I know the man. These two
mercenaries, their plane...they're
exactly what Guzman was looking
for.

MARTIN

But we can't let our Niaruna be
killed!

LESLIE

Of course not.

MARTIN

It's our responsibility to try
to stop this.

LESLIE

It's not "ours" - It's mine.

Continued:

18 CONTINUED:

18

Martin walks to the door.

LESLIE
Where are you going?

MARTIN
I want to talk to Guzman.

LESLIE
No. I'm sorry, Mart, but I forbid this.

MARTIN
Why?

LESLIE
Because without Guzman's good will, no Protestant mission would be allowed to work here. Guzman is a Catholic. But a very practical one. He thinks we will open up this country faster than Xantes. What's more if the Niaruna can be tamed a little, this will make your work - yes, your work, Mart - a lot easier.

Martin stays where he is. He stares at Leslie. Then he leaves the room.

19 EXT./INT. - SALOON-BAR - DAY

19

Uyuyu, the converted Indian, enters the saloon-bar. He brings a bottle wrapped in paper to Moon's table, puts it down in front of him and rubs his stomach, saying:

UYUYU
Ayahuasca...Muy
fresca...Bon...Amigo meo....Bon...

Moon looks disdainfully at this "sell-out", gives him a bit of money and signals him to leave. Uyuyu goes. A voice next to Moon says:

MARTIN
May I sit down?

Moon turns round, sees Martin, offers him a chair.

Continued:

19 CONTINUED:

19

MOON

As long as you don't try to save
my soul.

MARTIN

I'm not here to save you.

Moon offers him the bottle.

MOON

Care to try some ayahuasca?

MARTIN

You better watch yourself with
that stuff - Indians call it nipi.
That's a very poisonous drug.

Moon puts the bottle down. Martin takes the little dictionary
out of his pocket and shows it to Moon.

MARTIN

Do you know what this is?

MOON

The Bible?

MARTIN

It's a small dictionary. First
of its kind. Niaruna-English.
Really fascinating. For instance,
the Sioux word for "Life Force"
is "Wakan". In Niaruna, they say
"Waka".

MOON

The Life Force, right?

MARTIN

Yes. You find surprising
similarities between the Plains
Indians and those...

Moon breaks in:

Continued:

19 CONTINUED:

19

MOON

Yeah let's cut the shit! There were much greater similarities between my people and the Crow, or the Soshone. When the one real enemy was the white man, we killed Crows and Soshones whenever we had a chance! And they killed us!

A brief pause.

MOON

Let me ask you a question. You got the call, right? You have a faith in the Lord, don't you?

MARTIN

Yes, I do. I really do.

MOON

And the Indians, you defend them, you like them, right?

MARTIN

Yes.

MOON

Their language, their customs, they interest you?

MARTIN

Oh yes, a great deal.

MOON

So, why do you want to change them? If the Lord made them the way they are, why do you want them to be different?

Martin asks abruptly:

MARTIN

Are you really going to bomb the Niaruna?

MOON

Who told you that?

Continued:

19 CONTINUED:

19

MARTIN

I hoped you would tell me it's not true.

MOON

Well, telling lies is a sin.

MARTIN

These Indians are the ones I'll be working with!

MOON

So?

MARTIN

I can't believe you'll do that. I mean you're part Indian yourself.

(no answer)

Personally, as an American, I'd be very proud to have Indian blood. I think most Americans would be proud to have it.

MOON

They would, huh?

MARTIN

I should think so.

MOON

How much Indian blood would most Americans be proud to have?

Martin does not answer. Moon suddenly asks:

MOON

When I was a kid, we had a pain-in-the-ass type just like you. Always talking about our primitive nobility. The proud Cheyenne, war paint and eagle feathers...And we were just a pack of ragged, half-breeds chewing dog meat. "Can't you see we're trying to help you people?" Christ! The Indian didn't need help until the white man came along!

Continued:

19 CONTINUED:

19

Moon kicks his chair out, goes over to the bar for a drink. Martin keeps silent. On the dance floor, two girls are dancing together.

Moon chugs half a beer and barks suddenly at Martin.

MOON
Tell me, the other guy - he's your chief?

MARTIN
Well, my superior.

MOON
And the pretty wife is his?

MARTIN
Yes.

WOLF
Yours is the other one.

MARTIN
Yes.

MOON
The pretty one, what's her name?

MARTIN
Andy.

MOON
She turn you on?

Martin doesn't answer. He's about to lose his temper.

MOON
You screwed her yet?

Martin stands up. He's furious.

MARTIN
You vulgar...You're a demon! You have Satan in you and you've chosen Hell!...But if you're trying to make me mad, you won't be able!

Continued:

19 CONTINUED:

MOON

(noticing)

Your fists are clenched.

Martin sits down and hides his hands under the table. Wolf, who has come by, says to Martin:

WOLF

Come on, preacher, relax. Give the ol' pecker a workout and lay into one of these beauties! They're niiice!

MOON

He thinks it's a sin.

WOLF

(to Martin)

A sin? What are you, some kind of religious fanatic? Complaining about people enjoying themselves.

MARTIN

Every sin has its justification in the mind of the sinner.

WOLF

I ain't never sinned in my whole life. I don't believe in sin.

Martin ignores Wolf and asks Moon:

MARTIN

Are you trying to tell me that dropping bombs on the Indians is going to help?

MOON

Maybe. Maybe they're better off being run back into the jungle, and not where you bastards can make beggars out of them...

WOLF

...and infect them with syphilis and booze....

Wolf tips his beer to Father Xantes.

Continued:

19 CONTINUED:

19

WOLF

Padre!

Wolf beckons him to join them. The padre approaches them, his step slightly uncertain as he has a tendency to drink too much.

XANTES

Yes?

WOLF

(pointing at Martin)

Tell him how that priest got killed by the Niaruna....

(he laughs)

XANTES

(troubled)

Oh...It's an awful story - it seems they started by raping the two sisters, and when their chief, Boronai, tried to rape the Padre - well, when he lifted up his robe, imagine the surprise....So Boronai beheaded him....We found the body eight days later...

He sits down with a jolt at the table; a terrible memory for him.

XANTES

(to Martin)

I have written for a replacement. You know, Commandante Guzman prefers the American mission to my own humble one because they have much more money.

MARTIN

The Niaruna are no longer your concern.

Martin gets up, irritated, and starts to leave but Xantes holds him back:

XANTES

On the contrary. All the jungle people are my concern. Even you and your family, Mr. Quarrier.

Continued:

19 CONTINUED:

19

Martin pulls his arm away and goes. Xante's attention falls on Moon's arm, resting on the table. He puts his own arm net to Moon's darker one and says to him:

XANTES

In one century or two, everybody
will have our color, Mr. Moon.

MOON

In one century or two, I won't
give a damn.

XANTES

Nevertheless, it's a little sad.

MOON

What's sad?

XANTES

The fact that you are part Indian
- and you are going to kill them.

20 EXT. - SKY AND FOREST - DAY

20

The never ending forest, the rivers, seen from above. The sound of the little plane, and also Wolf's voice:

One pro
be, you
don't m
disturb
everyth

21 INT./EXT. - PLANE

21

Wolf and Moon are the pilot. They are. Moon is the map in front of him. Wolf has unfolded the map in front of him. Wolf doesn't stop talking, as if to forget about what they're up to.

Continued:

21 CONTINUED:

21

WOLF

It got to be this kind of a joke:
her saying she would never touch
me. I was not her type, she said.
So I got her to promise just one
little thing: if you ever touch
it, I say, just even once, then
we go all the way - right baby?

A river appears, twisting its way through the massive greenery.
Then two or three houses by the river.

MOON

Some shacks down there....

WOLF

Keep north...along the water.

Moon alters his course - the little plane follows the river to
the North.

WOLF

....So one night we were sitting
in this theatre watching this film
eating popcorn out of the same
box. As usual I had, you know,
this erection. So, quick as a
mink, I work a hole through the
bottom of the box, and insert it,
you know, all sweet and innocent.
So she goes for some popcorn, she
digs right in and - whammo! she
yells...And once she got hold of
it she never let go for a week,
so...

Moon spots the mission outpost in the thick jungle growth.

MOON

There's God's little house in the
bush.

We can see two abandoned huts and a ramshackle building with a
wooden cross in a clearing on the riverbank.

WOLF

Now you go East...We're getting
close...

Continued:

21 CONTINUED:

21

The plane swerves away from the river and flies over the forest. Wolf's finger follows their route on the map. We can see the Niaruna territory approaching, circled in red on the map.

WOLF

At least tomorrow we'll be out
of this toilet for good....it
gives me the creeps...We oughtta
bomb it end to end and turn it
into a fuckin' beach!....

Moon doesn't speak. He's looking down at the forest. He flies at most a hundred meters over the tree tops.

22 EXT. - AEORE'S CLEARING - DAY

22

Moon sees a clearing getting nearer - visible from his side of the plane. He tilts the plane slightly. Moon spots in the clearing an Indian, who has suddenly appeared. The Indian takes a black bow and shoots an arrow in the direction of the plane, which casts a shadow on the clearing in the shape of a cross. The arrow flies up into the air and falls again. The Indian shouts at the plane - without being heard.

23 INT. - PLANE - DAY

23

Moon seems to be fascinated by this apparition - which Wolf cannot see from his side of the plane. Moon brings the plane round, flies across the clearing a second time, closer down.

WOLF

This ain't gonna be no bombing
- it's more like pest control.

Moon doesn't reply. He is looking at the clearing, just below him.

24 EXT. - AEORE'S CLEARING - DAY

24

He sees the same Indian, putting another arrow on his bow. But other Indians come out of the forest, grab him and pull him away by force. They seem very frightened by the plane.

25 INT. - PLANE - DAY

Wolf now sees them.

WOLF

There!

He turns around and gets hold of a bomb from a crate behind them. Suddenly Moon swerves the plane around and goes back the way it came.

MOON

Put it back -

WOLF

Hey, what the hell you doing?
You goin' back?

Moon doesn't answer. It's quite clear that something important has just happened to him.

WOLF

....I'm talking to you, Lewis....

Moon still says nothing.

WOLF

Goddamit, I don't feature this
silent shit, you hear me?

Moon keeps silent and flies away from the clearing.

WOLF

You're fucking with me, Lewis,
and I don't like it.

(Moon doesn't answer)

I'm warning you, you're gonna push
me too far. Go back, Lewis - I
want out of this jungle and I want
our papers back!

Wolf grabs his knife and presses it to Moon's throat. It slices into the skin and the cut bleeds. Reacting to the assault, Moon throws the joystick forward, sending the plane into a sudden steep dive. On the dashboard is a metal plate that reads "This aircraft not certified for acrobatics".

WOLF

Lewis, what the fuck's the matter
with you?!!! Straighten up!!!

Continued:

25 CONTINUED:

25

Wolf keeps the blade pressed to Moon's throat - the plane keeps falling, tree tops whirling and the river leaping up at them.

WOLF

You dumb sonavabitch! You're gonna wipe us out - straighten up!!

Moon ignores his wound and the trees are getting violently nearer. Wolf suddenly realizes that the plane is going to crash, and that Moon couldn't care less.

WOLF

You friggin' maniac! Have you gone nuts? What's the matter with you, for Christ's sake! Pull out! Pull out!!

At the very last moment, Moon pulls on the joystick. Blood is running from his neck onto his shirt. Moon throws the plane into a series of violent movements. Wolf removes the knife from Moon's throat.

WOLF

All right, alright - it's over!
I said it's over!!

Moon levels the plane off into normal flight again. Wolf is sweating. Moon is bleeding. Wolf whispers:

WOLF

You sonavabitch, you...

Then he keeps quiet.

26 EXT. - AIRPORT - DAY

26

The plane lands in the little airport and stops at the end of the track. The two men sit inside for a moment, motionless. Guzman and his bodyguard await them. People scramble to the airstrip; Quarrier hurries there as well.

27 INT. - COCKPIT - DAY

27

WOLF

You're gonna sit here and tell
me you didn't drop them bombs
because some lunatic of an Indian
was nuts enough to shoot an arrow
at us?

Wolf shakes his head in disbelief.

WOLF

A lot of people would say you are
a cold-hearted murdering
sonavabitch, you know that? A
lot of people who know would say
that!

MOON

A lot of people would.

WOLF

You wudda wasted us for nothin!

Moon throws Wolf a quick sideways glance, then slowly climbs out
without answering. Wolf follows him. As they draw near and
pass by Guzman, Wolf tells him:

WOLF

We couldn't find them. We'll try
again.

Moon, his neck and shirt stained with blood says to Quarrier as
he passes him:

MOON

Nice country.

28 EXT. - SKY - TWILIGHT

28

A vulture circles in the grey sky.

29 INT. - MOON'S ROOM - TWILIGHT

29

Moon is alone, lying on his bed. He has washed the blood off his neck. Wolf is asleep in the other bed. Moon reaches out for the bottle of ayahuasca, just next to him. He opens it and takes a large swig. He closes his eyes for a minute. It has a strong effect. Moon gets up and takes a few faltering steps. His breathing accelerates. He puts his hand on his heart as if it were beating faster.

We can hear the noise of the wind, rain, a far away storm. He falls down. He seems to be in pain. He hums a strange old tune. Then he lets out a scream. Wolf leaps out of his bed, shouts at Moon:

WOLF

What's come over you?

(Moon screams again)

Stop it for Christ's sake!

Wolf tries to help Moon to get up.

WOLF

Listen, Lewis, they're not real Indians! They're not like Cheyennes or Apaches! They're just a bunch of starving jungle rats! This is South America, remember? It's not like they were your people!

Moon has lost all sense of balance.

30 INT. - HUBEN'S ROOM - TWILIGHT

30

Leslie and Andy are already in bed. Through the walls, they hear Wolf screaming at Moon; they look at each other.

31 INT. - MOON'S ROOM - TWILIGHT

31

Wolf continues:

WOLF

Now listen! I'm gonna tell Guzman we fly tomorrow, all right? All right, Lewis?

(looks at ayahuasca bottle)

Godammit did you drink this shit?

Continued:

31 CONTINUED:

31

Moon screams again. He seems to be suffering a lot.

WOLF

I've had enough, understand?
Enough! You're outta here!

Wolf opens the door and pushes Moon out of the room.

32 INT. - CORRIDOR - EVENING

32

Moon bangs against a wall in the corridor. He stays motionless on the floor.

33 EXT. - NORTH DAKOTA - DAY (FLASH-BACK)

33

A North-American
says:

appears and

Look in
nothing
sun, fo

The Indian is add
years old. They
States, in the la

The man gestures :
a rock that overlo
a bottle of whisky

We hear Moon's ho

*This flashback is
being rewritten
and appears only
as an indication
of script location.*

is about ten
are in the United

walk towards
a rifle, and

MOON (off)

My father's name is Joe
Redcloud...Still traps and
hunts...Took me to this rock,
once....To have visions...Not to
eat anything for four days...

They arrive on top of the rock and the father indicates to his son that he has to sit down and stay without moving.

Continued:

33 CONTINUED:

33

REDCLOUD

Face East on the first day, South
on the second, West on the third,
North on the fourth, until you
are at the center of the circle,
and then you will know the power
of the world....

Joe Redcloud leaves the rifle besides young Moon and walks away.
Young Moon stays alone on top of the rock. He is facing East.
The same image, by night. The second day. Young Moon is now
facing South, sitting on top of the rock.

MOON (off)

But I didn't believe in
visions...I spoke American and
wore blue-jeans...I was starving
and shivering...I didn't care
about...the power of the world...

Some animals, jays and squirrels, flick over and about him. He
looks at them. Then he slowly gets up, picks up the rifle.

MOON

On the third day, I gave up....I
went down to the river...I found
mushrooms, and some berries....

Young Moon is now by the river, picking up berries and eating
them. He hears the sound of a bird, takes the rifle, aims and
shoots.

MOON (off)

I killed a wild goose...

The bird falls down with a shriek.

34 INT. - CORRIDOR AND STAIRCASE - NIGHT

34

Moon is sitting on the stairs, his head against the wall. He
opens his eyes and asks:

MOON

Who is calling?

Continued:

34 CONTINUED:

34

A woman, one of the prostitutes, is gently holding him in her arms.

GIRL

Nadie, nadie...

MOON

Did you hear something? Like a shriek?

GIRL

Ssshhh....

MOON

Then the sheriff said to me: Oh, you are the smart Cheyenne, we'll send you to college...Yes...Just what my mother wanted...Don't go...I'm cold...I'm very cold...

She wraps her arms around him and strokes his head and shoulders.

GIRL

Voce nao quier nada...(there's nothing you need)

MOON

Be a good boy, Lewis, my mother said, don't fight, don't hate so much....You go get that education, hear me now? This is a proud day for the school, Lewis, and a proud day for our people, we all count on you...Be a good boy...Listen, listen carefully....we have lost our reality, lost long ago....

A silence. He puts his head on the girls breast. She strokes his hair.

MOON

But then...Bad, everything bad...Lewis, my boy, how about the people who worked so hard to get you in here? Running away, running, running...

Continued:

34 CONTINUED:

34

GIRL

Sssh...De las cosas malas no se
habla...

She slowly gets up. He takes his wrist watch and gives it to
her.

GIRL

Obrigado...

MOON

I can't hear my own voice...

GIRL

Ate logo homen...

She goes. Moon remains alone. Finally staggers to his feet.
The whole place is empty, dark and silent. He goes toward the
rooms. His whole body aching, trembling.

35 INT. - MOON'S ROOM - NIGHT

35

Moon stumbles into his room, where Wolf is sound asleep. He
opens a drawer and takes out a revolver from a case. He
hesitates, at last puts it back. Then he takes a small roll of
dollars from one of his pockets, and stuffs it in Wolf's hand.

Moon quietly leaves the room.

36 INT. - HUBEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

36

Moon, without a sound, enters Leslie's and Andy's room. They
are sleeping. He goes up to Andy and looks at her for a minute.
He strokes her forehead, her hair. She wakes with a jolt and
sees him. She pulls the sheets up to her chin, but doesn't
scream.

He whispers:

MOON

Come with me....Now....Come...

She glances at Leslie who is sleeping, then she whispers back:

ANDY

What?....No. No, no...

He doesn't insist. He starts out, sees a little book on top of
a table. He picks it up and leaves the room. She watches him.

37 EXT. - AIRPORT - NIGHT

Moon walks toward the plane, alert but still feeling the ayahuasca surging through his brain. He kicks away the stones blocking the wheels, bends over one of the plane's wings and pushes the aircraft toward the runway. Suddenly he hears a noise and turns round. He sees Andy running toward him. She wears a peignoir and sneakers. She's startled - and breathless from the run.

ANDY

Where are you going? To bomb the Niaruna, Mr. Moon?

Moon does not reply - he just looks at her.

ANDY

You mustn't.

Moon laughs suddenly, almost joyously, innocently.

ANDY

You look so strange. Do you feel all right? Are you drunk?

MOON

No.

ANDY

Why did you break into our room?

MOON

To say good-bye.

ANDY

But....Why did you ask me to come with you? Did you really believe that I would get up and come with you?

MOON

You did.

ANDY

No...I came here to beg you not to bomb the Niaruna. I couldn't even think of going any place with you.

Moon climbs into the cockpit of the plane.

Continued:

37 CONTINUED:

MOON

Why do you always talk like a
missionary's wife?

ANDY

I am a missionary's wife!

MOON

Then why did you follow me out
here, with your hair still
wild?....

Her eyes fall away from his. She looks about uncomfortably,
anxiously.

ANDY

You won't attack them?

MOON

I'm going to the Source of Life,
to the Sun...

She comes close to the plane and looks at him.

MOON

...the white man came from the
west, where the Sun touches the
darkness. I'm heading east...

He starts the engine. She raises her voice over the noise.

ANDY

There's nothing East of here but
jungle! For two thousand miles!
You can't just go there!

MOON

Yes I can.

ANDY

Please promise you won't harm
them?

MOON

I promise if you like.

ANDY

O praise the Lord!

Continued:

37 CONTINUED:

37

She falls on her knees, her hands joined. Her lips move. He looks down at her from his seat.

ANDY

Dear God, I humbly thank Thee for opening the heart of Lewis Moon and pray that he may come to know Thy great love. Please bless him that he may...

MOON

What're you doing?

ANDY

Saying a prayer for you.

He takes her hands and raises her to her feet.

MOON

Don't....Please, don't do that....Listen, I know something, Andy....I know I...

He bends down to her. Their faces are close. They look at each other. They are troubled. Moon forgets, or cannot utter what he was going to say. He slips an Indian amulet from his neck to her hand.

MOON

Good-bye.

He starts taxiing the plane. Andy looks at him. The plane rolls to the top of the runway.

Moon looks ahead. He sees the black mass of the forest before him. Then he looks at Andy, who is still murmuring a prayer. Moon revs the engine. The plane rushes down the runway and lifts off.

Andy watches it turn toward the East.

38 INT./EXT. - THE PLANE - DAWN

38

The clouds partly hide the sun which is rising over the vast forest.

Continued:

38 CONTINUED:

38

Moon flies directly towards the sun. We can see the first rays of light on the still dark river. Suddenly, Moon hears a voice over the radio.

LESLIE (off)

Cessna two-six-seven-niner-six
Alpha-Romeo-Tango. Do you read
me? Over.

(pause)

Come in Cessna two-six-seven-
niner-six, Alpa-Romeo-Tango. This
is Les Huben at Mae de Deus, do
you read me? Over.

39 INT. - RADIO CABIN - DAWN

39

Huben is operating the radio transmitter in Mae de Deus. Around him are Guzman, Wolf, Andy, Martin and Hazel Quarrier.

LESLIE

Do you read me, Cessna? By our
estimate fuel level of your
aircraft is very critical! Can
I assist you? Over.

40 INT. - THE PLANE - DAWN

40

In the plane, Moon glances at the fuel gauge which is dangerously low. He answers over the radio:

MOON

How about some last rites? Over.

41 INT. - RADIO CABIN - DAWN

41

Leslie continues over the radio.

LESLIE

You are under the effect of a
powerful drug. You have mayday
condition. Do you copy? Over.

42 INT./EXT. - THE PLANE - DAY

42

Moon continues flying towards the rising sun. Underneath him lie, first, the mission buildings, then the clearing.

Continued:

42 CONTINUED:

42

LESLIE (off)
Do you copy? Repeat, do you copy?
Over.

He continues his flight towards the Niaruna territory.

43 INT. - RADIO CABIN - DAY

43

Leslie persists over the radio:

LESLIE
For the last time, you have mayday
condition! Repeat, you have
mayday condition! What is your
exact position? Over.

44 INT. - THE PLANE - DAY

44

Moon replies:

MOON
I'm at play in the fields of the
Lord. Repeat...

45 INT. - RADIO CABIN - DAY

45

They listen to the distant voice of Moon, who repeats:

MOON
....At play in the fields of the
Lord. Over.

LESLIE
Lewis Moon! Do you read me? Do
you read me? Over.

He listens a moment, then Wolfie grabs the transmitter
microphone.

WOLF
Moon! Get your ass back here with
my goddam airplane! You hear me!

Leslie snatches the mike back firing a contemptuous glare at
Wolf.

Continued:

45 CONTINUED:

45

LESLIE
He's switched off.

They all keep silent. Then Wolf says:

WOLF
That crazy sonavabitch!

ANDY
May the Lord forgive him.

46 INT./EXT. - THE PLANE - DAY

46

Moon checks the gauges. He leans over and sees only forest underneath him. Anxiety racks his face. He looks at the sun, already high on the horizon. The fuel tanks now register empty.

ANDY
May the Lord forgive him.

47 INT./EXT. - AEORE'S CLEARING - DAY

47

He looks out again and at last sees a clearing, and in this clearing, Indians ducking out of sight of the plane under the trees. The Niaruna.

48 INT./EXT. - PLANE - DAY

48

Moon takes the plane up and around the clearing. He grabs the parachute and throws his arms through the loops. The plane is still gaining altitude. The needles of the dials aren't moving anymore.

The wind hits his face. He suffocates for an instant. Fear and sudden panic sweep over him. With a last burst of energy he manages to buckle his parachute.

He jumps, abandoning the plane.

49 INT. - SKY AND FOREST - DAY

49

The parachute opens quite easily. Moon is 500 meters high. He sees the plane drifting further away, pilotless, over the forest into which it will eventually crash. Moon's arms and shoulders are aching mercilessly.

Continued:

49 CONTINUED:

49

Under him, he can see the uniform surface of the trees getting nearer. He pulls on the harness to look for a possible landing place. We hear the cry of a bird coming up toward him.

50 EXT. - AEORE'S CLEARING - DAY

50

Moon looks down and sees a group of Indians in a small clearing. They gawk up at him.

51 EXT. - SKY - DAY

51

From the earth, we see a flying man descending to earth. The plane disappears as if snatched by the forest. The bombs that were in the plane suddenly explode.

52 EXT. - FOREST - DAY

52

Terrified birds fly off in all directions. And so do the Indians. They vanish into the forest.

Moon gets near the peaks of the trees. He sees a river and pulls on his harness to land.

53 EXT. - RIVER NIARUNA - DAY

53

Moon falls down on the surface of the river. For a second, he seems to be walking on the waters. Then he falls in the river. The water goes up to his thighs. He untangles himself, walks to the bank and sits down. He closes his eyes and gets his breath back. Although he is exhausted, he smiles.

Around him, total silence.

Moments later, Moon stands up, looks around. Everywhere there are brilliant forest hues.

The parachute is floating on the river. He reels it in, then sinks it with a heavy stone. Gradually, the chute disappears from the surface of the water. Moon sets off toward the clearing.

54 EXT. - FOREST - DAY

54

Carefully, he wends his way through the forest. He still hasn't seen anyone. From afar, he can hear a dog barking. He changes direction and starts walking toward the sound, then hears the long hum of an Indian flute.

55 EXT. - NEAR THE VILLAGE - DAY

55

Slowly he approaches an Indian village. Through a gap in the leaves, he can see the Niaruna's clearing, a maloca, some little round huts, and three Indians staring at the trees from where he is approaching. They are on their knees, unarmed. All three look as if they are praying (as Indians pray).

Moon hesitates a moment, then hurriedly takes off all his clothes, except his belt, and carries them over his left shoulder.

56 EXT. - VILLAGE - DAY

56

He appears in a beam of filtered sunlight but nearly blows his godly demeanor when he stubs one of his bare feet -still, he continues walking, as erect as possible.

A macaw, living with the Indians, lets out a shriek.

One of the natives, struck by fear, dashes behind the trees - the other two don't move, though they too seem frightened of him.

Moon sits down, crossing his legs, motionless.

The man who ran off, returns, timidly, and takes his place. Some of the Indians inch closer to this being that has come down to them from the sky.

Boronai, the chief, starts talking busily, making gestures toward the forest. He talks to Moon who doesn't understand a word.

From one of his pants pockets, Moon removes the little dictionary he took before leaving Mae de Deus. He looks up on or two words, then utters them, with a gesture that clearly means: "Friend! Come!"

Suddenly, Moon hears a growl behind him. It is threatening. He turns and sees the younger of the three Indians who were waiting for him. The man points at the bundle of clothes.

Continued:

56 CONTINUED:

56

It seems he is asking a precise question: "Where do these things come from?"

Moon doesn't answer. The young Indian (Aeore) is irritated, and grabbing his lance, throws it. It lands just in front of Moon. Moon doesn't react. He then points at the chief (whose name he knows) and says very loudly.

MOON

Boronai!

A gasp of surprise comes from the Indians. They cry out: "Kisu! Kisu!"

Moon points two fingers to his mouth, then to his stomach, to communicate that he is hungry. He repeats the action. The chief, Boronai, lets out a cry. A girl appears. Boronai speaks harshly to her. He's ordering something to eat. The girl goes toward the maloca. She is smiling (Pindi).

Other Indians, men, women and children, come out of the shelter of the forest and approach Moon timidly. They indicate the sky and speak among themselves. There are about forty of them. Two of them start playing their long flutes.

Boronai points at the young Indian and speaks his name: Aeore. Then, indicates the third man in the Welcoming Committee: Tukanu.

He then holds his finger toward Moon. Moon answers with his name:

MOON

Moon.

But Tukanu, pointing at him, then at the sky, seems to correct him:

TUKANU

Kisu.

Moon nods, taps his chest and says:

MOON

Kisu-Moon - Kisu-Moon.

Aeore aggressively pushes forward.

Continued:

56 CONTINUED:

AEORE
(sharply)
Kisu-Mu.

Boronai and Tukanu indicate the sky and make signs of sincere veneration. And say, repeatedly: "Kisu, Kisu". Aeore just glares at Moon.

Then, Boronai puts both his hands on the ground and pronounces the word for 'earth'. Moon nods approval and adds, imitating Boronai.

MOON
Niaruna land.

All the Indians approve and smile - except Aeore, who gives a cry of disdain. Boronai makes a sign to Moon to follow him to the maloca, where he begins to chant. Then he urges Moon to go in, followed by a large number of curious people.

57 INT. - MALOCA - DAY

57

Inside the maloca, Pindi gives Moon a calabass of masato and some manioc flat cakes. Moon starts eating and drinking, watched by everybody, has trouble chewing the manioc.

The Indians step into the maloca, men and women, and the atmosphere improves. They stare at Moon with great curiosity. Some touch him.

Pindi watches, laughs at his difficulties. But when Moon catches her laughing, she shyly ducks behind another Indian. He is tired, stops eating and yawns. He rises, begins to lay in the bottom hammock, but his audience makes signs to him that it is not his place. He is pushed into the top one.

The Indians now encourage Pindi forward, to go and join him. She laughs and resists. When Pindi has finally been persuaded, Moon is sound asleep.

58 INT. - MALOCA - DAY

58

Moon wakes up in the hammock, two or three hours later, and looks around him.

He sees women preparing manioc, nursing babies, and old man making arrows. The normal daily life. Nobody looks at him. Moon closes his eyes and goes back to sleep.

59 EXT. - THE VILLAGE - DAY

59

Moon jumps around the clearing, trying to toughen his feet. The Indians, especially the children, watch bewildered but with rapt attention. Some laugh and run after him.

Tukanu and another Indian come to him. They fix tree-bark laces around his arms, and a grass belt around his waist. Tukanu points at the red scarf that Moon still wears around his neck. Moon presents it to Tukanu, who seems very proud.

Pindi appears and pulls Moon toward the river that runs through the forest, not far from the village. Once inside the forest, Moon stops running. His feet are sore and tender and he has to look where he puts them.

60 EXT. - THE RIVER - DAY

60

Moon is in the river with Pindi and some merry children. An image of Paradise. He grabs Pindi and pulls her out of the water. They lie on the ground, and partly hidden by the large leaves of a tree, they start making love. Curious children approach. Moon wants to send them away. He says a few words to them and gesticulates to scatter them. They do not go any further. They hide and watch.

61 EXT. - THE RIVER'S BANK - DAY

61

A little later. On the river's bank, in the middle of the children, Pindi is cropping Moon's hair. He hears Boronai, Tukanu and a few other Indians approach. Moon gets up when he sees Boronai.

With all the marks of respect, Boronai, chanting, paints some specific lines on Moon's face. It's a strange, emotional moment. He then takes a sharpened piece of wood and thrusts it into Moon's lower lip, pushing it until it digs a hole in Moon's skin and flesh.

Moon closes his eyes, fighting the extreme pain. Tears well in his eyes; droplets of blood roll down his chin. Boronai pushes the stem in even further. Repeatedly, during this ceremony, he calls Moon by his new name, Kisu-Mu. Finally, the piece of wood remains embedded in Moon's lip. He has been received as a Niaruna.

Aeore, still hostile, stands apart.

With his newly-painted face and the wooden lip ornament Moon, still wobbly from the pain, goes to the river and leans over the water. He sees his new face.

62 EXT. - MAE DE DEUS. EMBARCATION PLATFORM - DAY

62

It is departure day for the missionaries. They're boarding an old boat, with two or three other passengers.

Two smaller boats are tied to the main one. They have brand new motors, up out of the water, and are filled with modern plastic-wrapped equipment, including a short-wave radio transmitter.

The missionaries are also loading sacks of food, crates, tools, chickens, bottles of gas, etc. On the bank, some of the Mae de Deus inhabitants are watching. Among them Wolf and Padre Xantes, who says to Wolf:

XANTES
Beautiful American
equipment....The shipping costs
alone would support my little
church for a year....

Four armed Indians join the missionaries. They Uyuyu arrives, carrying sacks and various bundles. He wears a Hawaiian-type red shirt. He gets into the boat, smiles at the two women and says:

UYUYU
Alleluia.....

Andy and Hazel look at him with some diffidence. Leslie has a last look at everything, then he exclaims:

LESLIE
We begin our journey under God's
eyes.

Father Xantes makes a sign of adieu with his hands. Some other people wave good-bye. Guzman is watching everything with his friend from his office window. The boat is already moving away when Wolf draws near, on the platform, and says to Martin, who is taking a picture of the quay:

WOLF
(to Martin)
Preacher, you run into Moon out
there, tell him I ain gonna hang
around here forever...The old Wolf
can take care of himself, tell
him that....Will ya'?

Martin looks at Wolf dubiously, nods. The boat pulls away, the two smaller boats in tow.

63 EXT. - THE RIVER - DAY

63

The three boats on the river. Billy looks around, full of wonder, and plays with a little monkey, which belongs to the boat. Hazel stares at the water, swatting mosquitos and wiping her neck.

Martin takes a picture of Leslie and Andy. Like a performing monkey, Uyuyu hums the religious hymn they were singing at the Quarrier's arrival, but there's something untamed beneath his black flashing eyes.

64 EXT. - RIVER - DAY

64

Further up. A boat pulling a large raft made of tropical tree trunks floats down the river. The two boats meet and people on board wave at each other.

65 EXT. - RIVER - DAY

65

Further along the river, Leslie and Martin next to each other. Martin looks around, waves to Hazel, who is feverishly fanning herself and to Billy, who sits next to Andy. He notes the armed Indians who accompany them. They have just finished a bottle of beer and throw it in the water. They exchange a few words and laugh. The missionaries can't understand what they say. Martin asks Leslie:

MARTIN

What tribe are they from?

LESLIE

Tiro. They look nasty but they've been pacified for a long time.

MARTIN

And now Catholic?

LESLIE

They had no choice. The Opposition used them. They are a meek and stupid people.

MARTIN

Then shall they inherit the earth, as the Lord said?

Leslie looks at Martin with a certain surprise. After another glance at the Tiro, now dozing, Martin says:

Continued:

65 CONTINUED:

MARTIN

Are they really stupid, or just
resigned to their hopelessness?

LESLIE

(shrugs)

Does it matter?

MARTIN

Well, I wonder....what choice did
they ever have about anything?

66 EXT. - RIVER - DAY

Further up. They pass by a strip of land which has been burned.
The rape of the earth. Dead blackened trees stand here and
there. Columns of smoke. Martin looks at the "queimada" and
asks Leslie:

MARTIN

Are they going to grow something
here?

LESLIE

I think it's just for cattle.

67 INT. - BOAT - END OF THE DAY

They're having tea inside the boat with Hazel and Andy. Leslie
has unfolded a map and he's making himself very clear,
indicating Remate and the mission.

LESLIE

We'll be in Remate just before
nightfall.

He stands and looks around like a drill sergeant.

LESLIE

...We'll sleep in the boat, get
up at five and be at the mission
before dark tomorrow. Praise
the Lord!

MARTIN

Will we settle at the same place
the priest was killed?

Continued:

67 CONTINUED:

LESLIE

Oh yes. It'll show the Indians that we're determined. This is vital. Anyway, there should be a group of Niaruna there, a handful of converts that lived with the Catholics under an old chief named Kori. They're used to the presence of whites and shouldn't be any problem.

HAZEL

Except that we'll have to show them the true path to Salvation.

LESLIE

Of course. And be very nice to them. Win their confidence and they'll help lure the wild ones to us. You understand?

MARTIN

Yes....

Martin appears troubled by what he's just heard.

68 INT. - SYRIAN'S PLACE - NIGHT

68

Through an open window, a man (the Syrian) is bickering with two Indians over the price of their cayman and otter skins. He speaks in their native tongue; suddenly slaps his forehead in feigned outrage.

SYRIAN

....Ok, now - I give to you these three bottles of whisky and two Bic lighters and you give to me the five animal skins...Five for five

(he holds up five fingers)

- okay?

The Indians look at him silently, impassively - it's their way of refusing the deal.

SYRIAN

Look! Look!

Continued:

68 CONTINUED:

68

He flicks one of the lighters and, after a few tries, it ignites. He adjusts the flame so that it shoots high into the air. The Indians gaze at it, mystified.

SYRIAN

Wait, wait! Don't go away.

He scuttles to his shelves, brushing past the missionaries and Billy, who are just finishing eating what must have been a disgusting meal. He pulls another bottle of cheap whisky from a shelf and says in English:

SYRIAN

(to Leslie)

Some nectar from God's own orchard, perhaps?

LESLIE

No, thank you.

SYRIAN

(astonished)

But - do you never drink?

LESLIE

Never.

The Syrian shakes his head in utter disbelief, slaps the bottle back in its berth. His small decrepit shack is a haven for insects and lizards, one of which scuttles up a wall, fascinating Billy and paralyzing Hazel.

SYRIAN

I am only a poor merchant but if you want some good advice, introduce the Niaruna to a little whisky, and you'll convert them overnight. Just like these two.

He returns to the window and resumes his negotiation with the Indians, tossing them a plastic bead necklace.

SYRIAN

(in Indian)

...OK, now - I give to you six things in trade for your five things. Six for five - okay?

Continued:

68 CONTINUED:

The Indians accept the deal and the Syrian greedily gathers in the pelts. Then he returns to the missionaries.

MARTIN

I don't think addicting the Niaruna to alcohol is any way to expose them to the teachings of Jesus.

SYRIAN

As you like. But what do you think? How many wild Indians are still left in Amazonia? One thousand, maybe two. Less and less, anyway. The others already wear jeans, all they want is a Seiko watch. Give them a Panasonic radio, and they'll follow you all the way to heaven.

He raises a glass of wine and admires it.

SYRIAN

I could sell you a dozen bottles. Very cheap. All in the service of God. To the Lord!

The Syrian downs his drink in one swift gulp. In the distance, we hear some Indians singing in the night.

69 EXT. - REMATE - NIGHT

The missionaries and Billy return to the boat. Leslie holds a lantern. Hazel comes last. Suddenly, her feet sink deeply in the black mud. She gets stuck and shouts:

HAZEL

(panicky)

Martin! Oh, please, Martin! Oh my goodness! Help me! I'm sinking!

Martin leans over the gunwale.

MARTIN

Give me your hand....

Continued:

69 CONTINUED:

She does so, but Hazel remains stuck. Some frogs jump about her - she's near hysterics, screams:

HAZEL

It's awful here! Martin! Get me out! It's awful! Slimy things, Martin, get me out, get me out! Oh, Martin!....

ANDY

Hazel, we're here....we're coming.

Martin and Leslie jump out of the boat and pull her out of the mud. Tears stream down her face!

MARTIN

It's all right, Hazel. Come on now...

70 EXT. - REMATE - THE BOAT - NIGHT

70

They are back on board. Hazel is sitting on a bench. Andy and Martin wash her legs and feet with water. She keeps crying. Andy then dries her with a towel; and Martin steals a glimpse of Andy.

HAZEL

It's awful...Awful...

ANDY

Hazel, it's all over - it's okay now, it's over...

MARTIN

Listen, Hazel....This boat is going back tomorrow. If you'd rather leave with Billy that will be fine.

She interrupts:

HAZEL

You want me to take that responsibility, don't you? Well, I won't do it! We are your family! We'll go where you lead us, Mister Quarrier!

71 EXT. - REMATE - DAWN

71

At daybreak, the four missionaries, Billy, Uyuyu and the four armed Indians board the two small boats. The Syrian waves good-bye. He stands by a pile of cayman's skulls and bones. Some vultures are waiting, just in case. The place is sinister, damp, with but one or two wooden houses. Chickens and small pigs run loose.

Leslie starts one of the new motors, and Uyuyu the second one.

LESLIE
Praise the Lord!

They set off.

72 EXT. - RIVER - DAY

72

On the river, two hours later. The men are on one of the boats with two armed Indians; the women and Billy on the other with Uyuyu and the other two Indians. Hazel is clutching an umbrella like a life preserver. She shivers once.

73 EXT. - RIVER. LESLIE'S BOAT - DAY

73

Martin and Leslie keep silent. Martin marvels at the sight of the river, the greenery. He looks extremely moved as he says in a low voice:

MARTIN
Oh God....What beauty...how great
is Thy Creation.... untouched
nature, just as you made it....I
thank Thee for having chosen me
to come here and bring your
word...

LESLIE
Oh yes. It is wonderful.

A moment of silence and beauty.

74 EXT. - RIVER - DAY

74

Further up. The landscape becomes wilder and wilder. They are alone on the river now. Billy asks Andy:

Continued:

74 CONTINUED:

74

BILLY

Where does all this water come from?

ANDY

The Indians say that the Amazon was born from the tears of the moon.

BILLY

Andy why was the moon crying?

They both laugh. Hazel turns to them and watches sternly.

75 EXT. - RIVER - DAY

75

They enter a narrow area of the river. Martin, who observes the banks, asks Leslie:

MARTIN

Do you think they're watching us?

LESLIE

It's possible. Why? Are you scared?

MARTIN

I would say yes. What about you?

Leslie just shrugs and smiles.

MARTIN

Maybe your faith is stronger than mine.

LESLIE

Maybe.

76 EXT. - RIVER. ANDY'S BOAT - DAY

76

On the other boat, Billy is fascinated by all he sees.

BILLY

Andy, the Niaruna...do they eat people?

Andy answers with a smile:

Continued:

76 CONTINUED:

76

ANDY
I certainly hope not.

Hazel, under her umbrella, keeps staring at the water.

77 EXT. - RIVER. LESLIE'S BOAT - DAY

77

Leslie examines the map.

LESLIE
We should be getting close now...

Then: Two or three hundred yards ahead, a clearing can be seen on the riverbank: also the tops of some huts.

Martin gestures at the other boat and shouts with excitement:

MARTIN
There it is!

78 EXT. - RIVER. NEAR THE CLEARING - DAY

78

The two boats are approaching the clearing, the mission's settlement. They are all watching, even Hazel.

79 EXT. - RIVER. NEAR THE CLEARING - DAY

79

Side by side, the two launches slow down. Suddenly Billy shouts:

BILLY
Hey! Pa!....Pa!...

He points out at something. They all look in that direction and they see, quite close, seven or eight yards from the boat, a dozen or so Indians, all armed, painted in red and black, looking steadily at the boats. A very impressive apparition.

Leslie and Uyuyu stop the boats.

BILLY
Pa! Are they the wild ones?

LESLIE
Ssshhh....

Continued:

79 CONTINUED:

Andy holds Billy tightly. Leslie asks Uyuyu with a gesture if these are Niaruna. Uyuyu nods. Then he says to Martin:

LESLIE
This could be a blessing from the
Lord...or a warning from the
devil.

The two men take paddles and slowly approach the bank, where the Indians stand.

LESLIE
(in Niaruna)
Friends! We are friends!

The Indians don't move. They look intensively at the boats. Two of them have climbed upon a toppled tree that has fallen in the river.

LESLIE
Careful.

One of the Indians - Tukanu - wears Moon's scarf. Another wears his shirt.

Andy sees it.

ANDY
Look....Moon's scarf....Lewis
Moon's scarf....

BILLY
And his shirt.

ANDY
May he rest in peace....

We notice now that one of the Indians stands about thirty yards behind the others. It's Lewis Moon. Suddenly the Niaruna raise their bows, point them menacingly at the missionaries. In response, the armed Indians in the boats aim their rifles at the Niaruna.

LESLIE
(to his armed Indians)
No! No! Put it down!...

The Indians make only a patronizing effort to obey. Leslie then shouts in Niaruna, arms wide:

Continued:

79 CONTINUED:

79

LESLIE

We come as friends!

The two boats approach the water's edge.

Suddenly, Aeore throws himself into a frenzied series of furious invocations. He grabs his bow and shoots an arrow. Another Indian shoots a second arrow. The two arrows land on the bank, crossed in the shape of an "X", as if to forbid access to the new arrivals. Leslie stands up in his boat and starts singing. Martin, Hazel, Andy and Billy join in.

MISSIONARIES

...thou shalt not be afraid for
the terror by night, nor for the
arrow that flieth by day, nor for
the pestilence that walketh in
darkness, nor for the
destruction...

The Indians stand rigid, as the boats are about to dock, intently watching the singing missionaries. Then, without warning, the Indians turn and leave; within seconds, vanished into the forest.

The two boats pull in and, still in full song, the missionaries disembark and climb up the riverbank.

80 EXT. - THE MISSION - EARLY EVENING

80

The four missionaries and Billy, followed by Uyuyu and the armed Tiros, arrive at the mission.

They look around. The shacks, the chapel and the maloca look abandoned and in very bad condition.

Leslie looks for some sign of the pacified Niaruna:

LESLIE

(in Niaruna)

Kori! Kori! Where are you?

Kori!

No answer. They walk between the rundown shacks, then stop.

LESLIE

(disappointed)

They're gone....We'll have to
start everything from the
beginning...

81 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

81

A few days have passed since the missionaries' arrival. With the help of Uyuyu, Martin and Leslie are arranging presents - knives, pearls, mirrors - on racks planted into the ground at the edge of the clearing. Leslie displays the gifts in what he thinks is the most attractive way.

MARTIN

I feel like we're bribing the
Indians to love Jesus.

LESLIE

For their own good, Martin. It's
the first contact that counts -
how else will they come to us to
learn Christ died for their sins?

They walk to another rack. Uyuyu drops behind and swiftly
snatches one of the presents, stuffing it into his pocket.

82 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

82

Another day. Helped by the Indians and Uyuyu, the missionaries
are at work, cutting the liana, pulling up the brush wood. Andy
is seeding a newly-tilled garden.

83 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

83

Another day. Hazel is feeding the chickens they brought with
them - the old little church of the Catholic mission has been
turned into a chicken coop.

84 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

84

At the top of a fragile ladder, Leslie is working on the roof
on the crude little chapel they have built. On the ground,
Martin holds the ladder, sweating a lot, watching Andy and Billy
chase a monkey eating seedlings from the garden. Hazel notices
that Martin is looking at Andy.

85 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

85

Another day. Leslie and Uyuyu are carrying the radio set.
Leslie sees a metal cross dangling from Uyuyu's open shirt, and
is irritated.

Continued:

85 CONTINUED:

85

LESLIE

Where did you get this, from
Xantes?

Uyuyu tries to stuff the cross back under his shirt, but Leslie
seizes it.

LESLIE

Did you go back to them? Eh?
Answer me!

Uyuyu makes no reply. Leslie yanks the cross from Uyuyu's neck
and fires it into the river. Uyuyu suppresses as best he can
a smoldering fury.

86 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

86

Another day. Martin fixes the cross on a grave in an area
overgrown with vegetation. Leslie notices, stops near the
kneeling Martin, hovering over him.

MARTIN

It's Father Fuentes' grave.

Leslie grunts.

LESLIE

There are more important things
to do than that, Martin - We've
got to build the House of the
Lord...

MARTIN

I'm almost finished...

He straightens the cross.

Two of the Tiro Indians, permanently dressed in their rifles,
pass by. Martin looks at them as he wipes his glasses.

MARTIN

Pity we've got them here...

LESLIE

I don't think so -
(indicating Fuentes'
grave)
You want to end up like that?

87 INT. - THE HUT - NIGHT

87

Leslie is tuning the radio-transmitter, Hazel works at the sewing-machine, making dresses for the Indians, for when they come. Martin is preparing a small darkroom in a corner, to print his photographs. Andy helps Billy with some school books. Together they browse through an encyclopedia of flowers.

ANDY

What's this part called?

BILLY

The stem.

ANDY

And this?

BILLY

I don't know.

ANDY

That's the pistil.

BILLY

(puzzled)

....It doesn't look like a gun to me.

ANDY

(laughs)

Well, this is a different kind of pistil.

88 INT. - THE HUT. QUARRIER'S ROOM - NIGHT

88

In the middle of the night, lying next to Hazel in their small room, Martin can't sleep. He hears a rhythmical sound coming from the Huben's room through the wooden boards. He listens for a while, not knowing what it is. Then he realizes: Leslie and Andy are making love. Martin's eyes are frozen open in the dark.

89 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

89

Billy presents Andy with a picture.

BILLY

I drew a pistol for you...

Continued:

89 CONTINUED:

89

Andy sees it's a drawing of a gun with a flower in the barrel
- she laughs, delighted.

ANDY

Billy! How lovely, thank you!

He spots something through the window.

BILLY

Wow, Andy! Look!

Billy seizes his butterfly net, bolts outside and scrambles after a butterfly. It flutters here, there; Billy in hot pursuit - at last it settles on a leaf and Billy's net surrounds it. Gently he covers the butterfly, carries it back to the hut and sets it down before Andy. She gazes at it, genuinely impressed.

ANDY

Billy - I think that's about the prettiest one I ever saw.

Hazel draws near and says to them in a disembodied voice:

HAZEL

It's a lovely color. But that lovely color isn't real. It isn't real.

She reaches into the net and pinches off its wing, grinding it between her fingertips.

HAZEL

See, it turns grey. It's nothing but grey dust. Dust unto dust.

BILLY

(shrieks)

Ma!

Martin appears suddenly, hearing Billy's cries. Andy watches in utter astonishment, puts a comforting arm around Billy who looks at his mother, horrified.

BILLY

(in tears)

Mom just killed a butterfly.

Continued:

89 CONTINUED:

89

MARTIN

Oh Hazel honey, why don't you lay
down for awhile? You seem a bit
on edge today.

Hazel goes in. Martin starts after her but stops abruptly at
the sound of his name.

ANDY

Martin! It doesn't help to
indulge her.

Martin looks at Andy, then disappears inside the hut.

ANDY

Don't blame your mother, Billy.
She's been feeling wretched in
this heat.

He sobs. Billy hugs Andy. They are interrupted by shouts up
the river and the sound of canoes approaching.

From where Leslie is standing, he cries out:

LESLIE

Indian! Over there! Look!

Along the river three canoes come into view carrying about
twenty men, women and children.

Leslie recognizes Kori and his people. Excited, he heads toward
the river, shouting:

LESLIE

It's Kori! They're back! Billy!
Bring some presents! Hurry up!

90 EXT. - RIVER - DAY

90

Martin has hurried to Leslie's side. The two missionaries draw
near the riverbank. Andy and Hazel follow some steps behind.

Billy races back carrying boxes of gifts.

The Indians climb out of their canoes, led by Kori, an old man
with a wrinkled face. A few wear shorts and tee-shirts. They
carry their belongings, among them a machete, bracelets, beads
- gifts from the Catholics.

Continued:

90 CONTINUED:

90

Kori greets Leslie in Niaruna: "We come as friends."

Leslie answers him with open arms, in Niaruna mixed with English:

LESLIE

Yes! Yes! Friends, come! Your
place is here! Come! Oh, the
Lord be praised! Come! You're
most welcome!

Suddenly he notices that one of the Indian women is carrying a little statue of the Holy Virgin.

A dozen other Indians form a line and start a procession toward the church, chanting as well as they can:

INDIANS

Santa Maria! Santa Maria roga
por nois!

Leslie dashes to the Indian who carries the statue and tries to take it from his hands.

LESLIE

(in Niaruna)

No, no!...What are you doing?
Very bad! Give me that!

But the Indian woman defends the statue, as the others keep repeating: Santa Maria! Mother of God!... Mother of Kisu!...

Leslie snatches up one of the gift axes and offers it in exchange. The woman looks at the axe and refuses the deal, but her mate likes the idea. He nods, encourages her to make the swap. She does so.

Leslie takes the Holy Virgin under his arm and turns to Martin.

LESLIE

The Mother of God, a virgin!
Ridiculous!

When Leslie turns again, the Indians have continued their procession to the chapel while attempting to sing a religious song - hard to recognize.

LESLIE

Wait! Not that way!

Continued:

90 CONTINUED:

90

Leslie hurries after them. Martin follows with gifts. At the entrance to the Catholic chapel, many of the Indians look quite surprised to see chickens inside the place they previously were told was sacred. Leslie begins dispensing presents, cookies, chocolates, which he uses to lure them away from the chapel to the maloca.

LESLIE

There...this is for you...Most
welcome!

Martin encourages Kori and the others to follow Leslie.

MARTIN

(in Niaruna)

This way friends - Be welcome now
in the House of our one true
God....

91 INT. - MALOCA - DAY

91

The Indians settle into the maloca. Among them is a small boy, about Billy's age. They immediately notice each other. The young Indian (Mutu) carries an armadillo and offers it to Billy whose eyes bulge with delight as he gathers the creature to his arms. Hazel shivers once and throws a disdainful look at the naked Indian boy. Mutu grins at her, a disarming grin to anyone but Hazel.

MARTIN

It's a good sign, isn't it?

LESLIE

Oh yes, Martin....This is very
good. The wild ones will come.

HAZEL

But they're naked! I hope you'll
make them wear clothes.

LESLIE

Hazel, that can be your task.

Hazel looks at a naked man, who smiles at her. She hurries away, dragging a reluctant Billy with her.

92 EXT. - THE RIVER - DAY

92

Billy, together with Mutu and three other Indian boys and girls, all naked except for Billy, jump in the river from the branches of a tree. Splashing. Cries of joy.

93 EXT. - THE RIVER - DAY

93

Another day. Mutu is teaching Billy how to fish with a bow. Mutu puts a wild fruit on the surface of the water as floating bait. Silently, Billy draws near and aims. When the fish swims into view, Billy shoots his arrow. Mutu jumps into the water, with joyful screams. He corrals the fish and shows it to Billy, who beams with pride. Then Mutu names the fish. Billy repeats the name.

94 INT. - THE HUT - NIGHT

94

The missionaries and Billy finish their evening meal.

HAZEL
(to Leslie)
Will you be away long?

LESLIE
Four or five months. Until the
end of the rainy season. But
we'll keep in contact by radio.
Don't worry.

HAZEL
I'm not worried.

LESLIE
Anyway, I'll leave two guards here
with you, just to be sure.

MARTIN
No. I'd rather they didn't stay,
Leslie.

They all look at Martin in surprise.

MARTIN
I don't want any guns around here.
And I just don't trust these men.

LESLIE
That's risky, Martin.

Continued:

94 CONTINUED:

94

MARTIN

I know. But you've put me in charge.

LESLIE

All right. Let's assemble for the evening prayer.

They get up and step outside. Hazel rings a bell to summon the Indians.

95 EXT. - THE MISSION - NIGHT

95

Led by Kori, the Indians round up for prayers as Martin distributes cookies and candies. On display is a picture of an Indian in whose heart is a drawing of Jesus. Leslie addresses them in Niaruna.

LESLIE

We thank the Lord, for all our blessings, for our daily bread, for the gift of...

He doesn't know the word for "life" and asks Martin:

LESLIE

I've forgotten the word for "life."

Billy answers immediately and tells the word in Niaruna.

MARTIN

He's learning faster than we are.

LESLIE

(to the Indians)

....life, for a place to rest our weary souls. Let us sing....

He starts up the cassette player and begins singing a hymn, conducting the choir of Indians who are trying their best. One of them yawns.

96 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

96

The Hubens, Uyuyu and the four armed Tiro prepare to leave the mission on the motored canoes. The Quarriers watch, as do Kori and his band.

Billy looks unhappy and discontent at Andy leaving. He's almost crying when Andy kneels down, kisses him and says:

ANDY

God counts on you, Billy. You're a big boy, now. Help your mother and father.

Andy and Leslie board and the boats pull out. Leslie shouts:

LESLIE

God bless the Mart Quarrier family!

ANDY

God bless you!

LESLIE

Do a great job, Martin! The Lord Jesus is with you!

Everyone but Billy waves farewell. He is teary-eyed. Flat footed, Hazel waves with her umbrella, as if she were a statue with moving parts. The boats disappear round a bend in the river.

Martin lets his arm drop and finds himself facing Kori's perpetually smiling face. He smiles back and looks around them at the jungle, then at the Indians. The sound of the boat motors fade away. Martin feels somewhat proud. Then his gaze rests briefly on Father Fuentes' grave.

97 EXT. - THE HUT - DAY

97

It's raining. Three half-naked Indian women are waiting in line out of the main hut. They're sheltering themselves from the rain by holding a large banana tree leaf over their heads. The first one, older than the other two, has big naked breasts.

98 INT. - THE HUT - DAY

98

Inside the hut, Hazel is putting a flowered dress on the body of a fourth Indian woman. It's a bit too small for the Indian, but Hazel doesn't care. She ushers her out and gestures to another to step inside.

It's the elder woman. Hazel briefly looks at her naked breasts, then picks up a bra out of a big clothes basket, and clasps it on her - the bra is several sizes too small and it's quite a struggle.

99 EXT. - THE HUT - DAY

99

The woman with the flowered dress shows it to the others. They laugh. Then she walks away. The dress is already soaked through from the rain.

100 INT. - THE TEMPLE HUT - DAY

100

The same day. Same rain. Martin has gathered about twenty Indians, men and women, in the temple hut, which is just a straw-roof and a few wooden pillars. He's teaching them, in Niaruna (at times he looks for a word in one of his notebooks). Martin takes one of the girls by the hand, and one of the men. He stands between them, joins their hands and says:

MARTIN

God said: One man shall marry
one woman and together they will
bear children...

He puts his own hands above their heads and adds:

MARTIN

...And the Lord will bless thee
together. But if you take more
than one, each of you, then God
will be greatly angry and will
punish you. The Lord Jesus
said....

One of the Indians says:

INDIAN

Kisu!

They all repeat:

Continued:

100 CONTINUED:

100

INDIANS

Kisu! Kisu!

MARTIN

No! Jesus! Jesus!

He looks at them. They seem really puzzled. He tries to correct their pronunciation but they keep repeating:

INDIANS

Kisu! Kisu!

MARTIN

All right, all right....

At that moment, Martin glances out the window. He sees:

101 EXT. - THE TEMPLE HUT - DAY

101

In the rain, with a towel and some soap, Hazel is vigorously scrubbing the paint from the body of the young Indian. She is soaking wet.

102 INT. - THE MALOCA - DAY

102

Another day. Inside the maloca, Mutu and Billy and several other Indian boys spy on a couple of Indians making love. They look at the couple the way boys would watch a pet turtle and smother their giggles. Billy sports two brown circles painted on his cheeks but when he suddenly hears his mother's voice, he tries to wipe it off:

HAZEL'S VOICE

Billy, where are you? Answer me!

He hurries to a pot of water and frantically rubs off the paint. Hazel enters the hut and sees the couple having sex. She explodes at Mutu, who dashes out:

HAZEL

Were you watching this? Billy!
Where are you?

Billy appears, his face cleared.

Continued:

102 CONTINUED:

102

HAZEL

Were you watching this this
this.....

Billy rolls his eyes upward and nods sheepishly.

HAZEL

Get out of here! Shame on you!

Billy scampers out. The Indian boy and girl are still making love - until an outraged Hazel accosts them, trying physically to pry them apart.

HAZEL

Stop it! Right now! You are
locked in Satan's embrace! You
sin against God! Stop this vile
disgusting....

In her rage she slaps the girl, who doesn't understand.

Hearing cries, Martin runs into the maloca, grabs his wife's arm and stops her from slapping the girl a second time.

MARTIN

Hazel! For God's sake, Hazel!!

He pulls her toward their hut, in spite of her protests. The Indians watch in amazement.

103 EXT. - THE MISSION. THE RACKS - DAY

103

Martin and Billy are checking one of the racks.

BILLY

Will we ever see any Niaruna, Pa?

MARTIN

Kori and Mutu are Niaruna.

BILLY

Don't the wild ones know we're
here?

MARTIN

They know.

When leaving the place, Martin says to his son:

Continued:

103 CONTINUED:

103

MARTIN

Listen, Billy, try to be a good boy...your mother, she....We have to be patient with her....Understand?

Billy nods. They both walk away.

A mirror hangs down from the racks, and the wind makes it shake. All of a sudden, in the mirror, we see the painted face of an Indian. A wild one.

104 INT. - THE HUT - DAY

104

Martin and Hazel are alone in their hut. Martin speaks to Hazel severely:

MARTIN

The next time you strike an Indian for any reason, it's you who will be sent away.

Hazel keeps silent.

MARTIN

They don't understand, they can't...and it could be very dangerous for us all.

HAZEL

Do you want Billy watching these filthy tricks?

MARTIN

It doesn't look filthy to him. It all seems very natural.

HAZEL

Natural! And if one of these nasty little savages puts a hand on him?

MARTIN

He might enjoy it.

Continued:

104 CONTINUED:

104

HAZEL

Martin, are you out of your mind?
They're depraved! They live in
a permanent state of sin! Do you
remember we came here to save
them?

MARTIN

Of course, but they have to see
God through their own eyes.
They're different. They have
different values. Our concept
of marriage might be bad for them.

HAZEL

Bad?

MARTIN

Yes, very bad. They're very
susceptible to diseases and they
die off. Chronic malaria reduces
their fertility. So the more they
mate, the less chance of
extinction.

Hazel looks scandalized at what Martin is saying:

HAZEL

Martin! How can you say that?

MARTIN

Do you think extinction is better
than sin?

She thinks it over and is about to answer yes, when their
conversation is interrupted by cries coming from outside. Billy
appears, extremely excited and shouting:

BILLY

Pa! The Niaruna! The wild
Niaruna!

Martin dashes outside, accompanied by Billy. Hazel stays where
she is.

105 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

105

Old Kori talks in a monotone voice, facing the trees. When he stops talking, a voice coming from the jungle answers him. Martin steps forward, his arms held high, to show he is unarmed.

Six wild Indians step out of the foliage including Tukanu and two women, a young one and an older one called Taweeda. The men are cautious.

Martin says to them in Niaruna:

MARTIN

Welcome! Welcome to the Niaruna people! Welcome friends!

The Niaruna do not reply to his greetings.

MARTIN

Billy! Go quickly and bring some knives and mirrors. Quick!

Billy runs over to the racks, gathers up the things, and runs back as quickly as he can. But he stumbles on a root and falls. The Indians from the two groups laugh. Martin, in spite of the bows, hurries to help his son to his feet.

The Niaruna lower their bows. Martin tries to give gifts - Tukanu indicates he wishes to receive them from Billy. Martin gestures and Billy makes the presentation, awed.

MARTIN

These are our gifts to you. To demonstrate our sincere friendship.

One of the Indians takes off his headdress of monkeyskin and puts it on Billy's head. Tukanu gives Martin his stone-axe in exchange for a machete. He is delighted; Billy lights up like a bulb.

BILLY

These are real ones, you found the real ones, Pa...

MARTIN

Yes...

BILLY

That's more than Mr. Huben did!

Continued:

105 CONTINUED:

105

It's Martin's moment to feel proud. But a moment later he notes Moon's red scarf on Tukanu's neck and points at it.

MARTIN

Lewis Moon. Is he dead?

Tukanu smiles and with satisfaction says:

TUKANU

Kisu-Mu.

MARTIN

What? Kisu-Mu?

TUKANU

Kisu-Mu.

Hazel appears now, carrying a large bowl of rice. She sets it down on the ground between her husband and the Indians.

MARTIN

Good, Hazel. Very good. Thank you.

One of the Indians makes an obscene gesture, aimed at Martin and Hazel, but Hazel doesn't seem to notice it. Another one pinches Hazel's rather round waist, and laughs loudly. Hazel chases him away. As she turns, Taweeda, the older Indian woman, suddenly snatches her sunglasses from her pocket. Hazel reacts.

MARTIN

Hazel...Keep calm....She likes your sunglasses, that's all...

Hazel regains control. Martin sits before the bowl of rice, his son beside him, gesturing to the Indians. Pointing at the bowl, he makes an eating motion with his fingertips. The savages come forward and squat on their haunches. They start to eat.

Tukanu then makes a sign to Pindi to go to Martin. She is smiling - she carefully examines him; touches his skin, pinches the hair on his arms, licks him, pokes at him with her fingers. Martin gets up, embarrassed. He takes Hazel in her arms and hugs her, as if he loved her tenderly. The Niaruna don't seem to understand. Some of them laugh. One of them steps forward with his gift machete. Curious about Martin, he starts to poke at him the way Pindi did - using the machete. It presses into Martin's chest with firm pressure, slicing through his shirt deep into the skin.

Continued:

105 CONTINUED:

105

In spite of the pain and the blood running down his chest, Martin tries to smile. The Indians, startled by the blood, pick up and start to leave.

MARTIN

No, no...friends....it's
nothing...Don't go...

The Indians vanish into the forest with their gifts. At the last moment, Taweeda darts to Hazel's umbrella, which is drying outside. She picks it up and runs away.

Hazel says to her husband, who is watching them leave:

HAZEL

They're savages, Martin. I told
you they are savages.

106 EXT. - VILLAGE. RIVER - DAY

106

Drifting away from the Niaruna village, five or six canoes go for a hunt. Men carry spears, bows, arrows and sarbacanes. It is high water season. The canoes scatter into the rain forest.

107 EXT. - THE FOREST - DAY

107

Hunting in the forest. One of the Indians kills a monkey with his sarbacane. Moon walks and hunts now like any other Indian.

108 EXT. - THE FOREST - DAY

108

Laughing, they shoot arrows at a wild pig, which screams out of pain and terror. The pig runs from one man to another man, vainly trying to escape. It is savagely killed.

109 EXT. - THE FOREST - NIGHT

109

They have made a small shelter, covered with banana tree leaves, somewhere in the forest. They sleep, lying on the ground around a fire. Slaughtered animals hang all around them. It's raining. Moon's eyes are open. He is listening to the sounds of the rain, of the forest, of the men.

110 EXT. - RIVER - DAY

110

Aeore and Moon are alone in a canoe gliding silently under the trees. Aeore is looking at Moon, with a mixture of curiosity and distrust.

111 EXT. - RIVER - DAY

111

In another place, they pass huge rocks overlooking the river. Strangely enough, Aeore points out stone carvings in the rocks and says:

AEORE

Kisu....

Moon takes it in.

112 EXT. - FOREST. MOUNTAIN - DAY

112

They're walking up a mountain. Aeore, who walks first, turns round to look at Moon, as if checking his endurance. Moon is doing pretty well.

113 EXT. - MOUNTAIN. LANDSCAPE - DAY

113

They arrive at the top of the mountain. Aeore points at the immense, limitless landscape, and says:

AEORE

Niaruna....

Moon catches his breath. Aeore points in another direction.

AEORE

Yuri-Maha....

Then he points in a third direction and names another Indian people. He makes it quite clear that his dream is to one day unite the three peoples and that he is depending on Moon's help, the help of Kisu-Mu. He says in Niaruna:

AEORE

Before this time, this was one land...we were one people... Now we are Niaruna, Yuri-Maha and all the others...we were one people...we were a great nation...

Continued:

113 CONTINUED:

113

Moon looks over the astonishing landscape, while Aeore goes on saying:

AEORE

Kisu-Mu and Aeore ... together
.... we must unite all people as
one nation again...

114 EXT. - VILLAGE - DAY

114

The hunters are back at the village. They carry on their shoulders the animals they have killed: monkeys, birds, a tapir, an armadillo, the wild pig. They are very warmly welcomed by the other Indians. Pindi is there and we can see that she is pregnant. She wears Moon's shirt.

115 EXT. - VILLAGE - DAY

115

Suddenly, as they dispense the freshly-killed game, Aeore and Moon notice that Tukanu, Taweeda and the other Indians have brought back some presents from the mission. Taweeda is even wearing a pearl necklace and sunglasses. She is holding Hazel's umbrella. Aeore is very irritated. He rips the necklace from Taweeda's neck and says:

AEORE

No present must be accepted!
Nothing from the whites!

Tukanu gets up and opposes Aeore:

TUKANU

The whites have everything and
the Niaruna have nothing!
Presents are good! A machete made
by the whites is much better than
a stone-axe!

Taweeda and other Indians agree with Tukanu.

Boronai follows the discussion. So does Moon.

AEORE

They give us presents because they
want our land! The whites have
divided and weakened us.
(more)

Continued:

115 CONTINUED:

115

AEORE (Cont'd)

Even the smell of them is killing us! We must take back all the presents and kill the whites! Kisu-Mu speaks as I speak!

He turns to Moon, and Moon indicates he approves of taking back the presents. Then Aeore proudly adds:

AEORE

Kisu-Mu has come down to us from the sky, to fight with us! We must united with the other peoples of the forest! Kisu-Mu will help us to win!

The Indians look at Moon and many of them bow. Moon has to speak. He does so in Niaruna - with simple words:

MOON

Yes, we must take back the presents and refuse any contact with the whites.

Taweeda and Tukanu show they are discontent. They hit the ground with long sticks.

MOON

....But we must not attack and kill the missionaries. It would cause the white men to invade our land and bring death.

Aeore then attacks Moon violently:

AEORE

Are you Kisu-Mu? If you are Kisu-Mu, why did you come from the sky? And if you are not Kisu-Mu, who are you?

MOON

The peoples of the forest are not ready for a war. The whites are many - many times more than all of our people together. They live in great villages of stone.

(more)

Continued:

115 CONTINUED:

115

MOON (Cont'd)

They have great powers of
destruction If we fight them,
we will all be killed.

AEORE

Are you Kisu-Mu?

Moon has to say:

MOON

Kisu-Mu will help you.

Almost all the Indians seem to believe that he has spoken the
truth. Most of them prostrate.

Aeore comes up to Moon.

AEORE

You must unite all peoples as one
people. The great nation of the
forest! Will you help us? Will
you?

Moon hesitates for a moment, then he nods and says:

MOON

(repeats)

Kisu-Mu will help you.

All of a sudden, the discussion is over. They all go to their
occupations.

Aeore goes to Pindi, takes her arm and, with a glance back at
Moon, goes with her toward the bushes. Moon is about to react,
then realizes that jealousy is not part of Indian sentiments.
Pindi follows Aeore. She is laughing as they disappear behind
the trees.

116 EXT. - VILLAGE - NIGHT

116

Later, at night. Boronai, next to a fire, quietly tells the
legend of his people. Some Indians are listening. Among them,
Moon. He has closed his eyes, rocked by the voice of Boronai.

Continued:

116 CONTINUED:

116

BORONAI

In the days of the Ancestors,
there was no death among mankind.
Jaguar was a friend to Man and
hunted with him, and both were
creatures of darkness...

Aeore and Pindi return from the bushes. Pindi goes back to Moon and lays down next to him. She is smiling. She puts a hand on her stomach as if to say: the baby will be strong.

Aeore sits aside. He looks at Moon. Moon puts his arm around Pindi's shoulders and they huddle together. They listen to Boronai's voice.

BORONAI

....But when Man took Jaguar's daughter for himself, a great division occurred. The Great Ancestor sent a messenger who said, "Now you must choose. You may have eternal darkness with eternal life, or light and death." When the people slew the messenger, a terrible voice came from the Heavens: "You have chosen. You shall have light and death." Then the Heavens cleared, and the world was quiet once again, and the Sun appeared. But even as they praised the Sun, an old man died.

117 INT. - THE MISSION. THE HUT - DAY

117

It is pouring with rain. Billy is laying in the hut, desperately ill. Martin is putting an emergency medical call out on the radio when he notices a brown spot on Billy's sheet. He goes over to the bed:

MARTIN

Billy, honey, you were wetting
your bed.

BILLY

Oh, I didn't mean to, Pa...

Hazel also comes over to the bed, worried.

Continued:

117 CONTINUED:

117

MARTIN

It's okay, Billy.

They look at each other in silence. Martin takes Billy up into his arms. Hazel quickly changes the sheets. As Martin puts him down again, Billy says:

BILLY

Pa...I'm thirsty....Pa...

Martin goes to get water.

The radio crackles for a moment, then we hear:

RADIO VOICE

Niaruna Station, this is Mintipo Station. Do you read me? Over.

MARTIN

This is Niaruna Station. Over.

RADIO VOICE

Leslie Huben is on his way to you to help get your son to a hospital...weather conditions are extremely bad...The Lord's will be done. Over.

Martin replies by radio:

MARTIN

Mintipo Station?

RADIO VOICE

What is it, Martin? Over.

MARTIN

Billy Quarrier has blackwater fever.

There is static, and no response on the radio. Hazel is shocked by what Martin has said.

MARTIN

We will stay here. We're not coming out. In the name of the Lord. Amen. Over and out.

Continued:

117 CONTINUED:

117

He removes the earphones. He puts his arm around Hazel and begins:

MARTIN

"Our Father who art in heaven...."

But Hazel pulls back, and shouts:

HAZEL

You're insane! It's not
blackwater fever! It can't be!
It's just malaria, no more, no
less, a bad case of malaria!

Kori enters the hut at that moment offering a medicinal potion for Billy. But Hazel slaps it out of his hands and pushes him violently away.

HAZEL

(to Kori)

Get out! Get out of here!

Kori retreats, completely confused. She snaps up the earphones and cries:

HAZEL

Call them back! We are leaving
this place of Satan! Get them
on the radio at once! Do you
hear! Tell them we demand a
pontoon plane now! Do you hear
me, Mr. Quarrier? Billy's your
son!

We can hear scraps of sentences through the radio earphones (and the echoes of very stormy weather).

RADIO VOICE

...contact with Niaruna
Station....blackwater fever...pray
for the salvation of Billy
Quarrier...All stations...Tiro
Station...

Martin turns off the radio.

HAZEL

Martin, what are you doing? Are
you out of your mind?

Continued:

117 CONTINUED:

117

Martin doesn't reply. Mutu, Billy's young Indian friend, has slipped into the hut. He is clasping Billy's hand in his own. Martin goes to usher him away, but Billy says, feebly:

BILLY

Pa...I want Mutu to stay...

Mutu repeatedly whispers something in Billy's ear.

MARTIN

Billy, what's he saying? I can't hear...

BILLY

He wants me to name my enemy...

MARTIN

You have no enemy, Billy...

Mutu whispers again, and Billy translates simultaneously for his father and mother.

BILLY

He says if I die...it means....means I have an enemy...who must be killed...

Martin, overcome, takes Billy in his arms. He forgets that the Indian doesn't understand English and says to Mutu:

MARTIN

He has no enemy. He is very sick.
His only enemy is the mosquito.
No one must be killed.
(he repeats in Niaruna)
No enemy.

Billy's hand slips out of Mutu's - his voice weakening, he gasps:

BILLY

The Indians say I am going to die...

Hazel pulls Mutu to his feet and pushes him out of the hut.

HAZEL

You get out of here!

Continued:

117 CONTINUED:

BILLY

Pa....Am I really going to die?

Martin hugs him in his arms.

MARTIN

Yes, honey. You are going to die.

HAZEL

(to Martin)

Curse you....May the Lord curse you...

(to Billy)

Of course not, honey. Of course you won't. Papa didn't mean that. Why, tomorrow we're going down the river with Leslie Huben and you'll have a nice ride on the airplane and you'll be up and around in no time...Martin, I said call for a plane!

As she speaks, Mutu sneaks again into the hut.

Martin shakes his head and says:

MARTIN

We're going to stay here.

HAZEL

What?

MARTIN

Our work is here, Hazel, and this is Billy's home. The only home he knows.

HAZEL

You are a devil! A devil! How dare you!

She pulls Martin outside.

118 EXT. - THE MISSION - RAINING

Outside the hut, the rain is soaking Martin's glasses and matting Hazel's hair. A pathetic sight Kori and some others notice.

Continued:

118 CONTINUED:

118

HAZEL

You don't know this is blackwater fever. Or even if it is, that he is dying?

Indicating the maloca, Martin says:

MARTIN

Even the Indians know.

HAZEL

How do they know? They've never seen blackwater fever in their lives!

MARTIN

Even if they didn't know blackwater fever, they know when somebody is dying.

Martin glimpses Billy through the hut door, is aware of his son's glazed eyes. Martin seizes Hazel by the arm and says under his breath:

MARTIN

Hazel, listen. This thing runs its course in twenty-four hours. We can't get him to a hospital before that, no plane can land, and even if it could, it would be too late. Billy is dying. You know it as well as I do.

Behind them, we can hear the voice of an old Indian woman who has started to sing. Hazel can hardly speak.

MARTIN

You see? They've begun their funeral chant.

Billy calls from inside the hut:

BILLY

Pa...

MARTIN

Billy, honey....

They go inside the hut.

119 INT. - THE MISSION. THE HUT - DAY

119

They come close to Billy.

BILLY

Why did God...You won't get mad at me?

MARTIN

No, Bill, I won't get mad at you. God loves you and I love you.

BILLY

Then why did God have to go and make mosquitos?

MARTIN

I don't know. I surely wish I knew.

120 EXT. - THE MISSION - EVENING

120

The same day. Leslie Huben has just arrived alone in a motor boat. He jumps out, hurriedly goes up the bank to the mission huts. He hears the Indian funeral chant, greets Kori and a few others in Niaruna. Martin comes to meet him.

MARTIN

Leslie. Thank you for coming.

LESLIE

Greetings in the name of the Lord. Ah, but I'm exhausted. How is Hazel? And how is our little patient doing?

The two men move toward the hut. Leslie looks suddenly bothered.

LESLIE

Some of them had Christian clothes when I left here. Why are they all naked again?

MARTIN

I kind of discouraged their use of clothes.

LESLIE

Really?

Continued:

120 CONTINUED:

120

MARTIN

They wore them even when they were wet, and I lost one old fellow to pneumonia.

LESLIE

You mean you encouraged them to go naked?

MARTIN

I don't think nakedness is a sin.

LESLIE

I see.

121 INT. - THE MISSION. THE HUT - NIGHT

121

Later. They are in the hut. Leslie has just finished examining Billy, who is very ill indeed. It is night. Mutu is huddled in a corner of the hut, keeping vigil on his friend.

LESLIE

I think Hazel is right. As soon as the sun rises, Billy should be taken out.

MARTIN

No. Billy will die among those who love him in their own way. Without hypocrisy, in truth.

HAZEL

Martin, Leslie has come to us in our time of need, and you are rude to him. May the Lord have mercy on your soul.

MARTIN

Amen. I don't mean to be rude.

Leslie looks silently at Martin for a moment.

LESLIE

Let us pray.

They start praying round Billy's bed. Mutu goes over and puts a hand on his friend's body. He then leaves. Another Indian comes into the hut and does the same thing, then another.

Continued:

121 CONTINUED:

121

We can hear the funeral chanting outside. Hazel's anger swells again, but Martin says:

MARTIN

It's their way. Please....

Billy manages a half-smile, in his semi-coma.

LATER - THE HUT - NIGHT

Hazel appears in front of Martin, who is laying down gazing blankly at the ceiling.

HAZEL

Shouldn't you be watching over
your own son?

MARTIN

Watching won't help him. You can
rest too, whenever you like.

Suddenly, Billy moves. He groans. Martin leaps up, dashes to Billy's side. He sees him convulsing. Hazel tenses and screams. Martin takes his son's body in his arms, calling him:

MARTIN

Goodbye, Bill...Oh Bill, Oh Billy,
listen....

But Billy is dead. Martin lays him gently down. Leslie (also very upset) closes Billy's eyes. Leslie begins a prayer - Martin and Hazel join in:

MARTIN/HAZEL/LESLIE

"....As it is written, for Thy
sake we are killed all the day
long; we are accounted as sheep
for the slaughter...."

122 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

122

Leslie carries Billy's body, wrapped in a white sheet, followed by Martin and Hazel, and by Kori and some Indians. They stop by the grave dug in the ground, adorned with a simple wooden cross. Leslie places the body in the grave, aided by Martin.

Suddenly Martin notices an unexpected presence. He looks up and says to Leslie in a low voice:

Continued:

122 CONTINUED:

122

MARTIN

There they are... Leslie... There
they are....

Very cautiously Leslie turns round.

A group of wild Niaruna have just appeared from the forest-
Boronai, Tukanu, Aeore, Moon and some others.

MARTIN

I know some of them....

Leslie starts the funeral service. The Indians draw near the
grave, Boronai's on one side, and Kori's on the other side.

LESLIE

Verily I say unto you. Except
ye be converted and become as
little children. Ye shall not
enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

During the ceremony, Hazel falls to her knees. Kori and some
members of his group copy her at once. They clasp their hands
in prayer as she does. Boronai and the wild Niaruna don't move
a muscle.

Leslie says to Martin with satisfaction:

LESLIE

Yet you say you have no convert
here! Look! The Lord is here
with us this morning...Do you see
them on their knees? And perhaps
the Lord has seen fit to take
Billy Quarrier to His great fold
in order that these poor souls
might see the light! Let us sing!

He starts to sing a hymn. Hazel clumsily tries to join in.
Martin doesn't sing. Instead, he speaks to Leslie while Leslie
sings.

MARTIN

The Lord did not take my son.
Death took my son. But if He had,
the Lord would not be welcome to
my son. Do you understand that?
He is not welcome to my son!

Continued:

122 CONTINUED:

122

All the Indians listen and watch with apparent indifference.

LESLIE

May the Lord forgive you.

MARTIN

I will try to make my own peace
with the Lord. And if I cannot
- well then, I cannot....

Aware the ceremony is over, Boronai, Aeore and the wild Niaruna turn away and march across the clearing, dumping all the gifts they received earlier to the ground.

123 INT. - THE HUT - DAY

123

Later, the same day. Leslie, Hazel and Martin are in the hut, collecting Billy's things, his books, his clothes. They put everything in a carton, in silence.

Suddenly, passing by a window, Hazel freezes at the sight of Boronai's painted face. Along with Aeore and Tukanu, Boronai stands outside holding some Indian beverage in a wooden bowl, then dances away.

MARTIN

They're performing a ritual
ceremony with nipi.

Martin hurries outside, with Leslie close behind. They join the Indians watching Boronai.

AEORE

Boronai will speak to Kisu and
Kisu will tell the name of the
enemy of Billy.

TUKANU

We will avenge the death of Billy.

MARTIN

(in Niaruna)

Billy's enemy was the mosquito!
You must not kill anyone.

AEORE

The enemy sent the mosquito.

Continued:

123 CONTINUED:

123

LESLIE

What did he say?

MARTIN

He said the enemy sent the mosquito.

LESLIE

(in Niaruna)

You must not speak to Kisu. Jesus forbids it!

AEORE

We do not ask you to obey the Kisu of the Niaruna. Why do you ask us to obey the Kisu of the white man?

MARTIN

(in Niaruna)

You must not kill! There must be no killing.

TUKANU

(rapidly)

The boy lived as a Niaruna. When his enemy is killed, then his spirit will go far away and sleep.

LESLIE

What is he saying?

MARTIN

That Billy lived as a Niaruna, when his enemy is killed, then the spirit of Billy will go far away and sleep.

LESLIE

Martin, this Nipi turns men into maniacs. It's the same stuff that caused that half-breed lunatic Moon to go flying off in the night!

Moon, who has come near them, overhears this.

124 INT. - THE HUT - LATE EVENING

124

At dusk, the same day. The Niaruna have gathered around a fire, in the clearing.

From inside the hut, Martin, Hazel and Leslie are watching them. Boronai keeps drinking slowly, making ceremonial movements.

LESLIE

And what if I marched over there
and dumped that cursed Satan's
brew on the ground?

MARTIN

They would kill you.

The Indians start to dance. The atmosphere becomes disturbing, ominous. Some of the dancers approach the hut and scream at the missionaries, in a very wild way.

LESLIE

Not one soul in this whole
wretched pack realizes that God
loves them...They're as savage
as they ever were. Why did they
bring back the gifts? What have
you left undone?

MARTIN

I don't know...I have prayed and
prayed and racked by brains and
I don't know. They don't like
me and they don't like what I
teach.

At this point, Boronai shouts something. He is in trance.

LESLIE

What did he say?

MARTIN

He's talking to Kisu. He goes
to him.

From time to time, Martin snaps a picture through the window.

LESLIE

You're not here as a sociologist,
Martin. Perhaps if you'd spent
less time taking pictures....

Continued:

124 CONTINUED:

124

MARTIN

I thought it would help to understand their religion.

LESLIE

You call that a religion?

MARTIN

Yes. Ours is not the only religion in the world. If it were, we wouldn't be here.

125 EXT. - THE MISSION - NIGHT

125

Later that night. The dance's rhythm has accelerated and Boronai is shouting incoherently. He suddenly picks up his bow, places an arrow, and aims in different directions. He even comes over to the hut entrance, menacing those inside.

126 INT. - THE HUT - NIGHT

126

Leslie and Martin pull back into a corner of the hut, but Hazel stays prostrate.

LESLIE

What is he doing? I don't like it.

127 EXT. - THE MISSION - NIGHT

127

Boronai dashes away from the hut and fires an arrow into the ground, followed by a second one. The warriors encircle the arrows, still dancing. Some of them are vomiting. Some others shoot arrows and scream.

128 INT. - THE HUT - NIGHT

128

Martin snaps another picture through the window.

LESLIE

It's disgusting!

MARTIN

The vomiting is a purge. They clear their souls.

129 EXT. - THE MISSION - NIGHT

129

Boronai collapses in the glowing embers of the fire. The others lift him up. They keep chanting and dancing.

130 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAWN

130

The same place. Day break. Silence. Leslie and Martin come out of the hut cautiously. Boronai and other Indians are lying on the ground. When the two missionaries come near, Boronai opens his eyes and looks at them. Other Indians awake. Boronai slowly gets up and speaks. The other Indians - among them Aeore, Tukanu and Moon - stand up and form a circle around the two men.

At the same moment, Aeore takes an arrow and goes toward Leslie, brandishing the tip at him. The circle becomes threatening. Leslie pulls back, scared, while Boronai speaks again.

LESLIE

(nervous)

What's going on, Martin!

MARTIN

He says that....that you might
be named as Billy's enemy.

Leslie now knows that he is in grave danger. He cannot go further back than the circle of men. Aeore pricks him with the arrow. Leslie seizes the arrow tip to protect himself. Aeore yanks it out of his grasp, slashing his fingers like a razor - blood flows quickly from his hands.

LESLIE

Martin, stop them...do something
... Can't you control this?

Martin shouts to the Indians in Niaruna:

MARTIN

You are ungrateful people! We
came as friends! We brought you
presents and now...The Lord loves
you!....

Martin faces Aeore.

Continued:

130 CONTINUED:

130

MARTIN

...He loves you all - But he is
angry with you! You have done
a bad thing.

Aeore challenges Martin with a threatening look.

MARTIN

We are your friends. In the name
of Kisu!

Leslie, who is wounded, says to Martin:

LESLIE

We are going. This very minute,
Martin.

MARTIN

All right! Hazel! Hazel!

Hazel appears at the door of the hut.

MARTIN

We are going! Go to the boat!
Go now! Never mind your things!
Hurry up!

(to Leslie)

Take Hazel to the boat. I'll
speak to them.

With determination, Leslie passes through the lines of Indians.
He takes Hazel by the arm and walks quickly to the boat, while
Martin tries to calm them down.

MARTIN

We are friends! Friends of Kisu!
Kisu is angry with you! We have
come to bring you truth! The love
of the Lord!

He turns, sees Leslie and Hazel climbing into the boat. Then
he starts walking backwards and repeats:

MARTIN

Billy had no enemy! You must not
kill!

The Indians follow him.

131 EXT. - THE MISSION. THE RIVER - DAY

131

Leslie and Hazel get to the river and into the launch. Leslie starts the motor and pulls away from the bank.

LESLIE

Martin! Hurry!

Martin is at the river's edge, followed by the Indians and Boronai, who is still swaying. Martin plunges into the water up to his knees, then stops.

LESLIE

Martin!

Martin looks at the Indians. Aeore takes his bow and aims at Leslie. Just as he is going to shoot, Moon brushes his arm, altering the arrow from its course. The arrow falls in the water.

The other Indians, encouraged by Aeore's action (who is looking venomously at Moon with suspicion) line themselves along the bank.

Martin looks at them. Full of emotion, he whispers:

MARTIN

No, I can't....So many months of work...I can't...

LESLIE

Martin!

Martin walks back onto the bank.

LESLIE

Martin! What are you doing?

Martin turns to the boat to say:

MARTIN

I'm staying!

LESLIE

Don't be a fool! Martin!

MARTIN

Hazel! I'm staying here! You can go with Leslie!

Hazel immediately replies from the boat:

Continued:

131 CONTINUED:

131

HAZEL
I shall stay with you!

She steps over the gunwale and jumps into the river, nearly capsizing Leslie. The water comes to her breast. Half walking, half swimming, she comes to the shore and says out of breath:

HAZEL
I shall stay with you!...Until
death do us part!

LESLIE
Hazel! Come back! Martin!

Martin turns to Leslie and says:

MARTIN
We're staying! But you must go!
Go, Leslie. Go now!

Martin holds his hand to Hazel and helps her out of the water. She stands next to him, dripping wet. The Indians look at them with astonishment. Leslie, revs up the motor and shouts:

LESLIE
God bless you then! Praise the
Lord!

Martin and Hazel face the Indians. Slowly, they lower their bows. Martin and Hazel, holding hands, pass among the Indians and return to the hut.

132 INT. - MAE DE DEUS. HUBEN'S ROOM - DAY

132

Back in Mae de Deus, Leslie is sitting together with Andy in their bedroom. Andy is putting plasters on Leslie's injured fingers.

ANDY
When are we going back?

LESLIE
You're not going, Andy. It's too
dangerous.

ANDY
I'd be ashamed to stay here. We
have to help them.

Continued:

132 CONTINUED:

132

LESLIE

With what? What can we do? I
keep in touch with Martin twice
a day. The mission is empty.
The Indians have gone.

ANDY

Even Kori?

LESLIE

Oh yes. He left with all his
people.

ANDY

So, what's so dangerous about
going back? Hazel must be
devastated....

LESLIE

If only Martin hadn't done so
poorly...

Somebody knocks at the door.

LESLIE

Come in!

The door opens and Guzman enters. His bodyguard waits in the
corridor. Guzman looks at Leslie's hands and asks:

GUZMAN

What is happen exactly? Have you
been attacked?

Leslie is going to answer when Andy says:

ANDY

No. Nothing serious.

GUZMAN

I think it takes more time for
this Niaruna to bring to them God
than to the Tiro and the Mintipo.

LESLIE

No, not really.

Continued:

132 CONTINUED:

132

GUZMAN

When it was? Since one year when
you first went to this mission,
Mae de Deus grows very fast -
people come from all places. How
I can stop them when they wan'
go out there?

(indicates jungle)

If you don't keep thees agreement
we did had, it becomes necessary
to...to...

Andy, who has listened carefully, breaks in.

ANDY

Necessary to do what, Mister
Guzman?

GUZMAN

You know, Senora Huben, a place
like this, you can not control
it with romantic impulse.
Amazonia is not Garden of
Eden...People here, they do not
live in fantasy. We must face
reality, now or later.

(to Leslie)

Remember the things you did tell
me about faith, senor?

ANDY

What?

LESLIE

Yes - When faith goes first, it's
better for everybody.

GUZMAN

Including the Indians.

LESLIE

Yes, of course. It pacifies them.
Without violence. We make them
better citizens of their country.
But it takes time!

GUZMAN

Well, time - it goes very fast
- you better hurry.

Continued:

132 CONTINUED:

132

Guzman walks out. The bodyguard closes the door. Andy asks Leslie:

ANDY

What agreement was he talking about?

LESLIE

Nothing really. He gave us a year to pacify the Niaruna.

ANDY

And then what?

LESLIE

Then it would be none of our business, Andy.

Andy says nothing - but Leslie looks to her for compassion.

LESLIE

You can't imagine what it was like. I don't know if I could go through anything like that again. I'm doing everything I possibly can, but I have other missions to look after. I've no right to run the risk of becoming a martyr. My main duty is to stay here. Let me tell you: I thought the Lord was totally on our side. And then suddenly, when this ferocious Indian attacked me, I had the feeling the Lord had forsaken me...It's not the moment to be disloyal, Andy. I need you.

She looks at him, without saying a word.

133 INT. - MAE DE DEUS. SALOON-BAR - DAY

133

Leslie and Andy are dining together. Leslie starts eating with difficulty. His bandaged fingers make one think of little white dolls. Wolf enters the place with the young prostitute. They are now a respectable couple. Wolf leads her to a table and he offers her a chair, then notices the Hubens. He goes to their table and says:

Continued:

133 CONTINUED:

133

WOLF

I was very sorry to hear about
the decease...This was a very nice
kid...

LESLIE

(coldly)

Yes, we'll tell the Quarriers you
sent them your condolences. We'll
be sure to tell them.

Wolfie goes.

Andy looks at Leslie for a second and says:

ANDY

You know something, Leslie?
You've shrunk

134 EXT. - MAE DE DEUS. MAIN STREET - DAY

134

The main street is crowded. We see new shops, new warehouses.
We hear bullhorns announcing sales, discounts, lotteries.

Andy is crossing the bridge over the river. She is alone, lost
in her thoughts. She sees a small group of Indians -drunk -
lamenting their empty bottles. There is the rumble of a storm
coming over. The first drops fall - then more. Looking for
protection against the rain, she sees the Catholic church.

135 INT. - THE CHURCH - DAY

135

Andy, alone, her hair wet, dashes inside. Father Xantes is
playing the harmonium, praying with musical accompaniment.

Andy looks about her, with curiosity, though Xantes hasn't seen
her. In the middle of his prayer, Andy recognizes the words
"William Quarrier". She moves forward and suddenly sneezes.

Xantes stops playing and turns toward her, surprised by her
presence.

XANTES

God bless you...How did you happen
into our humble church?

Continued:

135 CONTINUED:

135

ANDY

I don't know. I've never been
in a Catholic church before.

XANTES

You are welcome here.

ANDY

Did I hear you say "William
Quarrier"? Were you praying for
Billy?

XANTES

Why not? And also for Lewis Moon.
Fools and children, too.

ANDY

Tell me, Padre. We had a talk
with Guzman...

XANTES

Yes?

ANDY

He says the work we're doing is
the best way to civilize the
Indians. That is will prevent
killing. Do you think this is
true?

XANTES

There are many ways of killing
people.

ANDY

Why did you really give up the
mission?

XANTES

Does anybody know why he does this
or that? You, for instance, why
have you come into the church?

ANDY

It was raining....And I heard
music...

XANTES

Yes. The music is beautiful...

Continued:

135 CONTINUED:

135

He plays a new notes. Andy breaks in:

ANDY

When you worked with the Indians,
did you ever think about what
would happen to them?

XANTES

If they were to be converted?

ANDY

Yes. Did you think about that?

Xantes looks at her and says after a pause:

XANTES

I understand your question, Mrs.
Huben. But I don't have an
answer.

ANDY

Forgive me, Padre, but....Do you
truly believe?

Xantes looks at her troubled; he takes Andy's hands in his.

ANDY

My child, is that a question or
a confession?

Tears well up in Andy's eyes. The Padre sighs.

XANTES

You see, I love the
church...And...a man like
myself...I need it...I need
it...Shall we sing?

He sits down at the harmonium again and starts.

XANTES

Something we both know...A
requiem, perhaps?

He plays, and they start to sing together.

136 EXT. - THE MISSION - EVENING

136

At dusk, from the distance, the mission. Nobody is in sight.
Rain is pouring. A dark, lonely, sinister place.

137 INT. - THE HUT - EVENING - RAINING

137

Martin is coming out of the little darkroom in the hut. He's holding some freshly printed photographs of the Nipi ceremony that he puts down on the table. Some other photographs and sketches are tacked on the walls.

Hazel, with Billy's monkeyskin headdress in her lap, keeps slapping her body to kill the insects feeding off her. She looks outside and says:

HAZEL

Oh God. Where are we? Where are the seasons in this place? Are there no seasons but rain and rain and rain? Martin, are we in hell and don't know it?

Martin passes by her and touches her shoulder. She slinks away from him.

HAZEL

Stay away from me...Don't touch me.

He takes a seat and sits down, turning his attention to his notes, his photos, his Indian sounds on tape.

HAZEL

The sociologist! Champion of barbarians! Student of Indian gods and Indian sluts...

She looks from the jungle to Martin.

HAZEL

Do you also take notes on your disgusting wife the way you take notes on the savages?

Martin turns away, without replying. He tries to work, but in vain.

HAZEL

Do something! Please! Do anything! Shout at me! But for pity's sake let me know that I'm alive!

MARTIN

I can't talk to you when you're like this.

138 EXT. - THE MISSION - NIGHT

138

He goes out into the rain - looking across the mission, he thinks of Billy frolicking with his playmate Mutu. Heavy drops of water fall on his glasses. Behind him, Hazel appears at the door. She asks in a different voice:

HAZEL

Martin, please...Come inside and
make love to me....Please...

Martin turns round and looks at her. After a considered pause, he walks slowly to the hut and steps in...The place is deserted and silent again. Rain keeps pouring. Inside the hut, a small, trembling light.

139 EXT. - THE VILLAGE - DAY

139

Boronai, the chief, is painting the sign of the Niaruna on a baby's face. He explains to Moon:

BORONAI

We are naked and have nothing.
Therefore we must decorate
ourselves, for if we did not, how
are we to be told from animals?

He then picks the baby up and points it in the four cardinal directions. Moon and Pindi are watching the ceremony. Other Indians including Aeore are present.

140 EXT. - THE RIVER - DAY

140

On the river's edge, Boronai envelops the baby in a cloud of smoke and then dips it in the water, with ritual chanting. He then gives the baby to Moon and Pindi.

A group of young Indians race by, screaming:

YOUNG INDIAN

Billy's enemy is back! The enemy
has returned!

Moon reacts to the news.

141 INT. - THE MISSION. THE HUT - NIGHT

141

The four missionaries are together in the hut. Leslie and Andy have come back. They are just getting ready to eat, and Leslie is saying grace.

LESLIE

We thank Thee humbly today, O
Lord, for this nice dinner of
Heinz Baked Beans and Bumble Bee
Tuna Fish, sent out for us by
kindly friends at home, to nourish
and sustain us in Thy work. We
thank Thee too, O Lord, that
despite our trials, we remain
healthy in Thy sight...

Hazel suddenly starts laughing.

MARTIN

Hazel, what's the matter?

HAZEL

Oh, nothing, nothing....
(she stops laughing)
I was just thinking...

MARTIN

About what?

HAZEL

You are so ugly...And I am so
ugly...Our families were ugly too,
both parents on both sides...And
from way back...How was it
possible to bring something so
beautiful as my little baby into
the world? How was that possible?

She laughs and then suddenly keeps quiet. The three others make no comments. Andy puts her hand on hers. Leslie starts to open the tin of beans.

142 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

142

Sunrise. Four armed Indians, who have come back with the Hubens, are driving stakes into the ground, erecting a barbed-wire fence at Leslie's direction. He tries to help them, but his hands hurt. Martin draws near and watches mistrustfully.

Continued:

142 CONTINUED:

142

LESLIE

We have been attacked...We need security.

MARTIN

Barbed-wire is not security...It's a sign of weakness...And you shouldn't have brought the soldiers back...

LESLIE

We tried it your way, Martin, and it didn't work. Let's go check the racks.

They walk together toward one of the racks.

143 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

143

At the same moment, Andy and Hazel are standing in front of Billy's grave. Andy puts some flowers on the grave. Hazel says to her:

HAZEL

The only time in my whole life I didn't hate this big ugly body of mine was when I remembered that somewhere inside, somewhere, it must be clean and beautiful, or my beautiful Billy could not have come from it...

ANDY

Hazel, you mustn't talk like this. You can bring your inner beauty out...

HAZEL

I know, I know...

144 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

144

The frozen yellow eyes of a snake fill the screen. It is a monstrous black one, hanging on the missionary's gift rack, lifelessly.

Continued:

144 CONTINUED:

144

Martin and Leslie gasp as regiments of ants run along its body, feasting on the flesh that seems to quiver.

LESLIE
What does it mean?

MARTIN
It means "go away". It's very clear.

Martin moves a few steps closer. Leslie stays rooted where he is. He looks frightened.

LESLIE
Maybe we should all go.

MARTIN
I'm not leaving, Leslie. You know that.

Martin kneels down by the big, black serpent and prays:

MARTIN
O Lord, show us the way to bring
these people to you for I have
failed to find the path....

145 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

145

Hidden among the trees, Moon spies on Leslie and Martin.

146 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

146

Later the same day. Andy comes out of the hut, soap and towel in hand. She walks away, coughing.

LESLIE
Why don't you take something for that?

She replies with a shrug, as if to say: it's nothing.

147 EXT. - THE LAKE - DAY

147

Andy gets to the edge of a small heavily-wooded lake. She is alone, tests the water with a foot where it is limpid and shallow. She takes her clothes off.

148 EXT. - THE LAKE - DAY

148

An Indian, hidden in the bushes, watches her. It is Moon.

149 EXT. - THE LAKE - DAY

149

Andy goes into the water, completely naked but for her sandals. She soaps herself and swims. When she has finished washing, she slips out of the water, lies down, naked on a towel on a fallen tree, and dries herself in the sun.

A bird takes wing. At the sound of the bird, Andy turns her head and opens her eyes. Astonished she sees an Indian coming toward her. She leaps up, but doesn't flee. She says 'no' in Niaruna, quietly, over and over.

The Indian - Moon - goes right up to her and puts his hands on her shoulders. She shivers and coughs a little. Moon breathes in her perfume. He strokes her arms, her hair, and breasts and holds her close to him. She is too emotional, too scared to fight. He presses his lips against hers. For a while, they stay without moving. Then suddenly, she pulls back, picks up her clothes and runs away.

150 INT. - THE MISSION. THE HUT - DAY

150

Andy, still under the shock, has just told Martin what happened to her.

MARTIN

Why didn't you scream?

ANDY

I don't know. I was too afraid.

MARTIN

And you were...You were naked?

ANDY

Oh, you're just like Leslie!
That's why I can't tell him,
because he'd be so angry...

(she coughs)

Yes, I was naked, and I wasn't
ashamed...Maybe it was because
he was naked too...And he was
beautiful...He touched me as if
he were blind....And he wanted
me...

Continued:

150 CONTINUED:

150

MARTIN

How do you know he wanted you?

ANDY

Martin, don't be such a child...

MARTIN

You mean, you...

ANDY

No. I didn't. But I wanted him too. How do you like that? I wanted him, I've never wanted anything so badly in my whole life...

She coughs repeatedly.

MARTIN

But how is it possible - I mean, an Indian - that he didn't assault you? They aren't romantic! They often...

She interrupts:

ANDY

Martin, I think it was Lewis Moon.

151 EXT. - THE VILLAGE - NIGHT

151

Pindi is suckling her child, then gives the baby over to Taweeda. Moon grabs Pindi by the hand and leads her into the maloca.

152 EXT. - MALOCA - NIGHT

152

Moon touches Pindi the same way he touched Andy. Pindi thinks it strange. She laughs. He kisses her, too tenderly for an Indian, and when she laughs again, he thrusts himself between her thighs and crashes to the ground on top of her.

Other Indians come running over and install themselves to watch the couple make love.

153 EXT. - THE RIVER - DAY

153

In the middle of the forest, three white men (two on the riverbed, one in their small powered boat) are panning for gold. They use simple tools with chemical products to examine the mud. Suddenly one of them spots a group of Indians who have appeared out of nowhere. He pulls his gun closer, trying to act nonchalant, and says in a low voice:

GOLD-DIGGER

Tonio, Alfredo, mira...

The two others look up and see several stonefaced Indians who belong to the Yuri-Mata tribe. The diggers try to smile, to look friendly. They offer some presents, a knife, a lighter. The Indians edge closer, look over the goldpanning equipment with curiosity - one grabs an instrument used to heat mud - the Indian burns himself and screams. One of the diggers thrusts out a bottle of liquor to pacify him - his sudden movement causes several bows to spring up, poised to fire deadly arrows. In his pain, the burned Indian overturns a sluice out of anger - a second digger overreacts, seizing a machete and making a threatening gesture. In seconds, two of the gold-diggers are pierced by arrows and spears. The third dives to the floor of the boat barely escaping an arrow, throws the engine full throttle and speeds away.

154 INT. - THE MALOCA - DAY

154

Inside the maloca, Pindi is ill and lying in her hammock. Aeore is walking round her, blowing smoke on her body. Some women wash her with some herb potion. Moon is watching. Taweeda is taking care of Pindi's baby.

In the maloca, a little further, a man is coughing and lying in another hammock. He is also struck by the illness, like Pindi. Several others are feverish.

Coughing is heard outside.

155 EXT. - THE VILLAGE - DAY

155

Five or six canoes, filled with Indians (the Yuri-Maha) arrive at the Niaruna clearing and dock. They get out of the canoes, wash themselves in a stream, straighten their headdresses and renew their paint. They climb over the bank and go toward the center of the Niaruna village.

156 EXT. - THE VILLAGE - DAY

156

Boronai, in ceremonial dress, welcomes the guests. The Yuri-Maha carry some objects - including a pistol - that they have taken from the gold-diggers. They are like war-trophies. They offer them to Boronai.

They all file past Moon. Tukanu calls him Kisu-Mu and points at the sky. The Yuri-Maha look at him with curiosity. One of the new arrivals, the most arrogant (they call him Ocelot) stops in front of Moon and seems to mock him. Moon picks up the gun and returns with it to the maloca.

All the Indians are dancing. The dance is both aggressive and friendly.

157 INT. - THE MALOCA - DAY

157

Moon hides the pistol in a bundle of wood. He looks at Pindi, still coughing.

158 EXT. - THE VILLAGE - EVENING

158

At sunset, the Indians are still sitting face to face, talking. Moon is among them. Aeore is explaining his idea of a great Indian federation.

AEORE

All the people of the forest must
be one people - Kisu-Mu has come
from the sky and has chosen me
to lead a great nation of Niaruna,
of Yuri-Maha, of Mintipo...

Hearing this, Boronai - aware he has been betrayed looks at Moon with a wide depthless stare. Moon cannot hold his gaze and turns away.

Aeore knows he has trapped Moon.

AEORE

The whites have come to take our
land. They have brought death
with them. We must kill them all
before they kill us.

The other Indians approve.

Continued:

158 CONTINUED:

158

MOON

If we kill the whites, they will
return more and more with great
forces of death. The forest
people will be exterminated.

Moon turns to Boronai, as if to ask his opinion.

BORONAI

We have come from the Spirit of
Life. White men come from the
Spirit of Death. They must be
driven away.

MOON

Boronai is right. They must be
driven away. But not killed!
It was a mistake to kill the
whites in the river!

The Yuri-Maha protest loudly. The Ocelot stands up and
challenges Moon. Moon stays calm and adds:

MOON

The whites in the mission have
done us no harm. They have
medicines against the illness.
We must go and ask for these
medicines. That is what Kisu-Mu
says.

They all look at him and keep silent.

159 EXT. - THE VILLAGE - NIGHT

159

Night. Festivities. More eating, drinking and dancing. Many
lay down on the ground, drunk. Others, in the maloca, are
coughing, sweating feverishly, quietly succumbing to the
epidemic. Moon himself smothers a cough as he sadly surveys the
village, the poverty, the weakness of the "Great Nation".

160 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

160

Leslie is in the middle of shaving when he sees the Indians
coming out of the forest and arranging themselves in a row.

Continued:

160 CONTINUED:

160

LESLIE
Praise the Lord! Martin! Andy!
They're back!

He comes toward the Niaruna, his arms wide.

LESLIE
(in Niaruna)
Welcome to the house of Jesus,
Niaruna friends

As he nears them, Leslie slows, moves more cautiously.

LESLIE
Welcome! We are your friends -
We have presents for you.

The Indians don't move. Aeore issues a warning:

AEORE
(in Niaruna)
White man - hear me! We do not
want your presents. We do not
want you on our land. You are
not welcome here!

Leslie doesn't understand but the meaning is clear. Leslie stops in his tracks.

Martin and Andy approach with gifts from the hut.

LESLIE
Andy! Don't go too near!
(indicating Aeore)
That's the one who attacked me.

Andy's eyes fall on Moon - she is slightly startled but moves several steps forward, then freezes at the sound of Aeore's voice.

AEORE
(pointing to sky)
When the moon is new again, the
white man must be gone.

MARTIN
I want to speak to my friend
Boronai.

Continued:

160 CONTINUED:

160

AEORE

This is what Boronai has said.
Gone.

Now Martin sees Moon, recognizes him and moves closer to
confront him.

MARTIN

Lewis Moon...Is it you?
Yes....You are a madman. This
is all your doing, isn't it?

Moon doesn't answer. He's looking at Andy.

MARTIN

Where do you expect to lead them,
painted as a devil?

He grasps Moon roughly by the upper arm.

MARTIN

What are you after? Answer me!

MOON

You people better get out of here.

Leslie, who was too far to hear, draws near and asks:

LESLIE

Martin, what's come over you?

Martin keeps shaking Moon and speaks to him in English:

MARTIN

You have undone my work which has
cost me my son!...

Leslie comes near Martin and tries to stop him.

LESLIE

Martin, have you lost your mind?
You know better than to touch an
Indian. And You're speaking
English!

Andy joins them.

ANDY

Leslie, don't....it's Lewis Moon.

Continued:

160 CONTINUED:

160

Leslie doesn't know what to say. Moon ignores him and asks Martin.

MOON

How much medicine can you spare?
My people are sick. They got the
flu from me.

(he looks at Andy, who
is still coughing)
They're all going to get it.

MARTIN

(looks at Andy)
Flu?

MOON

(to Andy)
Yes. I came just close enough
to get the goddam flu from you.

LESLIE

From you? When? What is he
talking about?

Hazel suddenly cries out from the distance. They all turn round. She dances out of the shack naked; face and body painted like a Niaruna, wearing the monkeyskin headdress that was given to Billy. She laughs and dances. The Indians look at her in amazement.

ANDY

Oh, Hazel....No!....

Andy runs to Hazel and gently helps her back into the hut.
Leslie turns to Moon:

LESLIE

And you have the audacity to ask
for our help? Do you really
expect us to help you undo the
Lord's work with this tribe?

MOON

You brought medicine for the
Indians, right? Well, now they
need it. Flu is not the Lord's
work.

Continued:

160 CONTINUED:

160

LESLIE

How do you know?

MOON

In other words, you're willing
to let the whole tribe die. In
Jesus's name, of course.

LESLIE

He speaks about Jesus....An
obscene drunkard..

MOON

Give me the medicine.

LESLIE

I will not!

MOON

(to Martin)

You go along with that?

MARTIN

Leslie, we cannot save their soul
for Christ if they are dead. What
he wishes to do is a Christian
act.

LESLIE

It's a selfish act! To lead these
people into darkness and
corruption!

Aeore suddenly raises his spear and shouts to the other Indians.
Moon says a few, quick words to calm him down, then says to
Martin.

MOON

Look, you people make up your
minds now. Otherwise, anything
could happen.

Leslie looks at Aeore, who frightens him. Then he says to Moon:

LESLIE

You're not going to get this
medicine for nothing. You have
to....

Continued:

160 CONTINUED:

160

MOON

(angry)

Oh shit! Shut up! These people
are dying because of us! And as
usual all you want is a bargain!
You preach love but you have no
respect for Indian ways! You buy
their dignity with beads! With
mirrors! You - oh Christ, just
hand over the medicine!

Leslie starts away - suddenly Moon grabs him and slams him
viciously in the stomach. Leslie sinks. Moon grasps him by the
shirt front and twists the collar tight upon his throat.

Martin starts forward but the Niaruna step in front of him.
Aeore raises his spear.

Andy flies out of the hut bringing the medicine box with her.

Leslie can hardly breathe. Moons drops him. He crouches on
hands and knees, coughing. The Niaruna aim their arrows at his
neck.

Martin takes the medicine box from Andy's hand and holds it out
to Moon. He starts to explain which medicines are to be used:

MARTIN

You should start with the
sulfamides and...

Moon grabs the box from his hands.

MOON

If Aeore has his way, you would've
been dead long ago. All of you.
(he turns to leave)
So long, preacher. Don't hang
around.

MARTIN

Don't expect me to leave...

Moon hurries away with the other Niaruna. Martin calls after
him.

Continued:

160 CONTINUED:

160

MARTIN

...Do you imagine you're helping these people? You're not an Indian, Moon, and you never will be!

He vanishes among the trees in seconds, just like an Indian.

161 INT. - THE HUT - NIGHT

161

Leslie is still in a rage. He is getting the radio ready to make a call.

LESLIE

I'm not going to take any chances. This man is a murderer. I knew it from the moment I saw him. I'm calling Guzman right now. He should know that this outlaw is threatening us!

He then addresses Andy, abruptly:

LESLIE

When did you meet him? What happened between you?

ANDY

Nothing.

LESLIE

How did he get this flu from you? And how could you look at him naked?

ANDY

Why is a white man's nakedness sinful to look upon, when a red man's nakedness is not?

LESLIE

It's the intent! It's the intent that counts!

MARTIN

Leslie, listen, you can't call Guzman. You can't give him a reason to invade this land.

Continued:

161 CONTINUED:

161

LESLIE

I want the Lord's work to be done,
Mart. We have come here for that.

MARTIN

The Lord's work can't be done if
the Niaruna are all dead!

LESLIE

Better dead than to live in sin!

And, as he realizes that this time he has gone too far, he adds,
while fiddling with the radio:

LESLIE

We're going to fight Moon! We're
going to win this big one for the
Lord!

Suddenly Hazel laughs.

HAZEL

Here we are telling the Indians
they are stupid, that their
superstitions are ridiculous and
at the same time...at the same
time we teach them that Jesus
walked on water....

Nobody answers her. Leslie calls on the radio.

LESLIE

Mae de Deus....Mae de Deus...This
is Niaruna Station...Over...

162 EXT. - THE VILLAGE - DAY

162

Moon distributes the medicines to the Indians and gives them
shots. He administers to Pindi, who is lying by the entrance
of the maloca, holding her baby. He caresses her hair, presses
his lips to her forehead and holds the baby's tiny hand.

But even as he does so, he realizes it is too late. The
epidemic has taken over and feverish beads of sweat are running
down his face. There is death and sickness all around him.
A moment later, he is looking up into the menacing face of
Aeore.

Continued:

162 CONTINUED:

162

AEORE

Our people never had this sickness
before you came. The medicine
of the whites does not work. You
speak their language. You're one
of them.

Moon looks around him. Aeore is right - this is Moon's doing.

163 EXT. - THE RIVER - DAY

163

An old boat goes up the river piloted by Uyuyu. Father Xantes is sitting on one of the benches in his white cassock. He rolls his rosary between his fingers. His lips murmur a prayer.

164 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

164

Father Xantes has arrived at the mission. He walks to the grave of Father Fuentes, the priest who was murdered, crosses himself and prays.

Leslie's voice says:

LESLIE

You are not welcome here.

Xantes turns, smiles wanly, begins walking.

XANTES

Why do you hate and fear us so,
when all we feel toward you is
mild astonishment? Anyway I'm
not here on a social visit.

Xantes stops at Billy's grave, begins a silent prayer.

165 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

165

They are walking toward the hut. Martin has joined them. Leslie looks at Uyuyu, who follows them, and asks Xantes:

LESLIE

Are you trying to steal Uyuyu
back?

Continued:

165 CONTINUED:

165

XANTES

Oh no. I didn't attempt to
"corrupt" his mind. He simply
brought me here....

Just before entering the hut:

XANTES

Anyway, he can't make any
distinction between you and me.
It's too subtle. He leans toward
that faith which pays him best.

166 INT. - THE MISSION. THE HUT - EVENING - RAINING

166

As they enter the hut, Xantes' eyes fall on the table where
Martin has displayed his photographs. Xantes picks up one or
two.

XANTES

Quite interesting Mr.
Quarrier...They are drinking nipi,
are they not?

MARTIN

Yes.

Xantes holds one of the pictures.

XANTES

Who knows? We might learn
something from our poor
Indians....

(listening to the rain
outside)

You know I think Christ will never
be accepted here. He comes from
a distant country, a country where
it never rains...

(looking at one of the
pictures)

Such a light people...Light as
the air...Like a leaf or a
cloud...They do not seek for a
meaning....they just are....

LESLIE

They may be light, but they still
killed Fuentes.

Continued:

166 CONTINUED:

166

XANTES
(sadly)
I know.

Xantes takes a bottle of liquor out of his bag, saying:

XANTES
Would you like a drink?

LESLIE
No.

XANTES
I hope you don't mind.

LESLIE
(coldly)
I suppose not.

XANTES
I also have my own provisions,
and I can sleep in the canoe.

MARTIN
No, no. You will be our guest.

Xantes sits down and helps himself to a drink.

167 INT. - THE HUT - NIGHT

167

The same place, at night. Heavy rain outside. Andy is getting the plates ready and opens a tin, while Hazel is lying in a corner. The three men are sitting at the table.

LESLIE
I am still not sure why you've
come.

XANTES
Did you hear about some killing
around here?

LESLIE
No. Why?

Continued:

167 CONTINUED:

167

XANTES

Guzman is telling everyone that the Niaruna have been, shall we say, "influenced", by unscrupulous elements and have massacred two people on the river.

LESLIE

Never heard of that.

XANTES

Guzman says you told him that Lewis Moon is still alive, and led the Niaruna against you.

LESLIE

This is true. But I never said they killed anyone. I don't know anything about it.

XANTES

Well, apparently they have. Guzman says they killed two white men.

MARTIN

And what is Guzman going to do?

Xantes

What do you think?

LESLIE

And how does it concern you? If Guzman exterminates the Niaruna, that would be a defeat for our mission. Isn't that exactly what you want?

XANTES

Not at the expense of an entire tribe.

Andy, who is setting the table, listens carefully.

MARTIN

I can't believe Guzman would try to annihilate them.

Xantes leans toward them.

Continued:

167 CONTINUED:

167

XANTES

Listen, the two men who got killed, they were looking for gold. Yes, there's gold on Niaruna land. Guzman forgot to tell you. Or perhaps his English is not good enough. One cannot take what's under the land without killing what's living on top of the land.

Silence. Andy puts the food dish on the table. They all take their place to say grace, each his own way.

LESLIE

Praise the Lord for sending us tonight this nice Hormel corned beef hash....

XANTES

How kind of him.

Xantes crosses himself and briefly murmurs his own prayer. Martin breaks in:

MARTIN

What do you propose?

XANTES

Well, if I were younger, I think I'd go to them...Quickly. Immediately. And tell them to go away, to disappear into the forest...That is what must be done.

MARTIN

How would I get there?

XANTES

Oh, Uyuyu knows the way. For some money, I think he would take you.

168 EXT. - THE MISSION. THE RIVER - DAY

168

Hazel, all dressed up, carrying a bag and a suitcase, is walking down toward the river. Andy, who also carries a bag, accompanies her.

Continued:

168 CONTINUED:

168

Padre Xantes is already on his boat, prepared to take the two women to Mae de Deus. Uyuyu, Martin and Leslie are waiting on the bank. Some luggage has already been carried to the boat. When she arrives, Martin clumsily kisses his wife.

MARTIN

Good-bye Hazel. I uh...well,
everything will be so much easier
in the States...Bye...

HAZEL

(indifferent)

Bye-bye....Bye-bye....

Helped by Martin and Leslie, she gets into the boat. She looks totally absent-minded and says "bye-bye" to everybody and everything. Andy embarks with her.

ANDY

(to Leslie)

I'll be back as soon as
possible....

MARTIN

Thank you, Andy...

As soon as Father Xantes starts up the motor, Uyuyu tries to get on board. But Martin pulls him back.

MARTIN

No, no, you stay here....Wait!
Stop it!....

The Indian fights to get back on the boat. Uyuyu says in Niaruna:

UYUYU

No! I want to go back to Mae de
Deus! Let me go! Misionero
viado! Filho da puta!

With difficulty, Xantes manages to push off from the riverbank. Hazel is still saying "bye-bye". Uyuyu keeps trying to pull away from Martin who says to him:

MARTIN

(in Niaruna)

No, no....You stay here....I need
you....

Continued:

168 CONTINUED:

168

Martin urges Uyuyu up the bank.

LESLIE
(to Martin)
You can't go to the Niaruna.

MARTIN
I don't see that there's a choice.
(in Niaruna to Uyuyu,
who is still reluctant)
Come! I want you to guide me to
the Niaruna village.

Martin and an angry Uyuyu walk toward the dense forest. Leslie follows them.

MARTIN
I don't know how far it is. But
if I'm not back by tomorrow noon,
you'd better leave...Good-bye,
Leslie.

He goes off into the jungle with Uyuyu.

169 EXT. - THE JUNGLE - DAY

169

Martin makes his way with difficulty into the jungle, following Uyuyu. Impatiently, Uyuyu turns round and waits for him. He looks at Martin with eyes of steel.

170 EXT. - THE JUNGLE - DAY - LATER

170

Another part of the jungle. Martin hurries after Uyuyu, having difficulty keeping pace.

MARTIN
(in Niaruna)
Uyuyu! Wait! - Where are you?
Don't go so fast!

Martin pushes on with difficulty. Then, he stumbles, bangs his knee as he falls - his glasses fly off into a pool of muddy water.

MARTIN
Uyuyu! Come here! Help me!

Continued:

170 CONTINUED:

170

Uyuyu rejoins Martin - they wade in the mud, groping for the glasses but cannot find them.

MARTIN

Never mind, never mind....let's
go...let's go!

Martin is so blind without his glasses, he grabs onto Uyuyu's shirt, clinging to his guide out of desperation, as the Indian leads him deeper into the forest.

171 EXT. - THE VILLAGE VICINITY - DAY

171

Further on. Completely lost, worn out, and half-blind, Martin does his best to follow Uyuyu. The latter seems more and more discontent. He wants to go back, but Martin insists:

MARTIN

No, no!....Go on! Go on!

The forest isn't so dark anymore. Suddenly, Martin makes out the shapes of three Indians walking next to them. He hadn't noticed them before. He says to them, in Niaruna:

MARTIN

Friend! I'm a friend to the
Niaruna! Friend!

172 EXT. - THE VILLAGE - DAY

172

They finally reach the clearing. Immediately, they are surrounded by Indians. Martin, who is looking for Moon, tries to make out their faces. He shouts in English:

MARTIN

Moon! Where are you? I want to
speak with Lewis Moon! Lewis
Moon! Do you hear me?

Moon comes out of the maloca and walks a few steps toward Martin, saying:

MOON

Forget about Lewis. My name here
is Kisu-Mu.

Continued:

172 CONTINUED:

172

MARTIN

Kisu?

MOON

What are you doing here?

Martin is breathless.

MARTIN

It is true that two men have been
killed?

MOON

Yes.

MARTIN

Anything can happen now...Guzman,
soldiers, I don't know...Get them
out of here - They have to get
out of here.

MOON

Can't you see they're dying? They
have no resistance to our
diseases.

MARTIN

Dying from what? The flu?

Martin bends down to the ground and his hands touch the body of
a sick Indian.

MOON

The medicine didn't help. Come
with me.

He leads Martin to the maloca. They enter.

173 INT. - THE MALOCA - DAY

173

Inside the maloca, many Indians are either dead or sick. Some
cry in pain. Martin suffocates from the smoke and rubs his
eyes. Moon shows him Pindi, who is dead.

MOON

Look. Her name was Pindi. I cared
for her. And she had a son I
think is mine.

Continued:

173 CONTINUED:

173

Martin looks in silence at Pindi. Moon takes him further along to a hammock where Boronai is lying, not yet dead but extremely weakened.

MOON

You remember Boronai.

MARTIN

Boronai....

Martin kneels to offer a prayer.

Moon takes Boronai's hand. The man gazes peacefully into his face.

MOON

(to Boronai, in English)

Good-bye, my friend.

Boronai doesn't move, doesn't reply. Around him, some women are working, as if nothing were the matter.

Martin tries to touch Boronai's hand, but Boronai refuses, growling.

MOON

He is already watching the preparations for his death.

MARTIN

Does he know that you caused his death?

Moon is silent.

MARTIN

If you'd stayed away from the mission, the epidemic would not have occurred.

MOON

I know that.

A sudden commotion - shouts are heard outside. Martin and Moon hurry out.

174 EXT. - THE VILLAGE - DAY

174

Aeore and a group of Indians have surrounded Uyuyu, and they are throwing stones at him. Tukanu strips him of his Hawaiian shirt. Uyuyu is thrown to the ground, stands up, tries to protect himself, to fight back. He is treated without pity. His face is bleeding.

AEORE

You came with the white man to
bring us death!

They throw him into a small hut, dazed and wounded.

Now Aeore fixes his sights on Martin. For a moment he is silent, then he points and lets out a bloodcurdling scream.

He marches at Martin and Moon, looking at them with arrogance and hostility. Other Indians fall in behind him.

At this point, a great cry comes from the women inside the maloca. Aeore and the other Indians freeze.

MARTIN

What is it?

MOON

Boronai is dead.

175 EXT. - THE VILLAGE - EVENING

175

It is dusk. Boronai's body has been put in the center of the clearing for a funeral ceremony. The Indians who are still in good health chant and dance around the corpse.

Through a long bamboo cane, Tukanu blows smoke into Aeore's nostrils. Martin is trying to watch everything.

MARTIN

I can't see - What is he doing?

MOON

He gets that stuff to go into the
world of Spirits. He will be the
new chief.

176 EXT. - THE VILLAGE - NIGHT

176

Later, at night. Fires smoke and some dancing. Martin, on the sidelines, squints for a better view of Aeore, who is in a trance. Moon draws near him and says:

MOON

His spirit has left his body...He is hunting in the jungle, in the form of a jaguar...When he comes back, they will believe whatever he says....

MARTIN

How did they accept you?

MOON

They thought I was Kisu, or sent by Kisu. Because I came from the sky, where Kisu lives.

MARTIN

Which of their gods is Kisu?

MOON

An evil spirit - Their god of Rain, the bringer of flood. Very dangerous. That's why the fear me.

MARTIN

But....when I was teaching about Jesus, they always said "Kisu, Kisu"....

MOON

Maybe they confused the two.

MARTIN

You mean....they believe you're Jesus?

MOON

Possibly.

MARTIN

And so Jesus was....Oh, Lord....So, I taught them to adore an evil spirit?

Moon just nods: yes, it's possible.

Continued:

176 CONTINUED:

176

MARTIN

May God have mercy on our
souls....

Martin looks quite miserable.

MOON

Kisu, Jesus, what's the
difference? Do you think it
matters?

MARTIN

There's only one thing I know for
sure. I am unqualified to be a
servant of the Lord.

Moon keeps silent, then asks:

MOON

Why didn't you get out of here
when I told you? What the hell
are you looking for?

MARTIN

I don't know - something more
important than my own life....But
I think you know what I mean -

Moon looks at him without replying. The reflection of the fires
lights their faces.

MARTIN

Help them, Moon. Help them.
You're the only one who can do
that.

177 INT. - THE MISSION. THE HUT - DAY

177

Day break. Leslie Huben awakes. He is alone in the hut. He
sits down, very nervous. He hears a cock outside, and jumps,
skittishly, tearing one of the pictures taken by Martin. He's
aware suddenly of a pig near the door, throws the pieces of the
picture to the pig. He pushes one of the buttons on Martin's
tape recorder, hears an Indian singing, snaps it off. He grabs
a bullhorn and runs out of the hut.

178 EXT. - THE MISSION - DAY

178

Leslie walks rapidly toward the barbed-wire fence and shouts to the forest through the bullhorn:

LESLIE
Martin! Martin!

No answer. He moves to another place and calls again:

LESLIE
Martin! Answer me!

He comes close to the barbed-wire, panicky, close enough to tear his shirt. He then turns around and sees four soldiers walking out of their sleeping-hut. They just woke up. He tells them:

LESLIE
Get the boat ready. We're
leaving.

179 EXT. - THE VILLAGE. THE RIVER - DAWN

179

Boronai's body is wrapped up in rush mat, and placed in a canoe, with a torch. Some other dead bodies are placed in other canoes. The Indians push the canoes into the river. Moon and Martin watch the ceremony.

MOON
It will drift for many moons
toward the East, toward the great
sea of life, where the sun was
born....His spirit will return
into that sky...

MARTIN
Not so different from my own
beliefs.

180 EXT. - THE RIVER - SUNRISE

180

All the canoes, carrying dead bodies, lit by the burning torches, go off into the distance. They all drift toward the rising sun.

181 EXT. - THE VILLAGE - DAY

181

Later, the same day. Aeore is still lying on the ground. He is alone. The other Indians, with Martin and Moon, come back from the river. The body of Aeore twitches. He sits up slowly, his head bent on his chest, legs and feet pointed straight ahead. He starts to speak, in a very low voice. The tribe repeats his phrases in a chant.

MARTIN

He's speaking too fast - Can you follow?

MOON

He has returned from the land of the Spirits....Here's what Spirit said: The white man has brought us death. The white man is our enemy....

MARTIN

(whispers)

Which white man? He's talking about me, isn't he?

Moon nods and continues translating:

MOON

The white man has said to us that he is our friend....that Kisu is the only God...that Kisu loves the Niaruna...None of this is truth...We will kill the enemy among us...

Aeore gets up, threateningly. Someone puts a feathered mace into his hands. He is poised to break open Martin's head. The Indians surround Quarrier. Moon steps between them and bellows in Niaruna:

MOON

Aeore tells you the truth! The white man is the enemy of the People! But this man has come as your friend, to warn us of the danger. This man doesn't want your land! He is not your enemy!

A sudden silence! Aeore looks at Moon with his usual arrogance, his mace held high. Moon says to him:

Continued:

181 CONTINUED:

181

MOON

I am Kisu-Mu. I am sent by Kisu.
You will obey me.

After a short silence, Aeore replies, looking at Moon:

AEORE

I don't believe that you are
Kisu-Mu.

He points at Moon and adds:

AEORE

This man is also a white man.
He must be killed too.

Tukanu and others loudly protest. Moon rushes into the maloca to retrieve the hidden gun and comes back an instant later. Martin sees Moon is now armed.

MOON

(to Martin)

Stay where you are.

(to Aeore, indicating
Martin)

This man is not your enemy! That
is what Kisu says!

All of a sudden Aeore gets down to his knees, in a praying position, and says to Martin:

AEORE

We have watched you speak to your
god. You speak to your god in
this way.

(he indicates Moon)

You do not speak to him in this
way. If this man is sent by Kisu,
speak to him in this way.

Martin, who hasn't clearly understood, asks Moon:

MARTIN

He wants me to pray?

MOON

He wants you to pray to me.

Continued:

181 CONTINUED:

181

MARTIN

I can't do that. I shall pray
for us.

He goes down on his knees and starts praying:

MARTIN

Almighty God, in this time of
great tribulation, I humbly ask
Thee to show mercy on the souls
of this poor Indian tribe....

Some of the Indians (Tukanu and his group) instantly go down on their knees in the praying position, and direct the prayer to Moon. Martin notices, stops praying, raises suddenly to his feet, shaking his head:

MARTIN

(to Tukanu)

No, no, you must not do
this....No, no....

Moon interrupts him by violently grabbing his arm.

MOON

Shut up! If you don't treat me
as a god, I have to shoot this
man

(indicates Aeore)
to save your life.

MARTIN

No...Don't kill him. If you can
save lives by shooting me, do
it....Do it now...

Moon gives him a kick.

MOON

For Christ's sake! Get on your
knees and tell him I am Kisu-Mu
who comes from the Great Spirit
of the Rain.

Aeore goes a little nearer to them, threateningly. Moon cocks the trigger of the gun.

MOON

Tell him! Or I'll kill him!

Continued:

181 CONTINUED:

181

Martin give up and says in Niaruna:

MARTIN

Kisu-Mu....Kisu-Mu comes....from
the Great Spirit of the Rain....

He kneels down before Moon, his hands together, as if in prayer. Most of the Niaruna do likewise, imitating Tukanu, immediately showing their devotion toward Moon.

Aeore shouts with rage and throws his mace on the ground. He wants to throw himself at Moon, but Tukanu holds him back. Moon pushes Martin out of the way, to protect him. Tukanu shouts:

TUKANU

Kisu-Mu is our friend! He has
come to the people from the sky!

MOON

(in Niaruna)

I will protect the People. I say
to my friend Aeore this is so.
I am Kisu-Mu.

Suddenly, we hear faintly the motors of a few boats. Indian sentries race into the village shouting warnings. Aeore addresses the people.

AEORE

Kisu-Mu has given his word
Kisu-Mu will kill the white man
who is our enemy.

MOON

Go into the forest! Quickly!
Now!

But they don't move. They look at him, relying on him. Aeore says to Moon:

AEORE

Why run away? You said you will
protect the people!

TUKANU

(pointing at the river)

Kill the enemy of the people!
Now Kisu-Mu. Kill the enemy!

Continued:

181 CONTINUED:

181

Three boats stop on the river near the village. They carry about twenty-five people - a hunting party, among them Guzman's friend. They disembark, armed with rifles, charge through the forest, firing guns and tossing grenades.

Two or three Indians are killed. Part of the maloca is set on fire. There is instant chaos and confusion among the Indians. Moon fires at the assailants. Martin stumbles around blindly. Moon races to the maloca to find the baby. Aeore shouts at Moon:

AEORE

You are not Kisu-Mu! You do not
kill the enemy!

Aeore runs to the forest to cover, turns back to roar savagely:

AEORE

I know now you are not Kisu-Mu!

Moon tries to get into the maloca - but the fire drives him back. The Indians are bewildered, pathetic, as they are gunned down brutally. (We see Tukanu killed, but old Taweeda scrambles into the woods with Moon's child, narrowly escaping a bullet).

Uyuyu has managed to break out of the prison hut, and dashes across the clearing. Suddenly, he notices Martin hovering behind a tree. He picks up Aeore's fallen stone-mace, darts to Martin and violently strikes him on the head. Martin sinks to his knees. Uyuyu strikes again, savagely. He then takes Martin's glasses out of his pocket, snaps them in half and tosses them on Martin's bleeding face. Moon sees Uyuyu hovering over Martin, dashes toward him - Uyuyu sees him coming, bolts into the forest.

The aggressors retreat, content with the pillage and massacre.

Moon draws near Martin and takes him in his arms. The missionary is dying.

MARTIN

Oh God...Oh God oh God
have....mercy on their
souls....welcome them to
Your....Kingdom.....Lord
my....God....

Continued:

181 CONTINUED:

181

Martin dies. Moon gently lowers his body to the ground. He stands up and looks around. He is sweating and feverish. There are corpses all around and the maloca is in ashes. The Niaruna village is totally destroyed. The few survivors have vanished into the woods. Moon swallows hard - sigh heavily. Then slowly walks toward the river, still carrying the gun.

182 EXT. - THE RIVER - DAY

182

Moments later. At the water's edge, Moon walks along the river, soon comes to the canoe where Boronai's body is lying. The canoe is stuck in the roots of a tree.

Moon frees the canoe and climbs in, pushes free with the paddle and the current pulls him along. In the background, we see the burning village.

183 EXT. - THE RIVER - DAY

183

Later. Moon has stopped somewhere on the river. Weighted down with Boronai's body, he cannot navigate the shallow water in his weakened condition. He takes hold of the canoe and tips it over. He keeps the bow and arrow.

The chief's body slowly tumbles into the river, then is swept along by the current. Moon watches it taken away, painfully. He then scrambles back into the canoe and is carried on by the river. Sick and exhausted, shivering with fever, he struggles to navigate.

Later. As he enters another section of the river, he turns and sees, through the branches of the river bend, an Indian in a black canoe: The Indian spots him and Moon then sees - it is Aeore. Moon grabs Boronai's paddle and frantically tries to get away - but he can't outdistance his pursuer. Aeore is catching up. Moon drops the paddle, snatches up the gun. Aeore closes the distance quickly. Moon yells to him, in Niaruna:

MOON

Stay away from me, Aeore!

Aeore lifts up his bow.

MOON

No! Do not do this!

Moon aims at Aeore.

Continued:

183 CONTINUED:

183

MOON

Aeore! No!

Aeore is about to shoot his arrow. Moon takes a deep breath, squeezes on the trigger. There's a sudden explosion. Aeore is blown off his feet by the force of the bullet, hit in the chest; his head smacks the gunwale, eyes staring out. His canoe drifts alongside Boronai's canoe. Moon puts a hand on the warrior's shoulder. The Indian gazes up at him, now with total belief in his eyes. He murmurs:

AEORE

O Kisu....

Moon bends over him. Aeore says to him in Niaruna:

AEORE

O Kisu, I did not believe...O
Kisu, hear me, Kisu...I...I
believe....

Aeore dies. Moon closes Aeore's eyes - he shivers violently, sweat beading up all over his face. Moon arranges Aeore's body in the canoe, so that he's facing East. He pushes the canoe out into the current, and it's carried away.

184 INT. - MAE DE DEUS. HUBEN'S ROOM - DAY

184

Leslie Huben, in Mae de Deus, is reading a letter he has just written to the Evangelical Center in the States. Andy is listening:

LESLIE

Since my last missive to "Mission Fields", the Devil has inflicted a heavy defeat on the forces of God. Satan, who never sleeps, sent an emissary, an outlaw to infect the Niaruna, and cause them to remain in blackest sin and darkness. The day came when he told us we had to leave or they would kill us. We sent the girls out and then Martin Quarrier, against my advice, went to the Niaruna village, to talk with them...

Continued:

184 CONTINUED:

184

Andy is looking at him.

...Then the local commandant closed his eyes on a bunch of murderers who led an attack against the village. They drove away the Indians and burned their village. There, the body of poor Martin Quarrier, who died as a Christian martyr, was discovered. No further mission work will be permitted in this territory. In the name of progress, this land we have been trying so hard to bring to the Lord, is now falling into the hands of people whose greed, ignorance and violence are clearly linked to the world of Satan. Hazel Quarrier will soon return home. The undersigned certainly hopes there is some better news for the next missive. To Jesus be the glory.

He stops reading and looks up. Andy has already left the room. Her place is empty.

185 INT. - MAE DE DEUS. CORRIDOR - DAY

185

Andy heads to the staircase passing Hazel's open door. Hazel appears and says to her:

HAZEL

Andy, please, come and have a cup of tea with me...

(noticing Andy's
hesitation)

I feel so lonely now...

Andy enters.

186 INT. - QUARRIER'S ROOM - DAY

186

Hazel starts fixing some tea and says to Andy:

Continued:

186 CONTINUED:

186

HAZEL

I don't want to go home. I've decided to stay.

ANDY

Hazel, there's nothing for you here.

HAZEL

Carrying the word of God you call that nothing?....

Andy looks at her.

HAZEL

My husband died bravely....And my beautiful little Billy, whose death might one day be, as Leslie says, the instrument of the savages'salvation I must carry on their work ... I must....

ANDY

You have every right to be proud of Martin and Billy, but....

HAZEL

(suddenly)

Were you jealous of me?

(Andy looks surprised)

Because you were barren before God?

ANDY

Hazel, please.....

HAZEL

And you were content, that Martin lusted after you, I suppose?

ANDY

(flashing)

Hazel, why do you say such things?

HAZEL

You deny being aware that he lusted after you?

Continued:

186 CONTINUED:

186

Andy glares at Hazel.

ANDY

I don't like you, I don't like
you when you're like this.

HAZEL

No, of course not, how could you
oh I'm so upset these days, so
strange...

ANDY

(firmly)

Hazel, I wish you'd go home. But
if you do stay, I'm not going
along with your game anymore, do
you hear me? Do you hear me,
Hazel?

HAZEL

I'll talk to your husband! He
is a good God-fearing man! You
don't honor him as you should!

ANDY

Perhaps I don't.

HAZEL

What if I tell him what you just
said?

Without answering, Andy walks out. Hazel tries vainly to keep
her inside.

HAZEL

No! Andy! Don't go. You
promised you'd have tea with me!

Andy is gone. Hazel drops down in her seat, smiles vacantly,
and pours tea for two.

187 EXT. - MAE DE DEUS - DAY

187

Andy walks alone, at a certain distance from the center of the
city. She suddenly hears:

WOLF

Hi...

Continued:

187 CONTINUED:

187

She turns and sees Wolf, who has followed her.

WOLF

I just wanted to say "hi". I
ain't talked to an American for
a long time.

ANDY

Hi....

WOLF

Can I buy you a drink? You look
like you could use one.

She hesitates, then she starts walking toward the city.

WOLF

Did you see him?

ANDY

Who?

WOLF

Lewis. Lewis Moon.

ANDY

Lewis Moon.

WOLF

Yes. Did you see him?

ANDY

Yes. I saw him.

WOLF

Hey, you feature that? Like
didn't I tell you all along he
wasn't dead.

(he taps one of his
pockets)

He don't know it, but he's got
mucho bucks now. Half of what
I made is his. Me and Moon, we
still are partners.

Andy sits down somewhere. Wolf sits next to her and asks:

Continued:

187 CONTINUED:

187

WOLF

I guess he sent no messages, did he?

ANDY

No.

WOLF

I mean like "tell the old Wolf hello." Something like that.

ANDY

No. No message. There wasn't time for messages.

(a pause)

Tell me about him.

WOLF

That's what everybody says: tell me about him!

A pause. Then Wolf puts his hand on hers, without thinking. But he feels uneasy and takes his hand away. She says to him:

ANDY

Are you afraid of me?

He puts his hand back, more uneasy still. Andy transfers Moon's necklace, which she was holding, to her other hand.

ANDY

You think he'll be back?

WOLF

You thought maybe you could change him?

She gives no answer.

WOLF

Don't even try it. Forget about him. I'm gonna tell you something. I admired that maniac. I really did. I don't know why, but I loved him. I mean, hey, I'm no faggot or nothing, but I really loved him, but if I saw him coming down this street now, I'd kill the bastard.

Continued:

187 CONTINUED:

187

She says after a pause:

ANDY
I hate him too.

188 EXT. - THE RIVER - DAY

188

A canoe moves along a river in the middle of the jungle. We don't see anybody in the canoe; it looks empty. The canoe comes to an abrupt stop against a sunken tree....

Inside the canoe, Moon is lying semi-conscious. Weakly, he opens his eyes, but the sun falls directly on his face. He looks determined, hair matted with perspiration, slightly delirious.

He painfully sits up and looks around him, at the broad river, the forest, the sky. He is alone. He puts his paddle against the rock and pushes the canoe away, collapses inside it again.

189 EXT. - THE RIVER BANK - DAY

189

The canoe washes up against the river's edge. After long moments, Moon stumbles out of the small boat and crawls to the shore. He is panting, exhausted. He collapses lifelessly on his stomach.

190 EXT. - THE FOREST - DAY

190

Later. Moon stirs - the late afternoon sun is hidden. He breaks into cold sweats, shivering.

191 EXT. - THE FOREST - EVENING

191

With all his strength, he manages to make a fire by rubbing two sticks together. It takes quite an effort.

192 EXT. - THE FOREST - NIGHT

192

Later at night. Huddling near the fire in a fetal position, he tries to sleep.

193 EXT. - THE FOREST - DAWN

193

The first light of morning falls on Moon's face. Slowly, gradually, he comes to awakeness. His eyes open - he looks drawn and weakened but obviously much improved.

He sits up and stokes the embers of the fire - he looks around, hears birds chirping, other jungle sounds. His gaze is deep, thoughtful, reflective. Tears well up in his eyes - and he weeps - quietly. Weeps for Aeore, for Boronai, for Quarrier, for Pindi, for his lost child, for his parents, and for himself.

Moon looks about again - sunlight dances off the river - he rises up, as does the sun. In the shallow water, he catches little fish with his hands; brings them to the fire - and grills them on the embers.

He fashions paint from the plants of the forest, and draws the marks Boronai designed for him on his face. Then he paints the Sun on his chest - kneels in the Indian prayer position - facing East - and silently prays as an Indian.

Moon stands - a light wind stirs - the area has taken on a magical aura. Facing East - the Sun seems to infuse him with new vigor - the Source of Life.

The aroma of grilled fish fills his nostrils. He takes a fish from the embers and begins to eat.

He kneels at the water's edge - reflections sparkle on his features.

Suddenly, he sees the silhouettes of two Indians, who have come out of the shelter of the forest. They are looking at him from far. They don't move.

Moon looks back - and then continues to eat.

THE END