

The Parade

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THE PARADE

MAIN CHARACTERS:

GIRL, age 10 (voice-over lines only)

BIG MA, older woman who cares for GIRL and others (no dialogue)

EL HORMINGO, rebel leader

SENOR KARINE, a male member of EL HORMINGO's resistance (no dialogue)

CROWD CHARACTERS:

A couple other girls who live in house with BIG MA

Random 'scary' military guys

Other parade bystanders

Other members of SENOR KARINE'S group

SETTINGS

Interior house where GIRL lives with BIG MA and other girls

Exterior street where Parade takes place

GIRL, about age 10, is cutting up a lace dress and fashioning it into a bouquet of 'paper' flowers. The dress is too sexy for a girl her age. It is stained and smudged with lipstick and other unidentifiable substances. On GIRL'S fingernails are the last remaining flecks of long-ago nail polish, and a fading rash on her wrists indicates ligatures.

V.O. GIRL

**“TODAY WE WILL SEE A PARADE. WE’VE NEVER SEEN A PARADE
BEFORE.”**

During this and following V.O, we see shots of the cluttered & meager apartment. Girls' clothing and items only. It's clear only girls live here, mostly young girls.

We see a Spanish-style shrine, to a person named EL HORMINGO. Near-melted candles, small dolls, hurricane candles, and other items. Blue is a recurring color. In the center of the shrine a poorly copied flier. It is a benevolent figure, a rebel. Though

the flier is in black-and-white, someone has used a blue crayon to color the bandana around his neck.

V.O. GIRL

“AT THE PARADE, WE WILL SEE EL HORMINGO. WE LITTLE SISTERS HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE. EL HORMINGO’S FRIENDS CAME INTO THE BAD HOUSE, BUT HE WAS NOT WITH THEM.”

GIRL’S half-painted fingers cut apart a pair of blue panties, and use the lace bands to tie a bow around the flower bouquet. We see other shots of the home, slightly open doors revealing other similarly-aged girls brushing teeth, arranging each other’s hair, etc.

V.O. GIRL

“EL HORMINGO’S FRIENDS BROUGHT US HERE TO LIVE WITH BIG MA. BIG MA COOKS FOR US. SHE MAKES US OMELETS.”

GIRL has finished her bouquet. She puts her feet into ratty sandals and prepares to leave the house, passing BIG MA.

V.O. GIRL

“TODAY, SHE IS MAKING LEMONADE FOR THE PARADE.”

BIG MA is pouring lemonade into an array of ragged ‘cups’ – some are sawn-off cans, some are obviously re-used plastic cocktail cups, some are empty candle holders, and

other trashlike containers. BIG MA puts some cups filled with lemonade into a dilapidated milk-bottle carrier, and gives it to GIRL as she leaves the house.

Outside, GIRL passes a billboard on her way to the Parade. It is an image of scary-looking government men, obviously a propaganda poster. The title is "GREAT AGAIN" It has been vandalized in blue spraypaint with "EL HORMINGO" and some pictographs of ants.

V.O, GIRL

"BIG MA SAYS EL HOMINGO WILL SEND A TEACHER SOON, TO TEACH US LITTLE SISTERS TO READ. BIG MA WILL LEARN TO READ, TOO."

GIRL has reached the street where the Parade will take place. A crowd of people have gathered, all wearing scraps of blue cloth or bandanas, or carrying streamers of blue. Men with machine guns sit on the porches of the houses lining the street. Blue scraps of bandana are tied to the muzzles of their guns. GIRL stops at one of these porches, and hands out lemonade. One of the rough-looking men tousles her hair.

V.O, GIRL

"SENOR KARINE IS ONE OF EL HOMINGO'S FRIENDS. HE IS ONE OF THE FRIENDS WHO CAME TO THE BAD HOUSE AND TOOK US AWAY. SENOR

KARINE WANTED TO CARRY ME, BUT I TOLD HIM I COULD WALK BY MYSELF BECAUSE EL HOMINGO’S FRIENDS HAD OTHER THINGS TO CARRY.”

GIRL takes her place at the roadside, weaving through other bystanders. She reaches the front of the crowd and pokes her head into the road. She can see the Parade coming in the distance, cresting the hill. Blue banners wave. We can hear drums and other music.

V.O, GIRL

“WHEN I SEE EL HORMINGO, I WILL GIVE HIM THESE FLOWERS THAT I MADE. I HOPE HE WILL FEEL HAPPY TO SEE ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME TO SEE HIM.”

We spend several shots investigating other members of the crowd. Weathered faces, bedraggled-looking people, etc. An oppressed people experiencing a rare moment of hope, and joyful anticipation. More propaganda billboards in BG, if possible. As we’re seeing this, we suddenly see KARINE and his friends stand up in the background. They have been viewing from the elevated porches, so they have a better vantage of the approaching Parade. They crush out their cigarettes and stare intently into the distance. GIRL notices this briefly, then turns her attention back to the Parade.

V.O, GIRL

“WE HAVE HEARD THAT HE IS VERY STRONG, BUT HIS HEIGHT IS VERY SHORT. AND THAT HE HAS MANY ARMS THAT SPREAD IN ALL DIRECTIONS. THIS IS WHY HE IS CALLED EL HORMINGO.”

GIRL almost drops her bouquet as a flurry of machine guns rush past her shoulders.

KARINE and his group are pushing to the front of the crowd. GIRL peeks through the black metal, as the Parade arrives.

A mob of black-masked men, identifiable as the propaganda men from the billboards, part to reveal EL HORMINGO. He is strapped to a modified wheelchair with blue bandanas. The wheelchair has been outfitted with cruel-looking, torturous things that are being inflicted in EL HORMINGO's body. Electric cables snake from under his fingernails, his bloodied eyes are held open by claws, IV tubes of greenish liquid flow under his garments. EL HORMINGO writhes in his chair.

EL HORMINGO (SCREAMS)

“KILL ME. KILL ME. PLEASE, KILL ME.”

GIRL'S eyes focus on EL HORMINGO. The now-blurred masked men behind him drop their banners of blue, kick the wheelchair forward toward the crowd, and begin to leave the way they came. We see a stream of urine soaking a pile of blue banners at EL HORMINGO's feet. As EL HORMINGO writhes and screams, GIRL'S world becomes muffled and defocused. There is commotion between KARINE's group surrounding her.

Suddenly, she feels herself lifted. It is KARINE, his face twisted and full of rage. He carried GIRL into the center of the square, and puts her down in front of EL HORMINGO. She freezes, looking at him. Everything around her is a blur. His eyes roll in his head, in agony. She freezes, staring, until KARINE nudges her forward. He touches her hand, the one holding the bouquet. She steps forward, a tiny step, and lays the bouquet in his lap. He looks at her, ever so briefly, bloody tears running down his cheeks. Then the torture devices again spark to life, and his refrain begins again.

EL HORMINGO (SCREAMS)

“GOD, GOD! PLEASE KILL ME.”

The film returns to regular speed as KARINE turns her around and hurries her back into the crowd, where BIG MA takes her hand and rushes her away. GIRL takes one look back over her shoulder, where she sees KARINE and his group of men kneeling before EL HORMINGO, in a reverent semi-circle, with their guns in their laps. She looks at her feet as BIG MA hurries her back home, and sees the cups of spilled lemonade. Ants are already gathering around the sweet, spilled liquid.

V.O. GIRL

“I DON’T LIKE PARADES. I DON’T THINK EL HORMINGO IS A VERY GOOD NAME, EITHER. HE WASN’T SO SHORT IN HEIGHT AS I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE, AND HE HAD ONLY TWO ARMS AND TWO LEGS, LIKE A MAN.”

END