

1- EXT. MORNING - IN A CANE FIELD

Florentin, a man with gray hair, in his 70s, poorly dressed, wears a straw hat. He is cutting cane, in the sun, alone. He cuts for a while, wipes his forehead, stops then, sits under a tree, takes something to drink and to eat in a little bag.

He eats his meal, then he lies on his back with his cutlass near him, his hat over his face, and he has a siesta.

2 - INT.MORNING - INSIDE FLORENTIN'S HUT

There is not much light, this is a wooden hut with two rooms, a living-room that is also the chamber, and a kitchen. No windows, only shutters, which are almost completely closed.

On the wooden walls there are a lot of old pictures coming from magazines: Grace and Rainier wedding, Jacky Kennedy at the funeral of her husband, Elvis Presley on stage, and so on.

And, the portrait of a very old and severe woman in a frame. No drapes. No ceiling, you can see the framework and the rusty sheets.

There is a very old woman in a bed, the same as in the frame, leaning on her back, covered with a white blanket and having a rosary in her clasped hands. She seems very sick.

FLORENTIN'S MOTHER

(in Creole, speaking with a very angry
and loud voice contrasting with her seaming weakness)

Florentin come here to help me,
come here to take care of your dying mother.

(suddenly changing for a dying voice)

I am thirsty, thirsty.

She tries to get up and to take a whip near her bed but she can't. At this moment Florentin enters. He takes a look on the whip to see where it is and, not afraid, go to the poor kitchen where there is only a sink with a mirror in front of it, and some dishes.

Florentin takes a glass. He opens the tap that makes a bad noise. Florentin puts some water in the Pyrex glass and brings it to his mother.

FLORENTIN'S MOTHER

(in Creole, again speaking in a loud and angry voice)

This water is hot, Jesus what an idiot.

You destroyed my life, you, bastard.

(again changing for a dying voice)

And now you are killing me.

At this time she tries to drink but, as she is lying, she chokes, spits the water, begins to suffocate and dies after a long moan.

Florentin has a sudden expression of happiness on his face, which quickly disappears. He closes his mother's eyes and goes outside.

3 - EXT AFTERNOON - OUTSIDE FLORENTIN'S HUT

Florentin is sitting outside, in the door frame of his hut. There is the rosary near him on the threshold. You can see, turning around, not far but cautious, a starved Creole dog.

Florentin is well dressed, with a black suit, a tie, a white shirt and a black hat. He doesn't do anything, just sits. The dog is coming closer and closer to him, making circles.

As Florentin doesn't move, the dog comes and sits at his side, happy, tail wagging. After a while, Florentin stands up abruptly and the dog, afraid, jumps and goes further. Florentin enters the hut. The dog waits. Florentin comes back with something to eat that he throws to the dog.

4 - EXT SUNSET - OUTSIDE THE HUT

Florentin is coming back from the cane field with his cutlass in his hand. He puts the machete in a little storeroom near the hut. The dog is there, lying first then standing up and coming towards Florentin, wagging his tail.

Florentin enters the house while the dog is waiting and comes back with something to eat in a calabash and another calabash of water. He puts that in front of the main door. Yxor comes and begins first to drink and then to eat.

At the end of the dog's meal, Florentin passes behind it, takes a rope in his pocket and ties it around the dog's neck. The dog jumps but finally accepts the rope.

Florentin ties the dog to a stake near his hut. The sun has almost disappeared. Night is coming. Florentin enters the hut and closes the shutters.

5 - INT.DAWN - INSIDE FLORENTIN'S HUT

Florentin is in his poor couch he has no cover. The sun of the dawn is passing through the interstices of the shutters and under the door. He wakes up, opens the door and checks that the dog is still there. Then he goes to the kitchen, washes his face in the sink and looks at himself in the little mirror on the wall, face in peace.

Florentin sits on a chair and seems to think deeply. He looks around him and see upon his couch, on the wooden wall, an advertising for a furniture's shop that is called "Yxor". On the picture there is a beautiful buffet full of wonderful dishes.

FLORENTIN
(speaking alone, enthusiastic)
Yxor ! That (insisting on that word)
is a nice name for a dog !

Without changing his clothes, he takes his cutlass placed near the door frame and goes outside. He closes the door and goes to Yxor. Yxor is there, at its skate, sitting, tail wagging. Florentin checks with a glance that there is still water in the calabash near the dog. Then he caresses briefly the head of the dog, unties its rope and goes along the track with the dog frolicking, in the sun rising, a smile in his face.

6 - EXT SUNSET - ON THE ROAD

Florentin, poorly dressed, with a stained tee-shirt, has Yxor at the end of a rope and a cutlass in the other hand. All around, we can see cane fields. The dog is walking on the side where the cars are passing. A car comes very close to the dog.

FLORENTIN
(in Creole)
Yxor, stop frolicking, stop,
stay near me, quiet.

And he strikes Yxor gently with the flat of the blade of the machete; the dog shouts briefly and stops frolicking.

FLORENTIN
(in Creole)
Yxor you have to be careful,
it is very dangerous with all that cars,
I can't put you in the other side,
I am left handed, I can't.

A big car goes by, honks loudly and brushes against Yxor that jumps in the legs of its master. Florentin is unbalanced and they fall in the ditch.

FLORENTIN
(in Creole, with the voice
of his mother in lip sync,
angry and loud and terrible)
I said you to stop.
You have to be an intelligent boy.
I try to educate you and
you can't understand anything.
You have to take experience of your mistakes.

They went back to the road and they are walking. The sun is going down slowly. Yxor is quiet. Cars are passing.

FLORENTIN
(in Creole)
You are a good dog.
I am very proud of you.
But if you frolic again
I will have to punish you again.
So be careful and don't disappoint me.

Suddenly a huge truck arrives and at the same time Yxor sees a bird and wants to catch it, so that Yxor goes on the road and the truck is very close to smash it. Florentin pulls violently on the leash and saves Yxor.

FLORENTIN
(in Creole, with the voice of his mother
in lip sync, angry and loud and terrible)
I just told you to stop frolicking.
You are terrible. I can't trust you.
You are a bad, bad boy.
Like your father.
Ha Jesus, men, men, men.
If you continue like that,
you will be a bad man.
I have to punish, I have to punish.

And he strikes again the dog but very violently at this time. Yxor begins to scream very loudly for a few seconds and then collapses.

Florentin falls on his knees and begin to cry, putting alternatively his head in his hands and then rising hands towards the sky.

FLORENTIN
(in Creole, crying)
Oh my God, my God.
Mother it's your fault, look at
what you made me done.
You are a cruel, a bad mother.

Then he takes the dog, carefully, in his arms and stands up in a hurry.

7 - EXT SUNSET - ON THE TRACK TO FLORENTIN'S HUT

Florentin begins to run at full speed.

FLORENTIN
(in Creole, oppressed and crying and running)
Oh Yxor, Yxor,
why didn't you obey,
what did you do,
it's your fault, y
ou didn't have to do that,
I had to punish you.

Still crying and running, he turns from the main road in a limestone track in the fields where farm hands are cutting cane. They are three or four.

THE FARM HANDS

(in Creole, laughing))

Do you see that !

This mentally retarded Florentin is running !

With that stupid and ugly dog in his arms !

Where are you going Florentin ?

Still running after your brain ?

FLORENTIN

(he stops briefly and begins to speak,
in Creole, with an angry and newly male voice)

Stop to laugh at me you bastards,

I know everything of you all,

Firmin your bitch daughter,

Eusèbe your son in prison,

and you Eliezor do you want

that I say what I know about you mother ?

Do you want, do you want ?

The farm hands, surprised and worried, suddenly bob down and turn back to cut the cane. Florentin starts to run again.

The sun is still going down, behind the hut, at the end of the track.

8 - INT SUNSET - INSIDE FLORENTIN'S HUT

The same hut. The whip has disappeared. On the wall, the frame with the mother's photo is turned against the wall. The shutters are closed. The mother's bed is well done.

At the foot of the mother's bed there is Florentin's couch made of many accumulated clothes, fabrics and linens, old and dirty, without a pillow neither a cover.

Florentin enters with his dog in the arms and lays it down carefully on his couch. Yxor is inert. Florentin opens the shutters, goes to the kitchen, takes a plastic bowl.

We can see Florentin's face, devastated, in the mirror in front of the sink. Florentin fills the bowl at the tap of the sink, that still makes a bad noise, catches a nice rag, and goes back to the room.

The night is gradually coming. Yxor is lying on the couch, all his body flat, breathing weakly, his eyes shut. Arriving near him Florentin falls on his knees. Awkwardly, he begins to wash the little body with the wet rag, slowly, softly, smoothly. Yxor moans weakly from time to time. Florentin puts the bowl of water near the couch.

FLORENTIN
(in Creole)
My dog, my little dog
my so little dog.
But it's not my fault.
What a pity what a pity.

Night is near complete now. Florentin stands up, goes to the oil lamp. He fills it with oil and turns it on.

9 - INT NIGHT - INSIDE FLORENTIN'S HUT

The full moon is high in the sky. Florentin is sitting near his dog with a hand on his body. Then he takes some water with the rag and pours some drops in Yxor's mouth.

FLORENTIN
(in Creole)
What have I done,
you are just a dog,
a poor little dog.

The moon is going up in the sky. At a moment Yxor open his eyes and has a beautiful glance for Florentin, full of comprehension and love. Florentin cries. Then the dog shuts his eyes and stays inert.

Florentin puts in head in his callused hands and goes on crying. Then he stands up and goes to his mother's bed were he lays down, on the cover, on his back, taking the rosary in his clasped hands. He appears in the same way as his mother appeared at the beginning on her deathbed.

10 - INT DAWN - INSIDE FLORENTIN'S HUT

Florentin is still lying on the bed. The oil lamp is still burning in the light of dawn. Suddenly we can hear Yxor lapping in his bowl. Florentin doesn't understand at once.

Then joy illuminates his face. Yxor goes back to its couch and lays down as normal, with its head on its front legs. Florentin stands up and goes to sit near the dog. He bends on the dog with his arms around.

FLORENTIN
(in Creole)
My Yxor, my Yxor,
nothing will ever happen
to you again. I will take care of you.

Yxor looks at him. Florentin, caresses its head with respect. They stay like that during a while, happy together.

Then Florentin stands up, turns off the oil lamp, has a long and full of love glance for his dog, goes out of the hut and sits on the frame of the door, the mass of his body occupying all the space of the door.

The sun rises, splendidly.