

NUN

m/w-D

YOU SETBACK ME  
YOU DISGUST ME

82.

52 CONTINUED:

52

PARDOUX  
(nodding)  
The nurse.

CUT TO:

53 EXT. THE BATTLEFIELD - DAY

53

T.J. -- still in shock -- slumps against an abandoned jeep. CAMERA PULLS BACK to REVEAL the BATTLEFIELD littered with flaming junk, machines and men. Oily BLACK SMOKE crawls through the wreckage.

KURUBU WARRIORS pick their way through the bodies of KYEMBA'S TROOPS -- looting weapons and salvaging equipment. A SHOT RINGS OUT as they execute a SURVIVOR.

T.J. realizes there is no escape. Oddly enough, the KURUBU seem to avoid coming near him. T.J. sits very still, too tired to move.

RUTH walks through the thick smoke, checking for survivors. She sees T.J. and stops. A look of great relief relaxes her features. She goes to him.

T.J.

You told them.

START

RUTH

Yes.

T.J.

You told him.

T.J. closes his eyes tightly. Slowly, rhythmically -- with mounting intensity -- he BANGS his head over and over against the side of the jeep. Tears course down his blackened face. RUTH winces as he draws blood, but makes no move to stop him.

T.J. (Cont'd)

I could have just pulled the trigger myself.

T.J. stops and opens his eyes. He glares at RUTH with a frightening intensity.

T.J. (Cont'd)

I was stupid to trust you.

RUTH

(looking away)

You don't know me well enough to trust me. Did you honestly expect me not to warn them?

(more)

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

RUTH (Cont.)

Did you honestly expect me to sit and watch while you came in and shot them down like dogs?

T.J.

(In agony)

Jesus Christ. Virrelli and Jeffords are dead!

~~RUTH drops to her knees to look him straight in the eye.~~

RUTH

So fucking what? Guys like you have been coming in here for 200 years and killing Africans like there's no tomorrow and nobody bats an eye.

~~What did you expect? Pay a nickel, shoot some niggers in a carnival and walk away with a stuffed bunny?~~

Look around you, T.J. This is war! Didn't you notice? We're sitting in a pile of dead black people. Two white skins get some bullet holes in them and you fall apart!

~~T.J. SLAPS RUTH with such force it knocks her back on her haunches. Before she can move away he grabs her and puts his face to within inches of his own.~~

T.J.

What makes you such a goddam expert?

~~RUTH hisses back at him through bloody teeth.~~

RUTH

(We're all experts out here, soldier.) ↓

~~RUTH rips her arm away and starts to get up. She wipes the blood from her mouth with her hand.~~

RUTH

T.J., I came out here a long time ago, when I was nineteen. With a group of nuns. I was the youngest. We were posted to a small infirmary not far from here. We treated the Kurubu and the Mabandi.

(she takes a breath)

When Lumbala took over the country, everything went crazy. →

(more)

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

RUTH (Cont'd)

The army broke up. Soldiers were looting and murdering. We were very worried.

T.J.

~~(Singsongous)~~You were a nun?

RUTH

I was a nun. I am a nun.~~(beat)~~

I don't know anymore. ↓

She pauses, then sits on the ground in front of him.

RUTH ~~(Cont'd)~~

When they came, the other nuns forced me to hide in a hole under the floor where we kept drugs that needed cooling. It took all afternoon and all night for those soldiers to finish doing what they did to my sisters. And I heard it all. It happened right above me.

~~(very quietly)~~

They raped them. And then they raped them again with bayonets.

~~(she cannot continue)~~

You don't know anything, T.J. Your friends are lucky. They died real nice.

T.J.

~~(he finally sinks in)~~A goddam nun.

RUTH

Jaunde' found me down there. Lying in my own filth. I hadn't moved in four days. He thought I had been butchered too, so much blood had dripped down.

~~(her eyes are hard)~~

When Jaunde' dragged me out and slammed the lid behind me, God stayed down there in that hole. I never gave a damn if he came out or not.

T.J.

But you stayed. What the hell are you still doing here?

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

RUTH  
~~(shakes her head)~~  
 I don't know.

T.J.  
~~(explodes)~~  
 I do. You want to be a martyr and now you're getting your chance. And you hate yourself for it. You hate God. You hate everything. You think you can fuck and swear and lie and hate and still be a nun. Well, you can't! That's not what it's about!  
~~(he bites off the words)~~  
 The only reason you help these people is 'cause it makes you feel like a nun! You're just another preachy bitch, jerking off on charity!

RUTH  
~~(sighs)~~  
 That's not true. I'm just tired of all the killing.

RUTH looks away.

JAUNDE

END

stands alone along the wall of the ancient RUINS. Satisfied that he's been seen, he slowly turns and disappears below the line of the terrace.

T.J.

pulls himself to his feet; grabs his SHOTGUN and rams a SHELL into the breach.

T.J.  
 Well, I'm not!  
~~(at the top of his voice)~~  
JAUNDE!

T.J. tears off over the battlefield in JAUNDE'S direction, yelling JAUNDE'S NAME over and over.

RUTH  
~~(following)~~  
 T.J.! NO!

CUT TO:

54 EXT. THE RUINS - DAY

54

T.J. crashes through a thicket and scrambles up into the ruins. He bursts over the crest of a fallen wall and skids down the opposite side into a small courtyard. He stops dead.

(CONTINUED)