

The African Idol.

By

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. SKIES - NIGHT

View of planet earth, the African continent.

View of a fall from the clouded skies down to the plains.

Words written A LONG TIME (BC) BEFORE CHAKA, OR IF YOU
LIKE A LONG TIME (BCE) BEFORE COLONIALISM AND EUROPEANS.

Then into a cave.

Darkness all around, sound of scratching. Then a flame develops. Shamani (50) prepares a fire. Around him are two BOYS (5) and (6) and his WIFE (21). They are dressed in animal skins.

SHAMANI

In the beginning, there was darkness, like the darkness all around us.

The sound of a roaring, the little boys huddle closer.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

Ah, the Roaring 2nd century BCE.
Until, fire was discovered, just like the fire before us.

The fire crackles, Shamani lays a hand on his wife's shoulder.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

On the second day, we learnt agriculture, separating the earth with our stone tools.

Shamani raise some dust and shows his family.

Shamani makes a horn symbol.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

The stone age rocked, we were so wild.

2 EXT. FIELDS - DAY - FLASHBACK

Dozen or so MEN and WOMEN in the fields digging.

Shamani, stands up and rubs the sweat from his forehead, he looks up.

The sun shines.

3 EXT. CAVE - NIGHT - REAL TIME

SHAMANI

And on the third day, we created
vegetables, plentiful to eat,
like the cobs in the fire.

The wife turns the cobs in the fire.

4 EXT. FIELDS - DAY - FLASHBACK

The clan harvest maize, they see a baboon in the field and
chase it away.

5 EXT. CAVE - NIGHT - REAL TIME

SHAMANI

Those baboons and crows were a
problem, a pain on our bare rear
ends until the scare crow was
invented by Tekila in the fifth
month on the lunar cycle.

BOY

What happened on the fourth day?

SHAMANI

I thought you would never ask.
Hurunter created arms.

Boy number two raises his arms.

BOY #2

Arms like mine?

Shamani puts his hand on Boy #2 head.

He shakes his head and chuckles.

SHAMANI

No, no, arms like the moon and
the lightning and the shooting
stars. The bow and the arrow, to
hunt.

Shamani raises his bow, and pulls the strings.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

Then on the fifth day, the men
went hunting, the birds of the
sky, the fish of the water and
even the sprinting gazelles of
the plains.

6 EXT. FORESTS - DAY - FLASHBACK

MEN killing buck.

A man piercing a fish in the water.

A bird getting trapped in a cage.

7 EXT. CAVE - NIGHT - REAL TIME

Shamani breaks a piece of meat and hands it to his sons.

SHAMANI

Plain and simple, the animals
were no match for us after that.
Men, kings of the jungle, and our
wives the queens.

A lion roars.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

Well... most of them. Then on the
sixth day, I created a man.

BOY

Really?

SHAMANI

Not a real man.

Shamani reaches into his bag. He takes out a wooden man.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

Out of wood. I created a wife for
the idol from what was left of
the piece of the stump.

The wife takes out the cobs and hands them to the family.

SHAMANI

Then I said, I am your god. I
told him to stand by me. So I put
him next to my sleeping place in
the cave. I gave him a son from
what was left on the wood, and
these three are one.

BOY #2

Wow!

SHAMANI

Then on the seventh day, we
rested for we had planted and
hunted and could relax.

Shamani winks to his wife.

(CONTINUED)

WIFE

Speaking of which, to bed all of
you.

The wife stands up. The boys stay with arms folded.

BOY

But...

The wife smacks his bottom.

WIFE

No buts, sleep.

SHAMANI

Tomorrow is another day, the
story will be continued.

The wife and kids go to the inner cave.

Shamani stands up and leaves the cave.

8 EXT. CAVE EXTERIOR - NIGHT

Shamani gazes at the night sky.

The night sky.

9 EXT. FORESTS - DAY - FLASHBACK

Shamani walks with his little boys. They tread a dusty
path with forests all around.

A baboon crosses their path.

One of the boys hesitates but Shamani pushes him forward.

BOY

Father, continue the History
lesson.

SHAMANI

I can't remember where I left
off.

Boy #2 tugs at his father's loin skin.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

Alright, after the seventh day...

10 EXT. PLAINS - DAY - FLASHBACK

A younger Shamani walks through the tall brown grass, he whistles, he has an antelope strapped to his back.

He passes caves greeting his NEIGHBOURS.

Shamani arrives at his cave, goes inside.

SHAMANI (OS)

What? When? Who? How could they?

Shamani comes out, his hands on his waist.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

They'll be sorry.

Shamani goes behind the cave.

11 EXT. GARDENS - DAY - FLASHBACK

They are many weeds and crops. Even marijuana leaves are there.

Shamani looks around at the plants. His eyes widen as he sees what he is looking for.

A red fruit dangles from a tree, Shamani comes and takes it.

He leaves the gardens.

12 INT. CAVE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Shamani gets in, his wife is sitting with a giant belly and folded hands.

Shamani begins to cut up the fruit, he adds some powders, all the while clicking his tongue in derision.

SHAMANI

This will be the last time this ever happens.

13 EXT. FORESTS - DAY - REAL TIME

Shamani and his two boys walk by a river.

BOY

What happened next?

SHAMANI

Well...

(CONTINUED)

A shout, then a MAN (31) swings on a rope from one branch to another.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

Look at this clown, learn from his mistakes, marijuana is bad for you, you'll go bananas.

The swinging man crashes into a banana tree.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

Anyway...

14 EXT. CAVE EXTERIOR - DAY - FLASHBACK

Screaming and groaning. A crowd of CAVE PEOPLE are huddled.

Shamani comes hurrying, he moves through the crowd.

A little MAN (32) is lying there groaning.

SHAMANI

Aha! I've caught you, my greedy friend.

The crowd rustles with curiosity.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

I came home one day from work, that is hunting, and found that someone had stolen my food supplies.

Men and women nod in agreement.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

You have been having the same problem? Well, I laid a trap, a forbidden fruit, sweet and juicy. Now, we've caught him.

CROWD

(together)

So what now?

SHAMANI

I am going to cure this poor fellow, but let this be a lesson to you. Bring him to my cave.

The thief is carried by the crowd and brought to Shamani's cave.

15 INT. CAVE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Shamani takes some watery fluid and makes the thief drink.
He coughs a little bit, then lies down.

Shamani goes out.

16 EXT. FORESTS - DAY - FLASHBACK

Shamani stands in front of the crowd.

SHAMANI
He'll be alright.

The crowd grumbles.

Then a little while later the thief comes out jumping.

THIEF
I'm alive! I'm alive! The idol
saved me.

SHAMANI
What are you on about?

The thief goes back into the cave, he comes out with the
idol, the little man made of wood.

THIEF
This is our god, he looked at me,
wherever I went he saw me. If I
went to the right his eyes were
on me and to the left he still
looked at me. It's a miracle.

SHAMANI
Now hold on...

The crowd begins to cheer.

CROWD
God! God! God!

Shamani goes to the front.

SHAMANI
Calm down... I...

The crowd holds up the idol, chanting.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)
Now, listen...!

The crowd chants even louder.

Shamani jumps up and grabs the idol, the crowd goes
silent.

(CONTINUED)

SHAMANI

Alright, alright, this is the
god, he watches you wherever you
go. Now, you thief...wait...

Shamani puts his ear to the idols mouth.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

What was that? Him and them?

Shamani nods.

CROWD

(together)

What did He say?

SHAMANI

He said that the thief should pay
a price for stealing, he will
perform back breaking labour in
the fields for 66 suns.

The crowd cheers.

Shamani puts his ear to the idols mouth, he nods.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

He said that we should set up
laws to punish the thief, the
adulterer, and the murderer, in
kind for his cruelty.

The crowd goes silent for a while then begins to cheer.

They grab the idol and put it on the ground.

The village bows down in front of it.

Shamani rolls his eyes.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

And where do you think you're
going?

The thief tries to tip toe away.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

God is watching you!

The thief stops in mid stride then bows down in front of
the idol.

Shamani rolls his eyes again.

The sun rolls across the skies and sets.

17

EXT. CAVE EXTERIOR - NIGHT - REAL TIME

Shamani and his two sons walk by a wall.

SHAMANI

And with that began the
enlightenment. People began to
paint.

Shamani points to a antelope cave painting.

SHAMANI (CONT'D)

This was Maki's greatest
painting. People also made music,
invented drums. We wore
fashionable leopard skins and the
like.

The sound of the beating drums.

The three approach a congregation of DANCERS and SINGERS,
a fire at the centre.

BOY

There is god?

He points to the idol and the centre.

SHAMANI

They seem to think so.

A view of the idol looking onto the observer.

18

EXT. GALAXY - NIGHT

The earth goes around the sun faster and faster showing a
progression of time. Then it stops and goes dizzy. The
moon flies around the earth like a canary.

19

EXT. HUT EXTERIOR - DAY

CHIEF SHOMAN (40) is surrounded by his war minister
WANGURI (44), agriculture minister MAZI (39) and his
priest CHOOCH (37).A queue of VILLAGERS bring him gifts, gold, incense,
myrrh, elephant tusks, water melons etc.A LADY (21) fans Shoman. He nods his head. Then he stands
up. He is dressed in leopard skins, with a head gear on
his head.

SHOMAN

Thank you, thank you, one and
all.

(CONTINUED)

The villagers sit in front of the chief.

SHOMAN (CONT'D)
You are too kind. If my great
great...
(whispers to Chooch)
How many greats are there?

CHOOCH
About twelve, I think.

SHOMAN
If my fore fathers, all twelve of
them saw how loyal you are to me
they would come down from on
high.

Women ululate.

SHOMAN
You know how humble I am. So I
will let my advisers speak for
me.

Mazi raises his fist.

MAZI
Our god has blessed us with a
mighty harvest, and now you have
shown your gratitude to his
chosen on Chief Shoman, the
Afrocan Idol is pleased.

The crowd cheers.

ANONYMOUS (OS)
Bring him to us.

The crowd cheers.

Shoman nods to Chooch.

Chooch nods to the GUARDS.

The Guards nod to the altar BOYS.

The altar boys nod to each other.

The boys hoist a box with beads surrounding it. They carry it to the fore. Cheers erupt.

Chooch goes to the front.

CHOOCH
Hunters and gatherers, we are
gathered here today to praise the
African Idol who has made this
all possible.

He points to the curtains.

CHOOCH (CONT'D)

The African Idol left to us by my
and the Chief's forefather,
Shaman who gave us music,
painting, beads, fire and quite
possibly the dust we walk on...

The crowd explodes.

CHOOCH (CONT'D)

The African Idol our rain god has
chosen Chief Shoman to lead you,
and if you give Shoman what the
Idol has generously given you,
rain will fall and the sun will
shine and dance across the sky...

The people shout.

SHOMAN

Now as it is the eve of the new
moon, we shall have our wrestling
match, hunting games, spear
throwing and I get to choose my
next wife.

The crowd form a circle, drums beat and the fire is lit.

Shoman walks along a line of beautiful GIRLS looking them over. He shakes his head, smiles purses his lips, strokes the dreadlocks of one girl until he comes to a light skinned girl.

SHOMAN

You'll do just fine.

Chuma takes the girl by the hand and goes into his hut with her.

20 EXT. PLAINS - DAY - FLASHBACK

The sun rises over the horizon.

21 INT. ROYAL HUT - DAY

Chuma lies on a mat surrounded by six girls.

He wakes up and puts on his royal garb and leaves.

22 INT. SHOWER ROOM - DAY

Chuma takes a shower, water pours from on high.

23 EXT. HUT EXTERIOR - DAY

A BOY pours water on the chief.

24 INT. MEETING HUT - DAY

Chuma walks into a hut where Wanguri the war minister, Chooch the priest and Mazi the chief farmer are waiting.

Chuma stretches and yawns.

CHUMA

What a night, huh fellas? Hope I
didn't keep you up, while I was
beating the drum.

Chuma nudges Wanguri.

WANGURI

Not at all, sir.

CHUMA

What do you mean, not at all? I
gave that girl one hell of a
performance?

WANGURI

I meant to say...

CHUMA

I'm just kidding.

Chuma approaches Mazi.

CHUMA

We're rich.

Chuma looks at all the maize, beads and ivory that surround them.

CHUMA (CONT'D)

To think those unwashed masses
actually believe that that silly
idol brings the rain.

Chuma goes to the idol behind the bead box.

He picks it up and casts it aside, then laughs.

(CONTINUED)

CHOOCH

Sire! That is our holy god, Giver
of rain and sunshine and...

CHUMA

Shoosh, Chooch. It's nothing but
wood that my great something
left, I used to aim my arrows at
it as a young prince.

MAZI

Speaking of which...we should go
and watch the game sire.

CHUMA

Good idea, but not before.

Chuma presses one side of his nose. He claps his hands.

A GIRL (14) walks in. She takes out a box. Then she makes
lines of snuff on the table.

Chuma snuffs the brown powder.

He gestures to Chooch, Chooch takes a step and goes back,
Chuma raises his eyebrows.

Chooch approaches and snorts another line.

Wanguri and Mazi come and snort.

CHUMA

Good stuff, those snuff dealers
know their trade. Now, to the
game!

25

EXT. FORESTS - DAY - FLASHBACK

Chief Chuma and his royal entourage are standing on a
hill.

CHUMA

What game!

Chuma smokes a pipe. He hands it to Wanguri.

WANGURI

This weed makes me feel high,
like I'm standing on a high hill.

Wanguri hands to Chooch, Chooch hesitates. Chuma raises
his eyebrows. Chooch relents and smokes.

CHOOCH

Good stuff, helps us become one
with the gods.

(CONTINUED)

Chooch hands the pipe over to Mazi, Mazi waves his hands in protest.

MAZI

Sire, how about some fast food?

Chuma's stomach rumbles.

CHUMA

Sounds good. I've had enough of watching the game.

A game of gazelle dashes past.

CHUMA (CONT'D)

What time is it?

Mazi looks at the sun with his hands on his forehead.

MAZI

It must be 11:15 sire.

CHUMA

Now it's time to eat some game.

Chuma claps his hands.

Some HUNTER MEN come to the front and pursue the fast food gazelle.

The hunters gesture to each other and take their positions.

An arrow flies through the air.

A gazelle is slumped across the shoulders as the royal entourage goes back to the village.

26

EXT. GALAXY - NIGHT

The earth goes around the sun a couple of times.

27

INT. ROYAL HUT - DAY

Sound of shouting and screaming.

Chuma wakes up, his surrounded by a group of new GIRLS.

He leaves the hut.

28

EXT. ROYAL COURTS - DAY

The villagers are screaming and shouting.

Chuma and his cohorts sit in front of them. Chuma raises his hairy sceptre, the mob quiets down.

CHUMA

What seems to be the problem?

MOB

We're starving!

CHUMA

We are? I meant, we are!

Chuma whispers to Chooch. Chooch stands up and goes to the front.

CHOOCH

The African Idol is going to save us!

The crowd cheers.

CHOOCH (CONT'D)

The drought that is upon us, is the work of Shat, the evil spirit who likes to play silly jokes on people to make the Idol look bad.

MOB

So what now?

CHOOCH

Well, to show the idol that we still believe in him, bring us the last of your cattle and sheep.

The mob grumbles.

CHOOCH

Not for us but for the idol!

The mob cheers.

CHOOCH (CONT'D)

And everything will be fine.

The people begin bringing their animals.

29 EXT. ROYAL TEMPLE - DAY

Chooch sacrifices animals at the fire.

The Africn Idol stands in front.

30 INT. ROYAL MEETING HUT - NIGHT

Chuma and his men sit around. Chuma licks his fingers.

Chuma groans.

CHUMA

Mmm. That was delicious, Chooch
you really know how to fry.

CHOOCH

Fry? We are in the frying pan,
the idol is punishing us for the
gluttony and the...

Chuma farts and lets out a bellow.

CHUMA

Shoosh, Mazi, what are we going
to do?

Mazi picks up a drumstick.

MAZI

This area is notorious for its
ten year droughts. A giant puff
of humid air comes every decade
and...

Wanguri swallows some food.

WANGURI

Let's go to the next village and
pillage, pardon the rhyme.

CHOOCH

War?!

MAZI

I suggest we leave the Valley for
good.

The men all gasp.

WANGURI

The fore father's graves are
here, **our** fore father's remember
we are all relatives here.

MAZI

That's all relative. I have
studied the weather and I promise
you, if we don't leave we'll join
our forefathers soon enough.

All the men look at Chuma.

Chuma stands up, he picks up a steak and bites it.

He chews as he walks about, his cohorts following his
every move. Up and down.

CHUMA

I trust Mazi, my fifth cousin
removed from my maternal aunt, we
have been friends since
childhood, we march.

Silence surrounds the room.

31 EXT. ROYAL COURTS - DAY

The mob moans and groans.

CHOOCH

Yes, we have to leave.

The crowd screams.

Chuma nods to Chooch.

Chooch nods to the guards.

The guards nod to the boys.

The boys nod to each other. They hoist the beads with the
gods and go to the fore.

Chooch puts his ear to the box, he nods. He shakes his
head.

CHOOCH

That is what the idol wants, who
dares go against his will.

The crowd goes silent.

CHOOCH (CONT'D)

And so we march.

32 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

A great mass of people move across the plains.

A great mass of people are rained on.

A great mass of people walk through marshes.

A great mass of people go up a hill.

33 EXT. VILLAGE CAMP - NIGHT

The wandering village are camped. Fires are here and there.

A lion roars.

34 INT. MAKE-SHIFT ROYAL HUT - NIGHT

Chuma and his men are sitting around a fire.

CHOOCH

I told you this was a bad idea.

MAZI

Only a couple of more months and we will be there.

Mazi arranges some lots on the floor.

MAZI (CONT'D)

If only someone could invent a wheel we could get there much faster.

WANGURI

But there are warrior tribes up there, we will have a bloody fight on our hands.

Chooch huddles close to Chuma. Chooch looks up to him.

Chuma takes some nuts and throws it in his mouth, he stands up and paces.

The men follow him.

Chuma stops.

CHUMA

We march, forward!

35 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

The African Idol is carried in a box in front of the mass of people.

The sun sparkles overhead.

The villagers walk in the dreadful heat.

A great wind with dust brushes against the villagers.

Lightning tears through the sky.

36 EXT. HILL - DAY

Mazi gets up on the hill, he looks out, his hand over his eyes.

Chuma comes up heaving and coughing.

MAZI

Cousin, we here.

Chuma looks out.

The grass is green. Animals are everywhere.

A rainbow is ahead.

A mountain is at the opposite side.

CHUMA

It's paradise!

Wanguri joins them. He points overhead.

A village is to the North West.

WANGURI

And that will be our hell.

Chooch comes to the hill and looks over.

CHOOCH

The Idol has saved us, we are safe at last!

The men look over the plains.

Chuma puts his hands on his men.

37 EXT. PLAINS - NIGHT

Drums beat. People dance.

The African Idol sits in the box at the centre of the festivities.

38 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

CHIEF NEMI (23)and his MEN stand on a hill. They look out at the campers. His chief adviser WAZI (69) comes and stands next to him.

ADVISER

Looks like a bunch of happy campers.

NEMI

This is our land, they think they can just take it from under our noses.

Nemi rubs snot from his wide nostrils.

NEMI (CONT'D)

Then they have another thing coming.

ADVISER

We haven't had a war in two weeks sire.

NEMI

Well all that is about to change, my wise friend.

39 EXT. HORIZON - DAY

The sun moves across the sky line fast.

40 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

Chief Chuma's village stands on one side of the plains.

Nemi's army stands on the other side.

Chief Chuma and Wanguri approach Nemi.

Nemi and Wazi walk over to the opposite side.

Nemi slips on cow dung. He falls.

Chuma's army begins to laugh.

Nemi stands up and keeps walking on.

(CONTINUED)

Chuma and Nemi finally meet.

CHUMA

I am Chief Chuma from the journey
of a thousand steps, my people
and I...

NEMI

Well you can step on back!

Nemi effeminatey yells and his arms flailing.

41 EXT. HILL - DAY

Mazi back with the villagers sees Nemi acting womanly.

Mazi turns to Chooch.

MAZI

Is it me or does that king act
like a queen?

42 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

NEMI

...go back I say.

CHUMA

Or?

NEMI

Or? Or! Oh you'll see! But not
for long you'll see. Tomorrow at
dawn, war!

The four men separate.

Chuma and Wanguri walk back

CHUMA

Cousin, do we have enough
manpower?

WANGURI

Sire, with a king like that, we
can let our women do the
fighting.

Wanguri chuckles.

43 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

Chuma and Nemi's army face off.

A WARRIOR from Chuma's group walks over to the centre.

A WARRIOR from Nemi walks over to the centre.

An old MAN is standing between them.

MAN

Fight!

The warrior's begin wrestling.

44 EXT. HILLS

Chuma looks anxiously at the fight.

CHUMA

Wanguri, it doesn't look good.

WANGURI

Don't worry, we'll win this war.

45 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

The warriors battle until Nemi's warrior pins Chuma's man to the ground.

Chuma's man pats the ground. The referee raises, Nemi warrior's hand. Cheering on Nemi's side erupts.

46 EXT. VALLEY - DAY

Nemi jumps up and down. He kisses Wazi, Wazi rubs his chin.

NEMI

We won! We won!

WAZI

Tomorrow is other day, sire.

The two camps go back to their camps.

The sun sets.

47 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

Chuma and Nemi's MEN compete in a spear throwing competition.

Chuma's side wins.

Chuma receives a white stone.

48 EXT. LAKE - DAY

Chuma and Nemi's MEN swim across across a lake.

Nemi's side wins.

Nemi takes a white stone by force from the referee.

49 EXT. FORESTS - DAY

The warring sides compete in a bow and arrow competition.

Chuma crosses his fingers.

Chuma's warrior wins.

50 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

Chuma and Nemi stand face to face.

CHUMA

It is obvious that we are evenly matched.

NEMI

Or as those dim wit villagers think our gods are evenly matched.

Chuma extends his hand.

CHUMA

We live in peace, there is plenty of land for everyone.

Nemi strokes Chuma's chest.

CHUMA (CONT'D)

Well not that peacefully.

Chuma steps back.

Nemi stomps his foot.

(CONTINUED)

NEMI

I understand, you don't want your friends to think you're not the big tough warrior guy.

Nemi leans in.

NEMI (CONT'D)

They won't know if you don't tell them, you can come in through the back door.

Chuma turns his back and goes back.

Both sides are cheering ecstatically.

51 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

Chuma's village begins to cut down trees and build their new village.

Chuma sits lazily in the sun as people go about preparing his new royal palace. He throws some grains into his mouth.

Chooch is in the back ground bowing down in front of the bead box.

Wanguri sits beside him.

WANGURI

I guess Mazi was right all along about leaving the homeland.

CHUMA

Mazi is always right.

WANGURI

But the bones of our fore fathers.

CHUMA

We can always send someone, relax, my war minister, why are always at war with yourself?

Mazi approaches.

CHUMA

Beloved cousin, is this not paradise?

A young girl fans the chief.

(CONTINUED)

MAZI

It is.

Chuma leans forward.

CHUMA

You don't seem happy.

MAZI

It's just that...

Chuma gestures to Mazi and he sits down.

MAZI

Our friends over the border have access to the river and much better soil.

CHUMA

Yes, but we have finer women.

WANGURI

Not that their queen... I meant king would care.

Mazi begins to make lines on the ground.

MAZI

I have an idea, we burn the forests and I have a feeling that the ashes would improve the soil, coupled with cow dung and good old fashioned hard work.

WANGURI

Or we can fight for the land?

MAZI

War minister that wasn't a war. If only someone could invent a spear that could be fired at the tip of the finger.

CHUMA

Foolish talk, but we'll try this ashy thing.

Chuma looks past Mazi.

CHUMA

Look at this one, Chooch come over here.

Chooch continues to bow down.

CHOOCH

Oh, African Idol you have brought
us victory.

Chuma laughs out loud.

52 EXT. FOREST - DAY

Mazi sets fire to the forests.

53 EXT. NEW ROYAL COURTS - NIGHT

People dance and have festivals.

Chuma sits in the middle. A fire crackles.

The crowd comes up to the fore.

CROWD

We want our god. God! God! God!

Chuma nods to Chooch.

CHOOCH

Bring over our rain god.

The boys bring the bead box over.

CHOOCH (CONT'D)

We owe everything to the One. But
since He is too noble to
appreciate lowly things such as
wives, sons, cattle, sheep,
fashionable beads, leopard skins,
crops, arrow heads. Give it over
to His representative Chief Chuma
to show your gratitude.

The crowd cheers.

Processions of people bring gifts to the feet of Chuma.

The people begin to dance.

Then rain falls from the sky.

People scurry into their huts.

Chuma takes some of the offerings and goes into his hut.

54 EXT. GALAXY - NIGHT

The earth goes around the sun a dozen times.

55 INT. ROYAL COURT - NIGHT

Chuma and his entourage are eating some chicken, people dance. Suddenly, Chuma begins to choke, he falls to the floor, people surround him.

Mazi tries to give him some water but to no avail, the king chokes and dies on a chicken bone.

MAZI

If only someone could invent
CPR...

56 EXT. ROYAL COURTS - DAY

Wanguri, Mazi and Chooch stand in front of the crowds. GANI (4) sits on the royal seat.

In front of them is a giant body covered by animal skin. Its bulging stomach is the prominent feature.

Sounds of crying and sobbing.

CHOOCH

Our chief has gone to our
ancestors and now we must bury
him in the dust...

Chooch bows down in front of the bead box.

CHOOCH (CONT'D)

But this is the will of the
Idol...

MAZI

Wait.

Mazi goes to the front.

MAZI (CONT'D)

Remember the forefathers we left.
Remember how our hearts bled. I
propose we burn our chief and
keep his ashes.

The crowd gasps.

Mazi turns to the council, they nod.

(CONTINUED)

MAZI (CONT'D)

Yes, he will live forever with us, and our hearts will not bleed as much. If only someone could invent writing and a computer so we could record all this. But now our young king will be our leader.

Mazi points to the royal seat.

It is empty.

57 EXT. BEHIND A HUT - DAY

Gani is busy painting on the hut, he is drawing a giant penis.

His mother comes and pulls him away.

58 EXT. ROYAL COURTS - DAY

Gani sits on the stool.

Mazi and the council take the body and place it on the altar.

Chooch lights it and it begins to burn.

The smoke plumes above to the sky.

Gani picks his nose.

His sees a cockroach on the floor, he crushes it and laughs.

The smokes rises higher and higher.

59 EXT. GALAXY - NIGHT

The earth goes around the sun in fast forward four or five times.

60 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

HERD BOYS walk around herding their cattle.

61 EXT. FORESTS - DAY

WARRIORS peer out.

They see the herd boys with the cattle.

The warriors approach the herd boys.

62 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

A battle cry rings out. The warriors attack the herd boys killing some and sending the others scattering.

They take the cattle and go towards the plains.

63 INT. ROYAL HUT - DAY

A pair of bare feet walk.

The back of a tall man stands at the entrance of the hut.

64 EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

The feet continue to walk.

Sound of crying.

The feet stop by a cockroach. The left foot stomps the cockroach.

The view of Gani all grown.

WARRIORS are all lined up in front of him.

GANI

Those cockroaches have gone too far. Now we teach them a lesson, the last lesson they will ever learn.

The army cheers.

PHIRI (35) a rotund man bundles towards the front.

PHIRI

I propose we go to war, but not with the Idol, our War god, but with his son.

The army grumbles.

GANI

My priest assures me that since I am the son of a great chief I go

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GANI (cont'd)
to war with the son of our War
God.

Cheering.

Gani leads his army out of the encampment.

65 EXT. PATHWAY - DAY

The army walks out, Gani and Phiri in front.

PHIRI
If your father was here he would
be proud.

GANI
He is, watching from above.

Skyline.

The bead box is carried by BOYS in front of the army.

GANI (CONT'D)
What do the omens say, wise
priest?

PHIRI
You have always been a brave lad.
Fortune will favour you.

GANI
Let's hope so. These nomads are
like ticks, like mosquitoes in
the night, like...

PHIRI
But we are like lions in the
forest. Like the first lion you
killed, breaking your manhood...

Gani throws a spear into the ground.

GANI
There they are!

Smoke rises up to the sky in the distance.

Gani turns to his men. The men cheer.

66 EXT. VALLEY - DAY

Gani's army runs into the valley.

The nomads shoot arrows.

Some of Gani's men are hit.

The battle ensues, Gani mowing down the nomads.

67 EXT. HILL - DAY

Phiri and the altar boys stand next to the bead box.

Phiri crackles his knuckles.

He gasps.

68 EXT. VALLEY - DAY

The nomads have lit fires all around.

The smoke causes confusion.

Gani coughs but cheers his men on.

Arrows rain from above, more men are cut down.

Another group of nomads come from hiding.

Gani and his men are surrounded.

69 EXT. HILL - DAY

Phiri bows down in front of the bead box.

70 EXT. VALLEY - DAY

Gani fights on in the smoke.

The smoke rises to the sky.

71 EXT. ROYAL COURTS - NIGHT

Gani sits opposite Phiri.

The remnant of the army is sitting around, their heads bowed.

GANI

What happened out there?! We were
like...like...

(CONTINUED)

PHIRI

A cornered lion, you fought
bravely.

GANI

Like a baby gazelle, cornered.

Gani stands up, he goes to the bead box.

Gasps ring out.

A GIRL stirring a pot puts a hand to her mouth.

Gani reaches into the box and takes out the son of the African Idol. He takes him and throws him into the fire.

PHIRI

Sire, no don't!

Gani rubs his hands.

GANI

From now on we only go to war
with the African Idol, our War
god. From now, we are no longer
hunter gatherers but warriors. We
hunt the weak and gather what
they leave behind.

Gani turns and goes back to his hut.

72 INT. ROYAL HUT - NIGHT

Gani lays down to sleep. A GIRL puts a hand on his chest,
Gani throws it away.

73 EXT. FOREST - DAY

Gani and some HUNTERS surround a lion. They throw spears
at it.

74 EXT. VILLAGE GATE WAY - DAY

Gani carries a lion through the village.

75 EXT. ALTAR - DAY

Phiri stands in front, he bites his lower lip.

PHIRI

Sire, I'm not so sure ab...

GANI

Do it.

Phiri torches the altar and burns the lion.

GANI

Now we are ready.

76 EXT. ROYAL COURTS - DAY

Montage. The army walks on red coal. Gani in front.

The army shoots arrows.

The army comes in running from a marathon.

Gani breaks a long spear and makes it into an assegai.

Gani sits with his GENERALS drawing on the ground.

Young girls come in with maize cobs, they smile at Gani.

Gani looks up and continues to whisper to his men.

The warriors spar with shields and assegais.

77 EXT. ROYAL COURTS - NIGHT

Gani sits with a BOY (10) on his knee. SHAM (19) sits on his left. Phiri is on his right.

GANI

Nice work for inventing iron,
brother.

SHAM

Actually it was accident, I
never...

GANI

We're unstoppable now, with the
assegai and our fearless warriors
our empire will stretch.

SHAM

I don't think this is a good...

Gani plays with the boy on his knee.

GANI

My son shouldn't live in fear.

PHIRI

If the Idol goes to the battle
with us victory is ours.

Sham stands up and leaves.

78 INT. HUT - NIGHT

Sham sits down in the darkness, moonlight strokes half his face.

A WOMAN (23) brings his dinner in a wooden bowl of food.
Sham throws the plate away.

HE grunts and lies down in the dark.

79 EXT. PLAINS - NIGHT

Gani and his warriors surprise a village.

They torch the huts.

Women run out.

Gani kills men and takes cattle.

80 EXT. A BLIND CURVE - DAY

Gani and his warriors are hiding in some dense bushes.

The troop of nomads walk through the passage way with cattle and goats.

Gani surprises them and kills them all.

81 EXT. ROYAL COURTS - DAY

Gani holds the lead NOMAD.

GANI

This is for my people, skin him alive.

Some men approach and the Nomad shrieks.

82 EXT. ALTAR - DAY

Phiri walks slowly towards the altar.

The nomad lies on the altar. Phiri lights the altar.

83 EXT. ROYAL COURTS - DAY

Defeated KINGS bow in front of Gani.

GANI

You keep your kingdoms and your heads, if you're loyal to me.

The army stands in front of Gani cheering.

GANI

Son! Bring our god over.

The bead box is brought over.

ARMY

God! God! God!

GANI

Our empire now encroaches onto the sea, if only someone could invent a steam boat, we could rule the world!

The army cheers.

84 EXT. ROYAL COURT - NIGHT

Gani and his son stand under the moonlight.

GANI

See that?

Gani points to the moonlight. The son nods.

GANI (CONT'D)

See those? The night in shining armour protects us.

Gani points to the stars.

GANI (CONT'D)

Those are our ancestors. And their ashes are also with us. Son when I go to our ancestors carry on what I left off.

Gani clutches his chest. He looks down. An axe is wedged on his chest. He tears it out.

The son screams. Gani walks over to the dense forest.

Arrows rain on him, he breaks them off, then staggers to the ground.

A giant MAN (32) comes out of the forest. He approaches the son. The fourteen year old prince runs into the night.

85 EXT. PATH - DAY

The prince walks the path. Tears flow down his cheeks.

The sound of a men rings out.

The prince looks up.

Arab TRADERS with caravans and camels stop.

ARAB TRADER
(in African tongue)
Where from young lad?

The prince explains. The Arab trader nods his head. Then the prince gets into the caravan.

86 INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

The Arab trader (33) prepares the dining table. The prince is on the opposite side holding his spear.

ARAB TRADER
Sorry, young prince I can't
pronounce your name?

PRINCE
I can't pronounce yours neither.

The Trader sits down. He begins to eat.

ARAB TRADER
All right we'll exchange
nicknames. Go first.

The prince stands up and looks the Arab trader head to toe.

PRINCE
I like your shoes, I'll call you
Shoeman.

ARAB TRADER
Thanks, I like your spear, I'll
call you Chuck-a-spear. Chucky
for short.

They shake hands.

SHOEMAN
As you can see I am a merchant,
from the sand regions. You say
your uncle killed your father.

CHUCKY
Jealousy, it drove him to kill
his own brother.

Shoe man takes off his shoes.

SHOEMAN
I hope my shoes don't make you
jealous.

Shoeman gives them to Chucky.

Chucky looks at himself in the mirror.

CHUCKY
You must be the wisest man in the
whole world.

SHOEMAN
You can work for me and take
part in my glorious wealth!

Shoeman laughs.

SHOEMAN (CONT'D)
There are wealthier men than me
my prince.

The prince looks into the mirror.

87 EXT. MARKET PLACE - DAY

Shoeman and Chucky at the market selling spices.

88 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

Shoeman teaching Chucky how to shoot a gun.

89 INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Shoeman teaching Chucky how to read and count.

90 INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Chucky is sitting at the table counting money.

Shoeman comes in.

SHOEMAN
You have gold at the tip of your
fingers but you don't look happy.
King Midas?

CHUCKY

I miss home.

SHOEMAN

I miss home too, but with us two,
how can we be lonely?

Chucky stands up and looks at the stars.

CHUCKY

I can hear the stars calling me.

Shoeman stands next to him.

SHOEMAN

They are? What do they say?

CHUCKY

Come home.

91

EXT. ROYAL COURTS - DAY

A pair of feet are on the ground. A lizard moves past.

It is Phiri sitting on the throne. He belches.

In front of him is the army, now just a bunch of fat men.

Phiri stands up.

PHIRI

What? Why are all looking at me?
I am the king, lower your eyes.

The soldiers lower their eyes.

PHIRI (CONT'D)

Is it my fault our god got
stolen? It's all your fault you
useless soldiers. Now get out of
my sight.

The army goes back to the fields.

92

EXT. FIELDS - DAY

The warriors are harvesting the royal field. Phiri is over head gnawing a bone.

WARRIOR #1

I now know why we call him the
all gnawing, fat bastard.

(CONTINUED)

WARRIOR #2

The rain that pours must be
Gani's tears at what has become
of his kingdom, we have been
reduced to a backwater village.

PHIRI

Get back to work, you two!

The warriors slink back down into the fields.

93 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

A barrel lets out a bullet.

SHOEMAN

Nice. Very nice.

CHUCKY

I'm going back to my kingdom, and
you're going to help me.

Shoeman takes the gun.

SHOEMAN

I am?

Shoeman puts the gun to his cheek.

Chucky nods.

SHOEMAN (CONT'D)

I guess I am.

Shoeman shoots.

94 EXT. VILLAGE GATE - NIGHT

Chucky hides behind a boulder. With him are SHOEMAN and a dozen or so TRADERS.

They meander through the village.

GUARDS see them and shout out.

Guns go off, arrows are let loose, the guards fall.

A view of the entire village.

95 INT. ROYAL HUT - NIGHT

Phiri sits in the centre with a steak.

The door opens.

Phiri throws a chunk of meat, then hides.

CHUCKY

I'm back, for good and for the
bad.

Chucky walks in.

His feet in view, they stop at Phiri's face.

96 EXT. ROYAL COURT - DAY

Chucky sits on the royal throne, people cheer.

Phiri bows in front of the council.

Chucky nods to the guards.

97 EXT. ALTAR - DAY

Phiri stands in front of the altar.

Chucky takes an axe. He throws it at Phiri, hitting him in the chest.

The fat man staggers back and falls onto the altar.

Chucky comes forward and lights a match.

Smoke rises from the altar.

Chucky walks away from the smoke.

CHUCKY

(to the crowd)

Now to get our god back!

The crowd cheers.

98 EXT. ROYAL COURT - DAY

Chucky sits with Shoeman.

SHOEMAN

I am behind you all the way.

(CONTINUED)

CHUCKY

No, you are beside me old friend
and those who stole the idol will
be beside themselves with grief.

Chucky picks up a log of wood and throws it into the fire.

SHOEMAN

So your uncle was innocent after
all?

CHUCKY

I guess so, only guilty of
lacking a heart, the black sheep.
But you will benefit greatly.

SHOEMAN

I will?

99 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

Chucky leads his armies throughout the country side
looting and taking prisoners.

Shoeman smiles as he sells the prisoners as slaves and
counts the money.

Chucky's army enters a battlefield.

Chucky sees the African Idol at the opposite side of the
field.

He moves through the enemies shooting. The adversaries
flee.

The raised idol tumbles from on high.

Chucky races and catches it.

100 EXT. VILLAGE GATE = DAY

Chucky leads the army back with the idol at the front.

101 EXT. ROYAL COURTS - DAY

Chucky stands in front of the cheering villagers.

CHUCKY

Our god, the African Idol the god
for trade and materialism has
made us rich.

Chucky points to the slaves, bags of spice and maize.

CHUCKY

My friend Shoeman will be my
foremost adviser.

The village cheers.

102 INT. ROYAL MEETING HUT - NIGHT

Chucky and Shoeman sit counting money.

CHUCKY

So you don't want one of our
women, huh?

SHOEMAN

No offence, Chucky, I prefer my
women covered up. Do you like your
new robes?

Chucky stands up and looks at his robes. He laughs.

CHUCKY

This is nothing, when I finish
my father's job, we'll be filthy
rich.

Chucky plays with a bag of gold.

SHOEMAN

I like the sound of that.

103 EXT. GALAXY - NIGHT

The earth goes around the sun a dozen times in fast mode.

104 EXT. ROYAL COURT - DAY

FATI (21) sits on the throne, smoking a pipe. Someone
passes him a bowl of alcohol. He is surrounded by a
council of young GIRLS.

He calls a GIRL.

She comes and sits on his lap.

Someone begins to play the drum. Fati begins to dance with
the young girl.

The drum beat stops. Fati stops dancing and looks angrily
at the DRUMMER (15). Fati looks on the opposite side.

SIMON (33), a black man with a beard and dreadlocks
approaches.

FATI

Hey, who dares approach the royal courts of Fati, son of...Who was my father again?

MAN (OS)

Chino, son of Gwazi, son of Mbira, son of Shumba, son of Chuck-a-spear son of Gani son of...

FATI

I get.

(to Simon)

Now you speak.

Fati takes his spear.

SIMON

I'll tell you who my father is, Jehova God. And I'll tell you who my king is, Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Fati begins to laugh.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I am Simon and these are twelve friends.

Simon points to his entourage.

FATI

Have you brought me food, gifts, liquor, snuff. Here our god is a god of pleasure.

Fati points to the bead box. He staggers and falls to the ground.

105 INT. ROYAL COURT - NIGHT

Darkness. Fati opens his eyes. He sees Simon.

Simon shakes his head.

Fati gets up, he rubs his head.

SIMON

King of this life, I see that you need to be saved.

FATI

Yeah, saved from this head ache.

Fati reaches for his snuff box and snorts.

(CONTINUED)

SIMON

Let me tell you about my journey.
I was born...

FATI

Yeah, just keep it simple, where
are you from, what do you want
and what's in it for me?

SIMON

I was born in the wild just like
you, but the white man saved me.

A young GIRL gets up from the blankets. Fati pats her and she leaves.

FATI

A man has needs. (Beat). I
thought you said Jezi saved you.

SIMON

The white man, missionaries took
me from here and we went off
overseas where I learnt to read
and write. After that...What I
want is to save you from eternal
damnation.

Fati has fallen asleep.

106 EXT. FIELDS - DAY

Fati and Simon walk. A sound of a drum.

The drummer follows behind them

Fati dances to the music.

FATI

Ok, let me get this straight, you
want me to get rid of my god.

Simon nods.

FATI (CONT'D)

Don't make me laugh, I should
make you the court jester. The
African Idol has given me so much
wealth.

SIMON

Jesus can give you so much more.
This life is nothing compared to
the after-life. In heaven you
could...

Fati slaps Simons back. He laughs.

(CONTINUED)

FATI (CONT'D)

Simon...wait a minute. I have a great idea.

SIMON

You want to be baptised?

107 EXT. RIVER - DAY

Fati is baptised in the river by Simon.

He gets out and the people cheer.

FATI

My people, of the Shumba totem,
we're going to welcome Jezi, our new god of poverty and the after - life.

Simon buries his head and shakes it.

The crowd cheers.

FATI (CONT'D)

Now you have to give me everything you own. We will all be equal anticipating the second coming.

The crowd goes silent. Fati looks menacingly, the crowd cheers slowly at first.

108 EXT. ROYAL COURT - DAY

Fati is sitting in front of the people giving him gifts.

FATI

Give with all your heart, you will be rewarded in heaven..

Fati receives a lamb.

FATI (CONT'D)

...these things are evil.

The people grumble.

109 INT. ROYAL HUT - NIGHT

Fati is lying in bed with two women.

FATI

Are you blessed? Have I blessed you?

GIRL#1

This thing of ours called
communism will not make you
popular.

FATI

My chief advisors, do you really
think I would fall for Jezi, our
god of pleasure is the true god.

Another girl emerges from the animal skin covers.

GIRL #3

Your brother Shalmeni seems to be
taken by the new god.

FATI

Please, he's pretending,
just like me.

The girl gives a quizzical look.

FATI (CONT'D)

If the wisest men, King Solomon
saw it fit to have a thousand
wives, I would be a fool not to.
Or maybe three.

Fati covers the blankets. The girls giggle.

110 EXT. VILLAGE PATH WAY - DAY

Fati walks out with a cross wearing a gown. He whispers
amazing grace. He gasps.

He sees Shalmeni sitting on the royal stool.

FATI

Brother, what is the meaning of
this?

SHALMENI

The reason of this treason? The
people are tired of waiting for
you to die.

Fati rushes forward but is stopped by a GUARD (34). The
dethroned king is thrown to the ground.

Simon and eleven of his followers are brought in and kneel
with Fati.

SHALMENI

Fati you have robbed our proud
people for too long. No more.

Fati tries to get up but is restrained by the guards.

(CONTINUED)

SHALMENI (CONT'D)

Simon, just like Jesus, one of
your own betrayed where you were
hiding.

JOHN (29) sits behind the king.

SHALMENI (CONT'D)

Guess material things do make
people do evil.

SIMON

You can kill me but I'll live
forever.

Shalmeni stands up and looks at the cross dug into the ground.

SHALMEIN

In that case, I'll make your stay
here as long and as painful as
possible. See the people are very
cross with you and now you
witches will die like this Jesus!

111 EXT. KILLING GROUNDS - DAY

Fati, Simon and his eleven followers are impaled.

The villagers cheer. The bead box is raised as people sing and dance.

112 EXT. GALAXY - NIGHT

The sun goes around the sun in fast mode.

113 EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Shalmeni is sitting on the royal stool.

A white MAN (33) in a black robe approaches the chief.

Shalmeni shakes his head.

SHALMENI

Not one of those again.

The priest comes and sits down.

PRIEST

I come from...

(CONTINUED)

SHALMENI

I know, I've heard it all before.
Priests have come left and right
offering me wisdom, material
things and even living water.

Shalmeni laughs. Shalmeni pats his genital region.

SHALMENI (CONT'D)

I gave him some water alright,
from my evil snake.

PRIEST

Just hear me out...

SHALMENI

Ha, suka!

The priest stands up and leaves.

Shalmeni takes a bible, he opens it up, tears a page and rolls a pipe. He smokes and nods his head.

SHALMENI

Now that's good news.

114 EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Shalmen walks through the village, sounds of screaming and wailing. Bodies lie everywhere.

115 EXT. ROYAL COURT - DAY

Shalmeni sits on the stool, his council of advisors are all around him.

SHALMENI

What's the meaning of this?

OLD WOMAN

It must be Shat, our god's enemy
who plays tricks on..

Shalmeni spits.

SHALMENI

What now? My son is sick, my only
baby boy? If he dies...?

Shalmeni joins the PRIESTS bowing in front of the bead box.

Other PRIESTS are sacrificing animals at the altar.

116 INT. HUT- NIGHT

Shalmeni kneels in front of his SON (6). He cries.

117 EXT. ROYAL KRAAL - DAY

Shalmeni is at the kraal with an ADVISER.

SHALMENI

The cows are sick, the rain won't fall...should we move...is it the ancestors punishing us...what?

The adviser places a hand on the Chief.

ADVISER

Look, here comes the men in black.

The priests approach from a distance.

SHALMENI

You witches, are you responsible for this hell let loose.

The priest shake their heads.

PRIEST

We are not to blame but if you accept Jesus, I promise everything will be fine.

The priest places a hand on the king's black hand.

118 EXT. RIVER - DAY

Shalmeni stands in the water. The priest stands next to him.

SHALMENI

I command the whole village to accept Jesus, maybe he can help.

119 INT. HUT - DAY

The priest give Shalmeni's son a tea spoon of medicine.

Shalmeni bows his head in prayer.

SHAMENI

Oh, Jesus!

PRIEST

In the name of Jesus, I command
the demons to flee.

120 EXT. GALAXY - NIGHT

The sun turns on its axis.

121 EXT. ROYAL COURT - DAY

The royal prince comes out, strong and fit.

The village ululates.

Shalmeni stands up, the priest beside him.

SHALMENI

This Jesus is strong. What should
we do now, priest?

PRIEST

Burn the idol.

Shalmeni nods his head. The bead box is placed on the
altar and torched.

The villagers gasp.

PRIEST

Believe, and you will be free.

HAM (25) steps to the front of the people.

HAM

My people, the Lion people, for
forsaking our true god you will
pay the price.

PRIEST

The devil has made a home in him.

HAM

I speak the truth, for this
horrible deed, leaving the Idol
in the time of testing, you shall
all be enslaved.

The priest laugh.

HAM(CONT'D)

Our people will lose their glory,
they will be scattered, our homes
will be destroyed. The god of
these witches will make us
slaves. Sickness like never
before will come upon us.

Ham cowers.

HAM(CONT'D)

Terrible wars for metals under
the earth. Ouch! Hunger! My
belly. We shall be foreigners in
our homeland. Our skin will be
the symbol of death!

The crowd disperses. Slowly the crowd dwindle. Some
laugh. Some shake their heads.

CROWD

You're mad, Jezi is powerful more
powerful than the Idol and his
wife. He is the god of health and
wisdom.

Ham throws himself into the fire.

The crowd shrieks.

122 EXT. ROYAL COURT - NIGHT

Shalmeni sits at the court, his son on his lap. He thumps
his foot as the priest sing a gospel song.

A cross is in the centre. People sing a gospel song.

PRIEST

There are some people we want you
to meet, tomorrow.

SHALMENI

Sure. Friends of yours are
friends of mine.

123 EXT. ROYAL COURT - DAY

Shalmeni and his new council of priests sit around.

White MEN with long guns approach.

PRIEST

They're here.

The white men sit in front of the king. Shalmeni nods.

124 INT. ROYAL COURT - NIGHT

Shalmeni lies with his WIFE (34).

WIFE
So you really burned the idol?

Shalmeni gets up.

SHALMENI
Are you mad?

Shalmeni takes away an animal skin, the Idol sits there.

SHALMENI
The god of my people, my
ancestors, never.

WIFE
What did those men without knees
want?

Shalmeni goes back to the mat.

SHALMENI
They say that they could give me
all the wisdom or the material I
want.

WIFE
What happened to the poverty and
the after-life?

SHALMENI
Wife, I wasn't born yesterday.
You think the lion shows its true
colours.

Shalmeni goes on all fours.

SHALMENI (CONT'D)
He hides in the golden grass.

WIFE
What now?

SHALMENI
Like the king Solomon, I want
their wisdom, but not their
bitter drink or their smoke that
chains a man like a dog.

Shalmeni lies next to her.

SHALMENI (CONT'D)
If you can't beat them, join
them. These white men are
powerful. Their arrows sound like
the thunder.

WIFE

Like King Solomon will you get a thousand wives, replacing me?

SHALMENI

No, just you, my sweet. You, Nerika, Shibira and Tanaka and Marina.

Shalmeni chuckles. She punches him playfully.

125 EXT. SEA - DAY

Shalmeni stands on the beach.

Ships approach.

The ships come on land.

MERCHANTS get off board.

Shalmeni offers his hand, the merchant (34) ignores him and looks at the SLAVES. He looks them over. The merchant nods.

Shalmeni and his officers receive guns, maize and other gifts.

The slaves get onto the ship.

SHALMENI

(to his adviser)

I am not the slave but my hands feel tied.

ADVISER

What could you do? These slaves are defeated enemies, rebels and thieves, we need to purify our people.

The royal entourage head back into the forest.

SHALMENI

Maybe Ham was right, it's all over now. I have a bad feeling.

126 EXT. ROYAL COURT - NIGHT

Shalmeni sits at the royal stool in European attire. He drinks the bitter liquor and laughs out loud.

SHALMENI

This is delicious!

The mob drinks the liqour, dances and goes rowdy, an orgy of sex erupts.

127 INT. STORE ROOM - NIGHT

Moving through the closed door. Elephant tusks, bags of maize and spices. Guns lean on the wall. Garments are everywhere.

In the corner their is a box covered by a blue cloth.

Inside, is the African idol. Water flows down its cheek.

Water drops from roof.

128 EXT. ROYAL COURT - NIGHT

It begins to rain.

The mob disperses.

A view of the raining sky.

129 EXT. GALAXY - NIGHT

The sun revolves around the sun really fast.

130 EXT. AFRICAN LANDSCAPE - DUSK

A view of the African wild, trees and grass. The sun sets in the horizon.

131 EXT. CITY - DAWN

The sun rises in the horizon. A view of the city, buildings, cars and smoke. Words written on the screen. 1978 CE (Colonisation and Europeans).

A survey of the city, then one house, into the house.
Sound of a television set.

132 INT. HOUSE - DAY

A look through a room.

The African idol sits in the corner.

Next to it is radio.

Then a fan.

Then a television set. The tv shows black PEOPLE rioting and white POLICEMEN driving them back.

EMMANUEL MAINE (40) a black man is sitting on the couch, he shakes his head, then drinks some African brewed beer. Sitting next to him is CHARLIE MAINE (25) and on his lap is EUGENE (6). Other black MEN are also in the room. GENERAL LEE KING (45) is sitting beside Charlie.

EMMANUEL

General, I thought we agreed,
peaceful riots.

GENERAL

No, you agreed. I agreed to
disagree.

Charlie gets up and turns off the television.

EMMANUEL

My father, John Moses...

The black men take off their hats.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

...is in jail, because he killed
the white master who was ill
treating the farm workers.

General whistles.

GENERAL

I'm prepared to pay any cost, my
life, twenty years, you name it,
to free our people from slavery.

Emmanuel walks over to the African idol.

EMMANUEL

The only way we will strike is to
strike, peaceful marches...

General gets up and faces Charlie.

GENERAL

Alright, alright the lamb will
lie with the lion.

EMMANUEL

The Drum is no place for
hooligans.

The General goes near the idol and takes off his hat. He turns.

GENERAL (CONT'D)
Men let's hit the road, too bad
we have to spare the rod.

General takes his cane and leaves.

133 EXT. STREET - DAY

General and his cohorts walk towards their cars. A black COUPLE take off their hats to them, he smiles.

GENERAL
(to his men)
That idol is a ufo, a useless
fucking object, I'll pass on
being passive against the Pass
laws.

MAN
He's the Messiah.

General opens the car door, he looks back at the house.

GENERAL
The Messiah alright, making a
mess of everything.

134 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

CHARLOTTE (30) with an apron and scones walks in.

CHARLOTTE
Has the General left already?

Emmanuel walks over and kisses her on the cheek.

Charlie takes a cloth and cleans the idol, closes his eyes and turns to the men left.

EMMANUEL
Son, Eugene go start the car, on
second thoughts what am I
thinking?

Emmanuel grabs his keys.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)
For 'people'...

Emmanuel makes quotation marks.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)
like us starting the car is like
starting a fire, literally. Come
let's go.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLOTTE

I'll come as soon as I finsh the housework.

Emmanuel, Charlie and Eugene get out. The other men hang around the house. Charlotte gives them cookies.

135 EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Emmanuelle waves to the NEIGHBOURS. PEOPLE take off their hats, some applaud.

EMMANUEL

Stay here.

Charlie and Eugene stand back.

Emmanuel gets into the car, he starts it, it roars. He rolls down the windows, sighs and smiles. He summons the two.

Charlie and Eugene get into the car.

136 INT. CAR - DAY

Emmanuel drives whilst Charlie sits in the back, Eugene in the front.

They pass signs that read NO BLACKS ALLOWED and other apartheid messages.

CHARLIE

Father, is the DRUM really going to split up?

EUGENE

What does the drum stand for again, I keep forgetting?

EMMANUEL

(to Eugene)

The Democratic Revolutionary United Movement.

(to Charlie)

...and no it will never split, not whilst I'm alive.

The car stops, Charlie buys a newspaper from a VENDOR (15). The car ambers off. Charlie goes through the newspaper.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

The General believes the strength is in the legion, I believe in religion.

(CONTINUED)

Eugene goes through the dashboard, he sees five books.

EMMANUEL

There, the five books that my father wrote, our Afrian bible, the history of our family.

Eugene puts the books back in the place.

EUGENE

Books are boring, please tell me your stories, it's better than reading.

Eugene looks back and Charlie, Charlie raises the newspaper over his eyes.

EMMANUEL

In the beginning, (whispers) this is what the white man won't tell us...

137 EXT. VILLAGE - DAY - FLASHBACK

A giant river, a large forest, covered by smoke, a village.

Muscular WOMEN carry fresh meat, they enter a village.

EMMANUEL (VO)

In the beginning, there were no gods, just Amazon women, they could self fertilize, like the flowers, and they were strong, god were they strong.

EUGENE (VO)

Like our neighbour, Miss Buchanan.

EMMANUEL (VO)

Not really.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY - FLASHBACK

JEN ISIS (43) comes out of her hut.

EMMANUEL (VO)

Jen Isis was the queen of the Amazon, she forbade the women to keep the baby boys alive.

EUGENE (VO)

Thank God they're gone.

EMMANUEL (VO)
For she believed men were
inherently evil, weak willed, no
better than dogs.

BELLA (23) brings the animal to Jen Isis, the latter
smiles.

Bella goes off and enters her hut.

EMMANUEL (VO)
But there was a women named
Bella, who did not want to kill
her baby.

138 INT. HUT - DAY - FLASHBACK

Bella opens up a basket and inside there is a baby, she
takes it and leaves the hut.

139 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Bella lives it in the forest, by the river, she goes back
to the village.

EMMANUEL (VO)
In those days, long before
Chuck-a-spear and conquerisaton
of Africa, people grew fast like
aligators. And in no time soon,
the baby boy grew up and became a
man, she had named him Tamahom.

EUGENE (VO)
Like me.

Tamahom drinks from the river and takes fruit from the
trees.

EMMANUEL (VO)
But Tamahom was bitter, more
bitter than the fruit he plucked.

EUGENE (VO)
Why?

EMMANUEL (VO)
Well, because his mother had
abandoned him.

A long silence.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)(VO)
Anyhow, he began to kill the
Amazon women, one by one.

EUGENE

He should have been called Jack
the Ripper.

TAMAHOM (30) goes about stalking and killing women by the river.

EMMANUEL (VO)

And at last he killed Jen Isis.
That's when the Amazonian women dispersed. He also tried to kill a young girl called Ada, who happened to walk past. Tamahom infiltrated her secret gardens, his snake giving her the fruit that would burden her.

ADA (20) is raped but fights back and gets away.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D) (VO)

But she got away.

The Amazon women leave the village.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D) (VO)

Now that a killer was on the loose, the women fled and Ada conceived a pair of twins.

140 INT. HUT/PLAINS - DAY - FLASHBACK

Ada holds two boys in her hands CUSH and CAUCAS.

The boys grow up.

Cush is outside playing the drum.

Caucas is inside a hut, playing with fire.

Cush is outside sun bathing.

Caucas is indoors bathing in water.

Cush is planting vegetables outside.

Caucas is making gadgets and traps to ensnare birds.

EMMANUEL (VO)

The boys were very different from each other, over time Cush's skin darkened since he spent all his time outdoors, Caucas, the opposite. Like you and your cousin Charlie.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE (VO)
Can we stop by the shops, mother
wants some detergent.

EMMANUEL (VO)
Sure.

EUGENE (VO)
What happened next?

EMMANUEL (VO)
One day...

EXT. FIELD - DAY - FLASHBACK

Ada is in Cush's field. She picks up a fruit, eats it and dies.

EUGENE (VO)
No way!

EMMANUEL (VO)
Yes, she ate of the fruit and died.

Cush and Caucas find the dead mother.

EMMANUEL (VO)
Caucas blamed Cush for the accident, and they fought.

Cush and Caucas fight.

EMMANUEL (VO)
They beat each other black and blue. Cush's lip was swollen... And they went their separate ways.

A map of the world, Cush in Africa, Caucas in Europe and Tamahom in Arabia.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D) (VO)
Cush found some of the Amazonian women, so did Caucas and Tamahom. This is how polygamy developed.

EUGENE (VO)
What happened next?

EMMANUEL (VO)
The men died and became ancestors, they watch from the sky. This is why misogyny is widespread because Tamahom wills it. And this is why the white man is so technical, for his ancestor

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EMMANUEL (VO) (cont'd)
was that way, and that is why we
can never get along.

141 INT. CAR - DAY

Emmanuel parks the car.

EMMANUEL
Here we are.

Emmanuel points the church. Emmanuel takes out a book
written the Black Bible.

Eugene holds up a book.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)
That is the evolution of
religion, it explains how
religion is based on the zodiac,
how it shifts.

Eugene stretches his arms.

EUGENE
A long read to boredom. Tell me
about our family tree.

EMMANUEL
Another day.

They all get out.

142 INT. INTER- CUTTING STREETS/CHURCH/JAIL - DAY

Emmanuel stands in front of the CONGREGATION. The people
sing a hymn.

Eugene plays the piano.

Silence after the piano is played. Charlie goes to the
front.

CHARLIE
Open your Bibles to the book of
Jen Isis. It reads, "and the
snake tempted the man, giving him
the fruit, and upon eating it, he
became wise and knew he was
naked. His soul died. The
punishment was a life of labour,
toiling on the ground.

General Lee King is in front of MEN.

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL

Today the tribe of the Lion will
not take it lying down, we march.

The men shout and march and hold banners.

Charlie closes the book and sits down. Emmanuel stands up and rushes across the stage.

EMMANUEL

That my friends, is about the white man, the snake who has given us knowledge, clothed us but has also made us toil over and under the soil....

Police arrest General and his men for marching.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

Turn to the book of Ham chapter 3 verse 5. The prophet spoke of the slavery and the woe that has befallen us - the curse of Ham. My father transferred oral history into the eternal voice of the written word. If we forget our roots, the thirteen totems, the leopard, the baboon, the lion we shall continue to be in bondage...

General and his men are arrested and put into a van.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

Open your bibles to the book of Emmanuel, me the Last Prophet. Chapter 13 verse one reads that the Prodigal son shall come home after squandering his gift. We the sons of Cush are the prodigal sons and daughters.

The crowd cheers.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

Just like the moon, the sun of the sky, we shall have a piece of the sky, the blue diamond. We have been lazy and foolish but we want in. We want to live in harmony not in harm with the sons of Caucus.

People stand up, clapping.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

I prophecy that when the sun and
the moon hold hands, the three
ancestors in the sky will dance
together and peace will prevail!
No more racism, no more misogyny.
Tamahom, Cush and Caucas shall
embrace. This is my message of
hope. The Prodigal Son shall come
home!

People ululate.

General is led into a cell. The door bolts shut.

The congregation come forward and bow down before the African Idol.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

Come, one and all, come. This is
the symbol of our pride, the
tribe of the lion, the symbol of
our roots, made from the stump of
Shamani, the symbol of the hope.

143 EXT. STREETS - DAY

The congregation leaves the church. In the background people eat chicken and socialize. NICHOLAS ABEL (7) a biracial boy and his mother ANNA (43) walk on the pavement.

ANNA

I hope you learnt something
today.

NICHOLAS

Yeah, that the conquering tribe
of the lion is better than all
the other tribes, it's unfair,
why do we have the snake as our
totem?

ANNA

Because we're wise, the Lion
totem is for the kings and
queens.

Anna puts her hand around his shoulders.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Let me tell you a secret, I
personally believe in Jesus, god
of the white man.

The stop at a bus stop. A bus stops and they get in.

144 INT. BUS - DAY

Anna and Nicholas are sitting down. A white COUPLE comes in and stands beside them. Anna nudges Nicholas and they go to the back, the couple sits on the vacant seats.

145 INT. JAIL - DAY

Emmanuel arrives at the jail cell. An OFFICER (24) is on the other side of the counter.

EMMANUEL

I'm here to pay bond for Lee King.

OFFICER

If it were up to me, you and your kind stay in the cages where you belong.

The officer picks up the phone.

146 EXT. STREET - DAY

General and Emmanuel walk the streets.

GENERAL

I'm getting pissed off with the peace marching, how about we grab some pistols.

EMMANUEL

Think of Gandi and the salt march.

They get to the car and get inside.

147 INT. CAR - DAY

Emmanuel drives whilst General lights a cigarette.

GENERAL

Let me pick your brain a little, you think the white man is just going to bend over and let us in.

EMMANUEL

If we riot and take up arms, it will cost us arms and legs, and you'll pick my brains from the streets.

148 INT. KITCHEN, NICHOLAS' HOUSE - NIGHT.

It is Saturday July 1 1978. Darkness, the sound of matches then a flame, a candle is lit.

Nicholas(7)sits next to his mother ANNA (43). Anna is dishing out the food.

NICHOLAS

For the food we are about to receive, we thank you Oh Lord.
Amen.

ANNA

Good boy. I've prepared your favourite.

The pair wash their hands, Nicholas licks his lips, they proceed to eat supper, fish. Sound of mosquitoes is around. Nicholas swats them.

NICHOLAS

We're the mosquitoes food, they prey on us.

ANNA

Deliciousness is in the mouth of the beholder, so eat up.

Gunshots ring outside, the pair ignore them.

The mother picks up the report card, she smiles and goes back to eating.

ANNA

I can sleep easy knowing I have such an intelligent baby boy.

NICHOLAS

Without all the books I'm surprised I did so well.

She squeezes his cheeks. The sound of mosquitoes permeates the room.

ANNA

Not like that good for nothing father of yours, wherever he is.

Nicholas scratches his arm.

NICHOLAS

Today the teacher asked us what our career options when we are all grown up.

ANNA
And what did you say?

Nicholas shrugs.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Trust in God, my dear, he will
show you the way.

Anna leans on the wall.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Like this, lean on God, he'll
drive you wherever, like your
chauffeur.

They both laugh.

149 INT. BEDROOM, NICHOLAS' HOUSE - NIGHT.

Sunday. Nicholas' mother lies on the bed, she is sweating and heaving. Nicholas' aunt, PHILIS (34) a tall stern looking woman is sitting next to Anna.

She is wiping away the sweat with her towel. Nicholas is sitting on the bed as well.

NICHOLAS
It's a good thing you live so
close.

PHILLIS
Keep your fingers crossed sonny,
she'll be alright.

NICHOLAS
Yesterday she was fine and
today...

Phillis washes the towel. Anna twists and turns.

NICHOLAS
What are we going to do Aunt
Phillis?

PHILLIS
Everything in our power, tomorrow
go to the clinic, I know its far
so you are going to have a
loooong walk.

Phillis fluffs up Anna's pillow.

PHILLIS (CONT'D)
Tomorrow you go to town, I'll
sell your mother's vegetables for
her.

(CONTINUED)

Phillis stands up and goes out of the room. Nicholas kneels at the foot of the bed, he begins to pray.

NICHOLAS

Please Lord heal my mother...

PHILLIS

Boy, tomorrow you have to wake up early, a loooong walk. Go to bed and maybe God too can get some sleep.

Nicholas keeps praying for sometime. He then lies down next to his mother.

Phillis peaks in and sees him asleep, she closes the door quietly.

150 EXT. CLINIC PARKING LOT - DAY

Monday. Nicholas walks with a tall white man, DR. MEL PATRICK DA SILVA(52)wears a white overcoat his stethoscope is around his neck. On the doctor's coat is a badge with the Spanish flag.

NURSES bustle people in and out of the clinic. Nicholas has on a grey shirt.

DR. SILVA

Sorry, young man.

The two arrive at the doctor's red car. Dr. Mel swings his keys impatiently.

NICHOLAS

I can come back and pay the full amount...

DR. SILVA

No can do, it sounds like malaria to me...See that's the thing with you people...

Dr. Silva opens the door of his car.

DR. SILVA (CONT'D)

Wait until the last moment, if you had nets like we told you...

Nicholas cups his hands and makes a begging motion. Dr. Silva shakes his head, he looks at his watch.

DR. SILVA (CONT'D)

You're wasting my time and mine.
And get your dusty hand off my car.

Dr. Silva starts his car and drives off. Nicholas walks back home.

151 INT. BEDROOM, NICHOLAS' HOUSE - NIGHT.

Tuesday. Nicholas sits next to his Aunt Phillis. She holds him close, hugging him tightly. Nicholas' mother has shrunken, she is losing strength, grow weak.

PHILLIS

That nasty doctor, he'll get what's coming to him.

NICHOLAS

He wouldn't even give me a ride home. I wish I could could cut him up and have thirty pieces of silver.

Philis picks up a bowl of porridge and tries to feed Anna. Anna refuses.

PHILLIS

She won't eat, and neither have you?

NICHOLAS

I'm fasting.

PHILLIS

Slow down. Boy, you're always fasting, there's never that much food in any case, I don't think God would know the difference.

NICHOLAS

I will go to the church tomorrow, perhaps the priest will say a prayer for mama.

Nicholas reads his Bible by the candle light.

PHILLIS

Happy are the poor Mosquito nets and repellent indeed. Does that doctor know what it is like down here?

NICHOLAS

He's car is as big as this house.

PHILLIS

It's hell down here, it's hot and smelly and...

Phillis yawns.

(CONTINUED)

PHILLIS (CONT'D)
I'm going to bed.

Phillis leaves the room. Nicholas sits at the bed praying, drops of sweat run down his forehead.

152 EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - DAY

Wednesday. Nicholas stands opposite SINBAD (25) an Indian priest, he is wearing a black suit and a rosary around his neck. The priest is medium build, has a receding hair line and talks with a sneer.

NUNS in black get in and out of the church. The priest's white car, smaller than Dr. Mel's is parked a distance away.

SINBAD
I haven't seen you in a while,
Nicodemus.

NICHOLAS
Nicholas.

SINBAD
You say your mother is not
feeling very well.

Sinbad is looks into the window of his car, he is combing the little hair that remains on his head.

NICHOLAS
I have gone to the doctor.

SINBAD
Poor Norris, it's probably a
demonic manifestation, nothing
that a donation can't fix.

Nicholas clenches his fist.

SINBAD (CONT'D)
A little sprinkle of holy water
and your mother would be cleansed
of the evil spirit.

Sinbad takes out a bottle.

SINBAD (CONT'D)
Cheap, R100.

NICHOLAS
A hundred rand! I spent all my
money on food.

Sinbad puts the bottle in his pocket and gets into his car. He takes out a cheeseburger from the dash board. Nicholas licks his lips. Sinbad takes a bite.

SINBAD

(While chewing.)

Man cannot live on bread alone,
oh this? I'm just breaking my
fast. Smile, Nelson, God is
testing you.

Sinbad closes the door, and drives off. Clouds of smoke plume high up. Nicholas chokes and coughs.

153

INT. BEDROOM, NICHOLAS' HOUSE - NIGHT.

Thursday. Nicholas' mother just lies still now, breathing once and so often. Phillis is standing beside Nicholas who is sitting. Phillis places her hand on his shoulder.

PHILLIS

Be strong.

NICHOLAS

She is growing weak.

PHILLIS

Did you have supper?

Nicholas nods.

PHILLIS (CONT'D)

Thank God, at least you have put behind your silly rituals, I was getting fed up with your superstitions.

NICHOLAS

There are not superstitions...

Phillis raises her hands to the sky.

PHILLIS

Well then why doesn't God just heal her then. God can you hear me?! If you can, make my sister well again.

There is crashing noise, Phillis goes out of the room, she comes back a little later.

PHILLIS (CONT'D)

I was a little afraid there, just a metal plate that fell over.
Must have been a rat.

Nicholas is holding his mother's arm.

(CONTINUED)

PHILLIS (CONT'D)
You know I'm here, right. You're
not alone.

Nicholas nods, after a couple of minutes he turns, Aunt Phillis has left the room.

154 INT. MARKET PLACE - DAY

Friday. The market place is crowded with PEOPLE. Nicholas walks through the sea of people still in his grey sweater. Finally he arrives at a tent, beside the tent is the remnant of a small second hand black car with no wheels.

155 INT. TENT, MARKET PLACE - DAY

There is a very short black MAN (61), with short nappy hair and very light skinned. The man has beads around his neck. He is busy grinding some powder. There are some old WOMEN at the back of tent peeling potatoes. He looks up and continues grinding.

MAN
Hello, young man.

NICHOLAS
Afternoon, sir.

MAN
Call me Sol, short for Solomon.

NICHOLAS
I need your urgent help, my
mother is lying at home sick with
a terrible fever.

SOL
Sounds like witchcraft to me. No
problem there, Sol can fix that.

NICHOLAS
The doctor said...

Sol comes around the stall, he is wearing animal skins,
and is bare foot. He begins looking into his sack.
Nicholas covers half of his face with a smile.

SOL
Don't trust those witches.

Sol takes out a rock, with an inscription on it.

SOL (CONT'D)
You see this, this is the Stone
of the Ancestors.

(CONTINUED)

Nicholas crosses his arms.

SOL (CONT'D)

Actually it's the kidney stone of
a great king. This is the answer
to your problems. Very powerful.

NICHOLAS

How much does it cost?

SOL

A modest R30.

Nicholas takes a step forward.

NICHOLAS

I can afford that, just wait.

Nicholas begins searching in his pockets. Calmly at first
then frantically. All the while Sol is talking.

SOL

All you have to do is wash your
mother in it... What's the
matter?

NICHOLAS

I can't find my money. Someone
must have stolen my money!

Nicholas looks right and left. Sol shrugs and goes back to
his power.

SOL

There's nothing for free, sonny.
If you don't pay, you don't play.

Nicholas puts his hands on his head. He sighs, Sol is
whistling. Suddenly Nicholas takes the stone and makes a
run for it.

SOL (CONT'D)

You rascal, come back with my...
Catch him!

Nicholas disappears into the crowd of people and makes his
way out of the market place.

156 EXT. STREET - DAY

Nicholas begins walking home, briskly and running a
little, he smiles and looks at the stone. Cars drive by.

157 INT. BEDROOM, NICHOLAS' HOUSE - NIGHT.

Nicholas arrives home at 7pm. Phillis is lying on the bed her arms on her head. His mother is on the bed covered under a blanket. Aunt Phillis raises her head, she has tears on he face.

NICHOLAS

Is she?

Phillis nods and Nicholas drops the stone. Nicholas falls to the edge of the bed.

Phillis and Nicholas begin to cry. They sit beside each other, beside themselves with grief.

158 EXT. GRAVESITE - DAY

Saturday. Nicholas and his aunt stand at the gravesite. It is a garden - like cemetery with fruits in view. The MOURNERS have left. The sky is grey and so is Nicholas' suit. Nicholas is busy weeding around the tombstone.

PHILLIS

Forget what the priest was saying
about the Virgin Mary being our
surrogate mother.

Phillis wipes the tears from her eyes.

NICHOLAS

I wasn't listening.

PHILLIS

I am here for you. Me and my
husband, as a housemaid we'll
pull through.

Nicholas stands up, Phillis puts a hand on his shoulder.
She pulls him close.

PHILLIS (CONT'D)

You are an intelligent boy, only
you can stand in your way.

NICHOLAS

I'm going to be an accountant and
make a proper tombstone for mum.

PHILLIS

That's the spirit, I will stand
by you, just like this.

Phillis leaves Nicholas and follows the mourners.

Nicholas takes out his guitar.

(CONTINUED)

NICHOLAS

This a song for you ma. Violence
is red, mourners are blue, when a
loved is gone, so are you.

Nicholas begins to play his guitar.

Nicholas takes out the Stone of the Ancestor, the
inscription has rubbed off.

He throws the stone into the sky. He looks at his palm,
then to the sky.

NICHOLAS

God, the doctor charged me an arm
and a leg. The priest? Alms. The
sangoma? But you? Why have you
have taken away my mother...
Answer me!

The wind gently blows.

NICHOLAS

I thought so. You don't even
exist.

Nicholas sees two nickels on the ground, he picks them up
and rubs them together.

NICHOLAS

But if you do exist, this is my
last prayer. And this coin, the
dollar, the snake with strings
attached, is the only god I pray
to. And only I shall be
accountable for my own actions.
The only prophet I know of is the
profit of the dollar, this snake
will clothe me, give me wisdom
and get me out of the jungles
disguised as a jungle. Amen!

Nicholas flips the coin, turns his back to the tomb and
leaves the garden.

159 INT. BEDROOM, NICHOLAS' HOUSE - DAY

Sunday. A guitar plays off screen sombrely.

Through the window a view of the sun rising from mother
earth. A bed just beneath a broken window. Hard earth, a
bag with clothes in the corner. A guitar rests on the
cracked wall.

Nicholas rises and obstructs the sun. He gets out of bed.
He kneels at the foot of the bed. On the wall is a photo
of Anna holding baby Nicholas.

He looks under the bed and takes out application forms at the university. Angle on BURSARY. He also takes out a maths book and pen. He puts them on the bed. He leaves the room.

160 INT. BATHROOM, NICHOLAS HOUSE - DAY

The guitar continues to play. Nicholas takes a cold bath out of a bucket.

He leaves the bathroom.

161 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Nicholas puts on a yellow shirt. He takes the books, forms and pens. He closes the door. On the ledger is a coin on one side and a small Bible on the other. A wind blows through the window.

Through the broken window shacks and make shift houses of the ghetto abound. Way out in the distance is the city with towering skyscrapers. The guitar continues playing.

162 INT. CLOCK ROOM - DAY

A clock goes fast forward.

163 INT. BEDROOM, NICHOLAS'S HOUSE - DAY

Nicholas now twenty walks in, he strokes his beard sighs and throws a paper onto the bed.

Angle on the paper reads APPLICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DENIED.

Nicholas picks up his guitar and the paper, he leaves the room.

164 INT. KITCHEN, NICHOLAS' HOUSE - DAY

Phillis is sitting on the table drinking tea. As Nicholas enters she stands up and hugs him.

PHILLIS

It's alright son, we'll figure something out.

NICHOLAS

Yeah, the white man is in love with us, heels over head.

Nicholas throws the paper into the bin, he raises the guitar.

(CONTINUED)

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

I'll figure something out. Too
bad I can't shed my skin like our
totem.

Nicholas leaves the room.

165 EXT. STREET - DAY

Nicholas sits by the road playing his guitar. PASSERBYES drop coins.

A calendar show weeks have gone by.

A MAN (19) with dreadlocks comes and stands next to Nicholas.

He rubs his nose.

Nicholas reaches into the drain and takes out an object, he hands it to the man and they exchange money and drugs as they shake hands.

A calendar show months pass by.

POLICE come and take Nicholas away.

166 INT. JAIL - DAY

Nicholas is led into the jail.

167 EXT. JAIL GROUNDS - DAY

He plays the guitar whilst PRISONERS look on.

168 INT. JAIL - DAY

Nicholas is led out, he looks at the calendar and shakes his head.

Phillis is waiting for him, they hug.

169 EXT. STREET - DAY

Nicholas is back on the streets selling drugs and making music. He sings a song entitled the Heat of Darkness.

The sun.

Montage scenes of black people with placards striking with General and Emmanuel in front.

(CONTINUED)

As the guitar plays off screen, scenes of blacks in mines and farms appear.

PROTESTERS are beaten by POLICEMEN.

General and Emmanuel are handcuffed and killed.

Protesters walk past Nicholas with his guitar.

170 EXT. STREET - DAY

DANNY LYONS (19)a white man walks past Nicholas, he turns and goes back, Danny shells out a couple of notes and puts them into the plate.

DANNY

Knock, knock...

Nicholas looks up.

The sun beams into his eyes, he covers them.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You're supposed to say who's there.

Nicholas puts away his guitar.

NICHOLAS

Who's there?

DANNY

Opportunity, sonny, opportunity.

171 INT. BAR - NIGHT

Danny and Nicholas enter a bar, BARTENDERS are all around, PEOPLE sit around and talk.

DANNY

I've seen you on that corner for months, you've got talent.

Danny hands him a cigarette.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Relax, not everyone feeds into Big Bother. I want to help you.

NICHOLAS

Oh yeah, you want to help me help you I bet.

Danny brings up a bottle of whiskey.

DANNY

Whoa! The white man's brew, sit.

Nicholas takes a seat.

NICHOLAS

We have a saying about strong drink.

DANNY

Let me guess, a glass a day keeps the sorrow away.

NICHOLAS

No, alcohol is like the crocodile infested lake, quench your soul at the cost of death.

Danny pours the drink, he sits down.

DANNY

I'm Lyons, Danny Lyons.

Nicholas looks up and sees the LYON'S DEN written on top.

NICHOLAS

And what can I do for you baas?
Want me to lick the soles of your shoes?

DANNY

I like the sound of your voice,
I'd like you to lick the soul of my internal consciousness.

Nicholas stands up.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I'm just kidding, I've got a bunch of girlfriends. I want you to play here every Saturday.

Nicholas rubs his index and his thumb.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You won't become a millionaire but you don't have to sell drugs no more.

Nicholas drags on his cigarette.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You could make extra waiting the tables, and the women will flock to you like a man with business.

NICHOLAS
The flock of black sheep.

DANNY
Whatever gets you to sleep.

Danny stands and holds Nicholas. Danny holds his hands.

DANNY
Bob Marley, Jimmy Hendrix...

NICHOLAS
They both dead.

Danny goes back and takes a gulp.

DANNY
Do you want me to lick the soles
of your feet?

Nicholas takes off his shoes.

NICHOLAS
On second thoughts, fine, you can
string me along until you get
tired.

Danny walks up to him.

He looks at his toes.

DANNY
You're gonna be famous, going toe
to toe with the best.

Danny laughs as Nicholas plays with his toes.

172 INT. BAR - NIGHT

Nicholas sits in front with his guitar. He begins to sing
but falters, he drinks some water.

The CROWD is quiet for sometime, Danny lights his
cigarette.

Nicholas clears his throat and begins to sing, after a
moment the people begin to join him in song.

Montage of Nicholas singing.

Nicholas with white GIRLS.

Nicholas with fancy clothes.

Nicholas brings Phillis some gifts.

Nicholas and Phillis at his mother's new tombstone.

173 INT. BAR - NIGHT

Danny and Nicholas sit by the bar.

DANNY
What did I tell you?

Danny hands him some money.

Nicholas looks up at the television, he sees Emmanuel making a speech.

DANNY
Turn that off, don't be a spoil sport, put on some sport.

The BARTENDER turns off the television.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Now you use it wisely.

NICHOLAS
I put food in my stomach.

DANNY
And by food you mean ganja in your lungs.

Danny puts him in a vice playfully.

A couple of white GIRLS wave to Nicholas, he jumps down.

NICHOLAS
We gonna have a good time.

Nicholas looks at his watch.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Rolex, Seiko, and lookie here.
Veronica right?

VERONICA (18) giggles.

VERONICA
Those are so fake.

NICHOLAS
You bet, but I aint.

Nicholas and Veronica and the girls leave.

Danny laughs as he counts his money.

174 INT. EMMANUEL'S HOUSE - DAY

Charmaine comes into the living room, Eugene (16) is sitting in front of the television set.

CHARLOTTE

Start the car dear, and take the Idol, your uncle's running late.

EUGENE

And by running late you mean he's chatting with the neighbours, he never lets me start the car.

Charlotte takes the idol and the car keys.

CHARLOTTE

It's fine, I don't want him to be late, what will the church people think?

EUGENE

Well alright but...

Charlotte pushes the idol in the box into his hands.

175 EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Eugene whistles as he makes his way to the car. He gets inside.

176 INT. KITCHEN, EMMANUEL'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlotte is busying humming the original African version of Amazing Grace, she looks outside the window and sees Eugene in the car, he turns on the ignition and the car explodes. Charlotte screams.

CHARLOTTE

Manuel! Manuel!

177 EXT. FENCE - DAY

Emmanuel comes rushing with the neighbours.

178 EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

They open the door and drag out Eugene and the idol.

Emmanuel screams, Charlotte comes holding her mouth.

The idol lies on the ground, black with soot and smoke.

179 EXT. STREET - DAY

A white car by the corner drives off.

180 INT. BAR - DAY

Nicholas is sitting by a stool with his guitar, he is smoking a cigarette.

He raises his head and sees Danny with a MAN in a suit, beside them are two POLICE MEN. The man wags his finger. He pushes Danny.

Nicholas stands up, he walks towards the door.

Danny turns and comes into the bar.

NICHOLAS
What was that all about?

Danny sits down. He grabs a pint of vodka and swings it.

DANNY
You're out.

Nicholas approaches him, hands on waist.

DANNY (CONT'D)
They don't want you playing in here anymore. Sorry mate, nothing I could do.

Nicholas smashes his guitar.

NICHOLAS
Knock, knock, you hear that?

Danny hands Nicholas a glass.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
That's trouble knocking on my door.

Danny looks up to the television set.

Angle on the tv. A news PRESENTER, MALE (27) is presenting the news.

PRESENTER
Outbreaks have broken across the country. Leaders of the Drum have now resorted to violent outlashes following the attempt on Emmanuel Maine's life.

Danny turns off the television.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

I can hear it too.

181 INT. FOREST - NIGHT

General and Emmanuel walk on a dusty path.

General lights a cigarette.

GENERAL

I don't want to say, it but I will.

EMMANUEL

Go ahead.

GENERAL

I told you so.

General puts a sticker onto Emmanuel's cheek.

GENERAL

The SWA sticker, hope it will make you feel better.

Trucks pass by. Young MEN are in the back.

YOUNG MEN

SWA! SWA!

GENERAL

(shaking his head)

This new government is...and we thought the other was bad.

EMMANUEL

The ancestors are testing us.

They arrive at a well. Emmanuel puts the bucket in and begins to draw water.

GENERAL

The ancestors can taste my black ass. Our Drum is now a war drum.

Emmanuel scoops up some water and drinks.

GENERAL (CONT'D)

Now that we've left the country we'll be free to act like the animals that we are.

General drinks with his hands.

They enter the ranch.

182 INT. RANCH - NIGHT

Emmanuel and General turn on the light, guns and bombs lay on the floor.

GENERAL

I told you this was a bright idea.

Emmanuel turns off the light.

183 EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

General, Emmanuel and members of the Drum stand in front of the GUERILLAS SOLDIERS.

GUERILLAS

SWA! SWA!

General steps forward.

GENERAL

Shoot white Africans, on sight!

General raises his AK47.

GENERAL

Shoot them with their own medicine!

The guerillas begin cheering.

184 EXT. STREET - DAY

Nicholas is clothed in rags playing the guitar.

Some GIRLS pass by.

GIRL

Nicka, thought you were too good for us, look at you now!

The girls laugh.

Nicholas begins to play a sorrowful song, a MAN (33) leaves some coins in the beggar's bowl.

185 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Nicholas stares into the Lyons Den.

A white GUITARIST is on stage.

(CONTINUED)

NICHOLAS
That's...that's my song.

Nicholas goes to the entrance, two white BOUNCERS stand by.

BOUNCER
Get out of here, nigger!

Nicholas is pushed and shoved.

NICHOLAS
I need to see Danny.

BOUNCER
Danny's gone, now fuck off.

Nicholas tries to barge in.

BOUNCE #2
You really do want to get into
the lion's den, let me help you
out.

Nicholas is punched and he falls to the ground and has a black out.

186 EXT. GUTTER - DAY

Nicholas opens his eyes, he sees Danny looking down at him.

DANNY
Nick, Nick, you look hurt man.

Danny helps him up.

187 INT. BAR - DAY

Nicholas and Danny sit in a bar full of black PEOPLE.

DANNY
So things are really that bad
hey?

A BAR MAID gives Danny a beer, she clicks her tongue in derision and rolls her eyes.

Danny takes a swig.

NICHOLAS
Like you wouldn't believe. My
aunt kicked me out, cause of the
whores and drugs.

DANNY

And what about your girlfriend?

Nicholas turns and looks on the dancefloor, people are dancing.

NICHOLAS

Which one?

Girls' faces appear.

Nicholas swings from side to side.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

They've been so many.

Danny swings his seat.

DANNY

What about Veronica or Monica?

Hasn't she called you? You seemed so close.

NICHOLAS

She's cold alright, as cold as ice, white as ice too.

Nicholas laughs.

DANNY

Keep your head up, you can stay at my place, something will rear its beautiful head, I promise.

They both swing back their chairs, they look up.

Angle on the television. WHITE SOLDIERS are training.

188

INT. FOREST - NIGHT

WHITE SOLDIERS make gestures to each other in the bushes. They move forward.

189

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - NIGHT

Black GUERILLAS are dozing off. One of them is startled by a rustling sound. He jerks forward.

He sees a man in the forest, he stands up and whistles, then is shot.

A shoot out begins.

190 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

General is on top of a young woman, he hears the commotion and stands up, putting his clothes on.

He gestures to the girl to be quiet.

General takes his AK47 and moves outside.

191 EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - NIGHT

The white soldiers and the black guerillas are involved in a shootout, men left and right fall.

General appears, he shoots down many a white man.

In the heat of the moment he too is shot. He falls to the ground.

192 EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

General's body is dragged and put onto a heap with other dead black soldiers.

White soldiers stand around. COOPER (34) white man lights a cigarette.

COOPER

Khami khazi killers, fucking dogs, Kaffir, kaffir, kaffir.

WHITE SOLDIER

We searched everywhere, we can't find him.

The white soldier spits. He kicks General.

COOPER

One down, one to go. Emmanuel Maine, where are you boy? Come to papa.

The sun shines overhead.

193 EXT. DUST ROAD - DAY

Emmanuel is in the back of a truck full of pigs.

A white FARMER (51) is driving the truck, beside him is his WIFE (39).

FARMER

He'll be fine with us, after the border he's on his own.

Emmanuel sits at the back holding the idol.

194 INT. LOUNGE, DANNY'S HOUSE - DAY

Nicholas opens his eyes, he sees Veronica.

He sits up.

NICHOLAS
Veronica?

Veronica sits beside him.

VERONICA
Danny gave me a call. Nicholas.
You look like shit.

NICHOLAS
Feel like shit too.

They embrace.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
You look great, hand me that
cigarette.

Veronica takes the cigarette from her mouth and hands it to Nicholas.

Nicholas leans down and grabs his guitar he begins to sing.

NICHOLAS
Just like old times.

Veronica puts her hand on his wrist.

VERONICA
What happened to the good times?

Nicholas puts his hand on her hers.

NICHOLAS
I sold them.

Danny walks in with a plate full of scrambled eggs. He places it on the table and sits down.

Nicholas wolfs down the food.

Danny lights a cigarette, then sighs.

DANNY
That's going to be your last
supper, or, last breakfast.

Nicholas stops eating, his mouth full of food.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY (CONT'D)
Someone important is coming home
tomorrow, and er...

Nicholas reaches into his bag and takes out a packet of weed.

NICHOLAS
I'm going to need something
stronger.

VERONICA
You can stay with me for a little
while.

Nicholas kisses her on the cheek.

NICHOLAS
I can always count on you my
little nymph.

Nicholas looks down and sees a tatoo.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Literally.

Nicholas sees a badge with a black cross and white background, the letters SWA are written in bold.

NICHOLAS
What's SWA?

The phone rings, Danny stands up and gets out of the room.

VERONICA
You don't know, it's the SWA
sticker, for the DRUM.

NICHOLAS
The freedom fighters?

VERONICA
Yes, SWA, Stop White Apartheid,
or Settle With Africans, or Stop
White Africans, or Stab White
Africans or...

NICHOLAS
I get it, but you...

Danny walks back in.

DANNY
Nicholas I've got a plan, but it
might be risky.

NICHOLAS
If the snake with strings
attached is involved I'm in.

VERONICA
The what?

NICHOLAS
The dollars.

DANNY
Veronica can you give us a minute
or an hour?

Veronica stands up and leaves.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Knock, knock...

195 INT. BEDROOM, VERONICA'S FLAT - NIGHT

Rain falls on the window pane.

Nicholas and Veronica lie in bed by the window.

VERONICA
What did Danny say?

NICHOLAS
It's top secret, I gotta keep it
on the down low.

Nicholas stands up, naked and leaves. The sound of
urinating can be heard.

Nicholas comes back, he gets into bed.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
I'm going to leave for a little
while.

Veronica throws Nicholas' briefs at him.

VERONICA
I didn't know we were going to
have such a brief time together!

NICHOLAS
You just crying over milk that
hasn't spilt yet.

She turns and faces the wall.

NICHOLAS
When the going gets tough, the
tough get going, and I just gotta
go.

(CONTINUED)

Nicholas rubs her bare shoulder, she throws it away.

VERONICA

But when will you be back?

NICHOLAS

Soon enough. I gotta wake up real
early next morning, about 11
o'clock on the dot.

She turns and faces him, the window is showing on the faces.

196 INT. CAR - DAY

Danny and Nicholas are in a car.

NICHOLAS

How long man, I gotta pee?

DANNY

We're almost there, keep your
pants on.

Overhead are miles and miles or road without a house in sight.

197 EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Nicholas urinates.

NICHOLAS

Ouch! Ow!

Danny gets out of the car.

DANNY

What's the matter?

NICHOLAS

Nothing man, nothing, let's go.

Nicholas gets in the car and they take off.

198 EXT. SUBURBS - DAY

The car with Nicholas enters through a large gate into a large estate with a large house. Two GUARDS let them in.

199 INT. CAR - DAY

Nicholas looks around, gasping.

DANNY
For you, opportunity is coming
twice in your lifetime.

200 INT. BOARD ROOM - DAY

MR. KURT (70) stands in front of a room full of MEN, white and black. Danny and Nicholas sit at the back.

KURT
Good day, gentlemen. As my name implies I like to keep things short. I own half a dozen and farms.

He walks around the room.

KURT (CONT'D)
This is Africa's Enlightenment,
and now the Drum or whatever they call themselves are stuck in the forests causing trouble!

Kurt slams his hand on the desk.

KURT (CONT'D)
The horror, the horror, people dying for what?

Kurt pours himself some tea.

KURT (CONT'D)
I've called all of you to help me, help the country.

Kurt points to Emmanuel. He crosses his face with red ink.

KURT (CONT'D)
I want him gone.

Nicholas drags Danny out of the room.

201 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Nicholas pushes Danny to the wall.

NICHOLAS
Are you crazy, betray my people!

Danny gets Nicholas' off.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

The work might be wrong but the
money is good.

NICHOLAS

You're right, what am I thinking?

Danny and Nicholas walk back into the room.

Kurt's hands are flailing.

KURT

...those guerillas want to take
us back to the forests!

Nicholas nudges Danny

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

I thought he said he was a man of
few words.

Danny shrugs.

DANNY

What's a few thousand?

202 EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

Montage sequence. Nicholas is training with other black
RECRUITS.

They shoot guns.

They huddle with Cooper and other white soldiers.

Nicholas and the other recruits look over a map.

203 EXT. CLOCK ROOM - DAY

The clock goes faster and faster, the calendar shows years
have flown by.

204 EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

Nicholas and his platoon are involved in a shootout with
guerillas.

Cooper stands in front of the VILLAGERS. He shoots the
ground.

COOPER

How many times do I have to ask?
Where is their hideout?

Silence. Cooper nods to Nicholas.

(CONTINUED)

Nicholas takes a torch flame from the fire.

COOPER (CONT'D)

They've run away and left you to die, they don't care about you, we can help you, maize, fertilizer...

Cooper nods to Nicholas.

Nicholas goes to a VILLAGER who is hanging upside down, and torches him, the man screams and shouts.

COOPER

You still won't talk. Alright then, talk is cheap, silence is pricy.

Cooper begins to mow them down with a gun.

205 INT. HUT - MORNING

Nicholas gets into a hut with his gun. He looks around.

He uncovers blankets kicking things around. Then he sees the African Idol.

NICHOLAS

My, my what do we have here?

Nicholas takes the Idol and leaves.

206 EXT. FOREST - DAY

Shoot outs with guerilla forces and the recruits.

207 INT. TRUCK - NIGHT

Cooper and Nicholas are sitting in the back of a truck. Nicholas clutches the African Idol.

Cooper hands Nicholas a cigarette.

COOPER

This Black Jesus of yours.

Nicholas lights the cigarette.

COOPER (CONT'D)

Twice I tried to get him.

NICHOLAS

What happened?

COOPER

He's a lucky son a bitch. First time.

208 INT. RESTAURANT - DAY - FLASHBACK

A WAITER (24) puts cyanide into a drink.

He serves Emmanuel.

The waiter goes back.

He watches Emmanuel from behind the counter.

Emmanuel knocks the drink with his elbow, water with the cyanide spills.

The waiter lips 'shit!'

209 INT. TRUCK - NIGHT

COOPER

And the second time, I was there personally, when the bomb exploded killing the kid, I felt bad but.

Cooper shrugs.

NICHOLAS

He used to preach at my church.

The truck stops and the two get out.

210 EXT. MILITARY BASE - NIGHT

COOPER

Judas does the guilt keep you awake ?

NICHOLAS

Desperate times call for desperate mergers.

Nicholas flicks the cigarette out of the truck.

A Black MAN (17) comes rushing, he salutes Cooper.

MAN

Permission to speak, captain.

Cooper nods.

MAN

I think we've found Black Jesus,
and one of them just flipped.

211 INT. GUERRILLA MILITARY CAMP - NIGHT

Emmanuel sits at a table with eleven leaders of the DRUM. Charlie Maine comes and sits beside him, he has a newspaper in front of him. They are eating.

EMMANUEL

(to Charlie)

Ever since you left the Idol we
have had nothing but bad luck.

Emmanuel dips some bread into soup and hands it to Charlie. Charlie accepts it.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

If you weren't my son...

Emmanuel and his men stand up.

The men go off to a table.

Charlie pulls his father down.

CHARLIE

Father don't you think the war
has gone on long enough.

Emmanuel shakes his head.

EMMANUEL

Over my dead body. They killed
Eugene, they will never be peace
until we win.

Emmanuel goes to the table. They look over the map.

Charlie flips a coin.

212 INT. TRUCK - NIGHT

Nicholas, Cooper, and the other recruits are in the back of the truck.

COOPER

That Kurt has enlarged my mind.

NICHOLAS

And your bank account, no doubt.

Cooper laughs and nods.

Two white RECRUITS are in the corner of the truck.

WHITE RECRUIT

It's just like those monkeys to
hang around instead of fighting a
war.

They laugh.

Cooper puts a hand on Nicholas' shoulder.

COOPER

Don't mind them. It will soon be
all over, without the head, the
Drum will go silent.

The trucks stop, the recruits get out.

EXT. GARDENS - NIGHT

Emmanuel and the eleven men stand in the garden.

EMMANUEL

That's it men, tomorrow we
strike.

Charlie comes and stands beside his father.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

Charlie have you found the Idol
yet?

Charlie shakes his head.

EMMANUEL

I don't like moving about without
it!

Charlie comes and hugs his father. He kisses him on the
cheek.

CHARLIE

Forgive me, father.

Charlie steps back. Sound of gunshots.

Emmanuel grabs his chest, he looks at his hands, they are
red.

The men duck and take out their weapons. A shootout
begins.

213

EXT. GUERRILLA MILITARY CAMP - NIGHT

Cooper, Nicholas and the other recruits start firing.

(CONTINUED)

NICHOLAS
I got him, I got him!

COOPER
Back to the truck, back to the
truck, now!

The recruits begin going back.

Nicholas is struck on the right side of his ear, he falls back.

Cooper sees Nicholas down and rushes back to help him up, he fires at the guerillas in the darkness.

Cooper is hit and falls down.

Nicholas shoots back, from the ground stands up, he drags Cooper for a while.

COOPER
Go.

NICHOLAS
I just can't leave you.

COOPER
That's an order.

Nicholas leaves him and rushes away.

Cooper drags himself to a tree shooting, he is finally shot after a shootout.

Guerillas come in dozens shooting.

214 EXT. PATHWAY - NIGHT

Nicholas jumps onto the truck and the truck rushes away.

Guerillas come shooting.

215 INT. KURT'S MANSION - DAY

Kurt is standing in front of the recruits.

KURT
Good work soldiers. It's a shame
Captain Cooper didn't make it,
his wife and kids will be well
taken care off.

Kurt bends down, he takes out a suitcase.

He begins handing out bricks of cash to the recruits.

Nicholas goes forward and receives some money.

KURT (CONT'D)

With Emmanuel Maine out of the
picture we can frame a new
future, bigger and better.

216 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Sound of Kurt talking laughing and talking can be heard.

Danny and Nicholas walk through the corridor. Nicholas holds the African Idol.

DANNY

Sorry about you ear, buddy.

Nicholas looks at the money.

NICHOLAS

It was worth it.

DANNY

You use that money wisely, now.

Danny looks at the Idol.

NICHOLAS

Oh this, it's nothing.

The walk out into the sunlight.

217 EXT. STEPS - DAY

Veronica comes and hugs Nicholas.

VERONICA

I missed you, baby!

NICHOLAS

So did the guerillas.

The three of them get into the car.

Veronica sits at the back, Nicholas in front.

NICHOLAS

We not rich, but we'll be fine.

Danny starts the car.

DANNY

I think you should leave the
country, for good.

(CONTINUED)

NICHOLAS

Forget it, I've got an aunt to
take care of, and my V for
voluptuous.

Nicholas kisses Veronica.

DANNY

Alright, but...

NICHOLAS

No buts.

Nicholas looks at Veronica.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Ok, maybe two.

The car drives off.

Danny turns on the radio.

RADIO PRESENTER

Talks have begun between the DRUM
and the white led National
Alliance...John Moses will be
released from prison forty years
after being convicted of the
murder of white farmer...

Nicholas turns the radio channel, he listens to a song The Heat of Darkness.

NICHOLAS

That's my song! Christ, that's my
song, he stole my song.

Nicholas turns off the radio.

DANNY

You've got other songs inside of
you.

218 EXT. SOCCER STADIUM - DAY

Large CROWDS sit on the benches.

219 INT. TENT, SOCCER STADIUM - DAY

JOHN MOSES MAINE (70) sits in front of the crowd, beside him is Charlie Maine.

MOSES

I've heard enough, boy. We will
not make any deals with those
pigs.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE
But grandfather...

Moses puts his hand on a cane.

MOSES
Don't talk back to me, I will
whip your ass, if you try me.
This country is ours and so is
the Idol how could you lose it?

Moses calls one of the GUARDS.

The GUARD, ABBIE (34) comes forward.

ABBIE
Yes, sir.

MOSES
Don't call me that, I'm a black
man, my real name is Chuma.

Moses pulls him close.

MOSES
Find the man who killed my son,
and pay him his last visit and
return the Idol.

A tear rolls down his eyes. Charlie folds his arms.

MOSES (CONT'D)
They killed my boy...

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

People start pointing to the sky.

220 INT. TENT, SOCCER STADIUM - DAY

Moses leans on his cane, stands up and looks up.

He laughs and summons Charlie.

MOSES
Like my boy predicted it's an
eclipse! The ancestors want us to
cover the white man, obliterate
him!

Charlie comes beside him.

CHARLIE
Maybe the ancestors want us to
unite with the white man.

Moses drives the cane into Charlie's mid riff.

(CONTINUED)

MOSES

Don't talk nonsense.

221 EXT. STREET - DAY

Nicholas and Veronica walk hand in hand.

PASSER - BYES look at them repulsed and surprised.

Veronica laughs and flicks her hair.

222 INT. CAR - DAY

Someone is watching them.

223 EXT. STREET - DAY

The car follows from a distance.

224 INT. CHARLIE'S MANSION - DAY

Charlie is on the phone.

CHARLIE

Yes, Mr. Ryan.

Charlie nods.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Yes, Mr. Ryan.

Charlie writes down something.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Yes, Mr. Ryan.

Charlie hangs up the phone, then picks it up again. He dials the number on the page.

225 EXT. DOOR STEP - NIGHT

Nicholas and Veronica are standing outside the door.

VERONICA

Did you see the way the security guard looked at us.

Veronica bulges her eyes, they both laugh.

Nicholas is wearing a fancy suit, he puts down the bags with groceries inside of them.

He opens the door.

226 INT. VERONICA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Nicholas and Veronica enter the house. Nicholas turns on the light, but it does not turn on.

NICHOLAS

Mmm. What's wrong with the lights?

They walk into the kitchen.

227 INT. KITCHEN, VERONICA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Nicholas leaves the groceries. They walk into the bedroom.

228 INT. BEDROOM, VERONICA'S FLAT - NIGHT

Nicholas tries on the light, he picks up the phone, it is silent.

INT. LIVING ROOM, VERONICA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Nicholas tries on the lights again.

Nicholas lights a candle, he looks over the room.

NICHOLAS

Where's the Id?

Nicholas and Veronica are struck from behind and both fall.

229 INT. WARE HOUSE - NIGHT

Nicholas opens his eyes.

He is hanging from the roof, he turns and sees Veronica tied and sitting on the floor.

The African Idol is on a table glaring at him.

ABBIE

Hello, Judas.

Nicholas raises his bloody head.

NICHOLAS

Who are you?

Abbie comes forward.

(CONTINUED)

ABBIE
Your worst nightmare.

Abbie punches him.

ABBIE (CONT'D)
I'm going to make sure, your last
day on earth is your worst.

Abbie turns to Veronica.

ABBIE (CONT'D)
And your best.

Abbie laughs.

230 EXT. WARE HOUSE - NIGHT

The sound of Nicholas screaming and Abbie laughing.

231 INT. CHARLIE'S MANSION - NIGHT

Moses is lying in bed about to sleep. Charlie is sitting beside him.

MOSES
My body is still fit, must have
been the boulders I spent the
last forty years grinding.

Charlie takes his pillow, he fluffs it.

CHARLIE
You just make sure you have a
nice, long sleep. And tomorrow we
can kick the pigs out of our
country.

Moses pulls up the covers.

MOSES
That's my boy, er..where's the
Idol, I want it here on my
bedpost.

CHARLIE
It'll be here when you wake up, I
promise, Abbie will come with it.

Charlie winks and fluffs the pillow some more.

Angle on the stars on the night sky.

232 INT. WARE HOUSE - NIGHT

Abbie knocks Nicholas to the ground.

Veronica makes a muffled sound.

Abbie picks up the African bible, he flicks it open.

ABBIE

The book of Jen Isis, written by
the father of the man you killed,
and because you picked the fruit
of his loins, you shall surely
die and the torture is for the
African Idol and my personal
amusement.

Nicholas groans on the ground, all bloodied.

ABBIE (CONT'D)

Let's see, and the good book
reads...

Abbie looks down on Nicholas.

ABBIE (CONT'D)

I hate looking down on your but I
can't help it.

Abbie kicks him.

ABBIE (CONT'D)

You're not listening are you? Why
don't you lend me your ear then?

Abbie reaches down, takes a razor and slices off Nicholas' remaining ear.

Abbie laughs. He picks up the bible.

ABBIE (CONT'D)

What have we here? And he will
crush your head and you shall
bite his heel. Sound good to you?

Abbie kicks Abbie on the mouth, then stomps his head.

He opens the bible again.

Nicholas crawls away and hides in the corner.

Veronia just makes muffled noises.

ABBIE (CONT'D)

And he shall crawl on his belly
and eat dust.

Abbie laughs.

(CONTINUED)

ABBIE (CONT'D)
And now goodbye.
 (to Veronica)
And to you hello.

Abbie goes for his waist, the phone rings, he picks it up.

 ABBIE (CONT'D)
Yes. This is Abner. To what? Does
he know about this? Yes sir!

Abbie puts the phone down.

 ABBIE (CONT'D)
Looks like, the snake coward gets
to leave a thousand lives.

Abbie unties Veronica he takes the Idol and lives.

Veronica rushes and hugs Nicholas. She cries.

 VERONICA
This time we're leaving Africa
for good.

233 EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

A voice rings out.

 FLIGHT ATTENDANT
The flight 11 is now prepared to
leave...

Veronica takes the bags. She turns to Nicholas sitting
beside her.

 VERONICA
That's us.

234 EXT. STREET, LONDON, DAY

Words written out, SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NORWAY.

A shop written LEATHER SHOP. Veronica puts an OPEN sign on
the door.

235 INT. LEATHER SHOP - DAY

Nicholas is behind the counter.

A CUSTOMER (35) woman arrives.

CUSTOMER

Hello, I'm looking for a leather belt. Real leather belt.

The customer swings her pearl necklace.

VERONICA

Right this way. (os)These are made from real snake skin...

Nicholas rolls on his wheelchair, he picks up the newspaper.

The customer comes to the counter.

CUSTOMER

I'll take this.

Nicholas nods.

NICHOLAS

And a kind donation for the disabled, I'm their chairman, get it.

The customer nods and puts a coin into a tin.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Come again.

The customer leaves.

VERONICA

I'm glad you have willed yourself to live, no pun intended.

Nicholas rolls towards her. Veronica shows her belly.

NICHOLAS

In that warehouse, I realised that death is the god of us all, I just wished he'd get it over and done with.

Veronica takes his hand and puts it on her stomach.

VERONICA

Life. Death might stop us, but life goes on. You just have to roll on.

She sits on his lap. The phone rings.

236 INT. LEATHER SHOP/DANNY LYON'S BAR - DAY

Split screen. Danny cleans up the bar with a table cloth. He is on the phone.

DANNY

Nick, you alright in the land of
the Vikings.

NICHOLAS

Yeah, thanks for the loan.

DANNY

You need to thank me for a lot
more.

A CUSTOMER (45) enters the shop.

NICHOLAS

How so?

DANNY

Who do you think got Abbie off
your back? I saved your ass,
three times.

NICHOLAS

I hear you.

DANNY

I hope you get your ears fixed.

Nicholas hangs up the phone.

INT. LEATHER SHOP - DAY

The customer buys some shoes. Nicholas goes back to his paper. He shows it to Veronica.

NICHOLAS

Wow, the old man is dead, and he
didn't get to live in the land he
spent forty years in jail for?

Nicholas whistles.

Veronica holds up the newspaper. Angle on headline, JOHN MOSES DIES IN HIS SLEEP.

VERONICA

It says here, that his grandson,
Charlie Maine will run in the
elections.

NICHOLAS

Makes no difference to me.

237 INT. DANNY LYON'S BAR - DAY

Danny puts a SOLD sign on the door. He opens it and gets out.

He walks away.

238 EXT. CITY SKYLINE - DAY

A view of an African city.

Words written in bold, NOT SO LONG AGO, (AD), AFRICA DECOLONISED.

239 INT. CHARLIE'S MANSION - DAY

Charlie walks on a checkered black and white floor. He passes a BUTLER (29) and a MAID (41).

He looks at himself in the mirror and adjusts his tie.

BUTLER

You look like a man who knows how to get things done.

Charlie nods and walks out, the Butler follows with a box.

240 EXT. DRIVE WAY - DAY

A lot of fancy cars are in the drive way. A GARDENER (23) is in the back ground. Luggage is being put by the butler into the boot.

A CHAUFFEUR (45) opens the door and Charlie gets in.

241 INT. MERCEDES BENZ - DAY

Charlie looks over his newspaper.

CHARLIE

Airport.

The chauffeur nods and drives off.

View of electric gate opening.

242 EXT. ROAD - DAY

The cars pave way for the motorcade.

The mercedes passes by.

243 INT. MERCEDES BENZ - DAY

Charlie is still reading.

The chauffeur looks out the tinted window.

244 EXT. PRIVATE AIRPORT - DAY

Charlie emerges from the Mercedes.

He walks over a carpet.

TWO FLIGHT ATTENDANTS, one black and one white (19) smile at him, Charlie gets onto the plane, followed by the chauffeur carrying a box.

The plane takes off.

245 INT. PRIVATE PLANE - DAY

A hand is on Charlie's shoulder. Mr. A. RYAN SR (68) face is not to be shown.

MR. RYAN
Charlie, I'd like you to meet my son, Arthur.

Charlie's hand shakes a white hand.

MR. RYAN
Take a seat, I'll be with you shortly.

Mr. Ryan's right hand waves as he speaks.

MR. RYAN (CONT'D)
Now, no more, playing around.

ARTHUR
Yes, father.

The left hand points.

MR. RYAN
No more, Danny Lyons.

ARTHUR
Yes, father.

MR. RYAN
You have corporation to run,
don't run from your destiny.

(CONTINUED)

ARTHUR

Yes, father.

Danny Lyons nods.

MR. RYAN

Now, what's the difference
between a commoner and a row
boat.

Arthur/Danny shrugs.

MR. RYAN

Nothing, they're both for sale.

Arthur/Danny laughs.

ARTHUR

Good one dad.

Mr. Ryan stops laughing.

MR. RYAN

Now it's time for business, you
sit on my right hand.

Arthur and Mr. Ryan go and sit down, opposite Charlie.

MR. RYAN (CONT'D)

Agreed, you Charlie Maine will
win the next election.

Ryan's left hand wags.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

MR. RYAN

All construction, mining and
industries remain in our
competent hands.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

Ryan's left hand wags.

MR. RYAN

We go meet this Arab fella, and
make the sale. Deal or no deal.

CHARLIE

Yes sir, I mean deal.

Mr. Ryan's finger twitches.

A FLIGHT ATTENDANT (19), biracial woman brings them tea.
She pours it.

(CONTINUED)

Mr. Ryan pours white milk into his black coffee. He stirs and lifts the cup.

Arthur looks over his shoulder. He nudges Charlie.

ARTHUR

What happened to the statue over there?

Charlie looks at the African Idol.

CHARLIE

It got burnt.

ARTHUR

What is it for? Like a god?

Charlie cuts a giant cake which looks like Africa.

CHARLIE

I don't believe in God, I believe in good, that is a symbol of my roots, my family tree.

Arthur munches a cake, he nudges Charlie.

ARTHUR

I hear you, dad...Mr. Ryan is always going on and on, about our royal blood from Merovingians, Charlemagne and...I forgot.

Mr. Ryan's hand takes a golden crucifix from his jacket.

MR. RYAN

A man's god is never an anachronism.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

ARTHUR

Speaking of chronic...I meant chronic pains.

Charlie looks at the idol.

CHARLIE

No matter how you look at it, where you stand, it looks at you.

Angle on the idol by the plane window.

View of the ground below.

246 EXT. LIGHT HOUSE - NIGHT

Words written out, A LONG TIME AGO, BEFORE THE BEGINNING.

247 INT. LIGHT HOUSE - NIGHT

View of computer screen. Words being typed out.

Angle on the idol by the plane window.

View of the ground below. THE END

A black hand turns off the computer.

GODFREY BLACK (30) stands up.

GODFREY

And with that, the sleeping giant
rose from it's cradle.

He plays with chess board figures that comprise of white dolls and black dolls. He removes the black king and replaces it with a white king.

GODFREY

Where did I leave it?

Godfrey leaves the room.

INT. POOL ROOM - NIGHT

Godfrey looks around the pool table.

There is yellow ball in the center surrounded by ten balls. Godfrey takes the pool stick, and knocks the tenth into the hole.

Godfrey picks up the third green ball. He leaves the pool room.

248 INT. MUSIC ROOM - NIGHT

Godfrey enters a room with drums and guitars, he looks around, he hits the drum in rage. He leaves the room.

249 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Godfrey enters a bedroom with stuffed animals. There are stuffed animals, a stuffed man and a woman. A small man on the window seal.

Godfrey looks into the closet with many mirrors.

Godfrey sighs and leaves.

250 INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Godfrey walks past a bowl of plastic fruit, he picks up and apple.

251 INT. DARK ROOM - NIGHT

Godfrey peers in, the light is off.

GODFREY
Is it in here?

ECHO
Is it in here.

Godfrey leaves.

252 INT. STAIR CASE - NIGHT

Godfrey goes down the stair case.

253 EXT. HUT EXTERIOR - NIGHT

Godfrey emerges from a hut. He smiles.

GODFREY
There you are.

The floor is made up of brown marbles, surrounding him are statues. Godfrey picks something up.

Godfrey places a black dummie ADAM on his right lap, EVE on his left. He begins ventriloquy.

GODFREY
Hey Adam, why were you hiding
from me?

Godfrey manipulates the dummy.

ADAM
Getting some fresh air, you
should try it.

GODFREY
There is no air.

EVE
You look so lonely.

Godfrey walks to the glass made ocean.

(CONTINUED)

GODFREY

I am, I am.

ADAM

How's the screenplay, African Idol?

GODFREY

It's finished, now I'm so bored.

Godfrey sits down.

EVE

I've got an idea, why don't create living humans.

ADAM

Great idea, they will think and live for themselves.

GODFREY

I like the sound of that, animals, birds and fish. And men and women, it will be a great comedy. The creatures won't know when they will die, great fun battles, I'll have fun testing them, seeing how they react. It'll be wonderful!

Godfrey stands up.

ADAM

Eve what have you done?

EVE

Ok, Godfrey, I think you are getting the wrong id...

GODFREY

I'll take a wild savage animal and turn it into a creature like me, fun, fun...But wait, I'm always making mistakes here and there, never mind, the little creatures won't mind a little hunger and a little disease, remember when I lost my sight because of the stroke of genius, the watch I made was alright, right? I mean it falls off here and there but...

Godfrey walks on the glass.

ADAM

God...stop. Remember the
dinosaurs?

GODFREY

Yes! God that sounds like a nice
name.

Godfrey clears his throat.

GODFREY (CONT'D)

Let there be light!

Godfrey turns white.

GODFREY

Oops, not me the sun.

EVE

Oh, oh here we go again. Godfrey
don't, remember when you made my
chest too big for my back...

GODFREY

This time it will be different.
Let there be light!

The sun rises over the horizon.

Godfrey laughs hysterically.

GODFREY

It lives!

FADE OUT:

THE END