

START >>>029 **KIALA**

(coming close)

You're doing it again.

030 ISIDORE

I'm breathing.

031 **KIALA**

You know what I mean.

032 ISIDORE

I do.

033 **KIALA**

(trying to keep calm)

He's watching.

034 ISIDORE

Let him.

035 **KIALA**

Isidore -

036 ISIDORE

Mosai. If I stop praying because he's watching... then he's already inside my head.

A BEAT.

037 **KIALA**

And if he decides to make an example?

038 ISIDORE

Then I won't be alone. Jesus and The Holy Mother Mary will be with me.

039 **KIALA**

That's not comfort for me.

040 ISIDORE

But it is truth.

8

INT. COLONIAL COURTROOM - RETURNFLASHBACK DRAINS. COURTROOM RETURNS.WALLA: A SINGLE COUGH IN THE GALLERY.

041 REYNIERS

You tried to convince him to remove it?

042 KIALA
Many times.

043 REYNIERS
Why?

044 KIALA
Because I wanted him to live.

045 REYNIERS
And he responded—

046 KIALA
Like he always did. Calm. Like the
answer was already decided in him.

9 EXT. RUBBER CAMP - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

NIGHT INSECTS. DISTANT THUNDER. RAIN HAS
SOFTENED BUT REMAINS. A FIRE CRACKLES WEAKLY.

WALLA: MEN COUGH

047 KIALA
(quiet)
You're not seeing what I'm seeing.

048 ISIDORE
And what is that, my friend?

049 KIALA
I see men staring at you.
Like you're - like you're a story
they can hold onto.

050 ISIDORE
Men need stories.

051 KIALA
Stories don't stop whips.

052 ISIDORE
But they can stop men from turning
into animals.

053 KIALA
(beat)
It's cloth, Isidore.

054 ISIDORE
It is cloth... but it carries a
promise I made when I took the
rosary in my hands.
(MORE)

ISIDORE (CONT'D)

I asked the Mother of Christ to keep me close to her Son. If I cast this aside out of fear, then my prayer was only words.

055 KIALA

You could take it off when he's near. Put it back later. No one would know.

056 ISIDORE

I would know.

057 KIALA

So you'd rather die than bend?

058 ISIDORE

(soft, direct)

I'd rather die whole than live broken.

A BEAT.

FIRE POPS.

059 KIALA

You are not the only one who wants to live whole Isidore.

060 ISIDORE

True.

061 KIALA

Then why make them watch you die?

<<< END

062 ISIDORE

(quiet)

Because someone has to show them that a man can be afraid and still not surrender.

CAMP SOUNDS FADE INTO COURTROOM SOUNDS

10

INT. COLONIAL COURTROOM - CONTINUOUS

063 REYNIERS

Did you believe him?

064 KIALA

Yes.