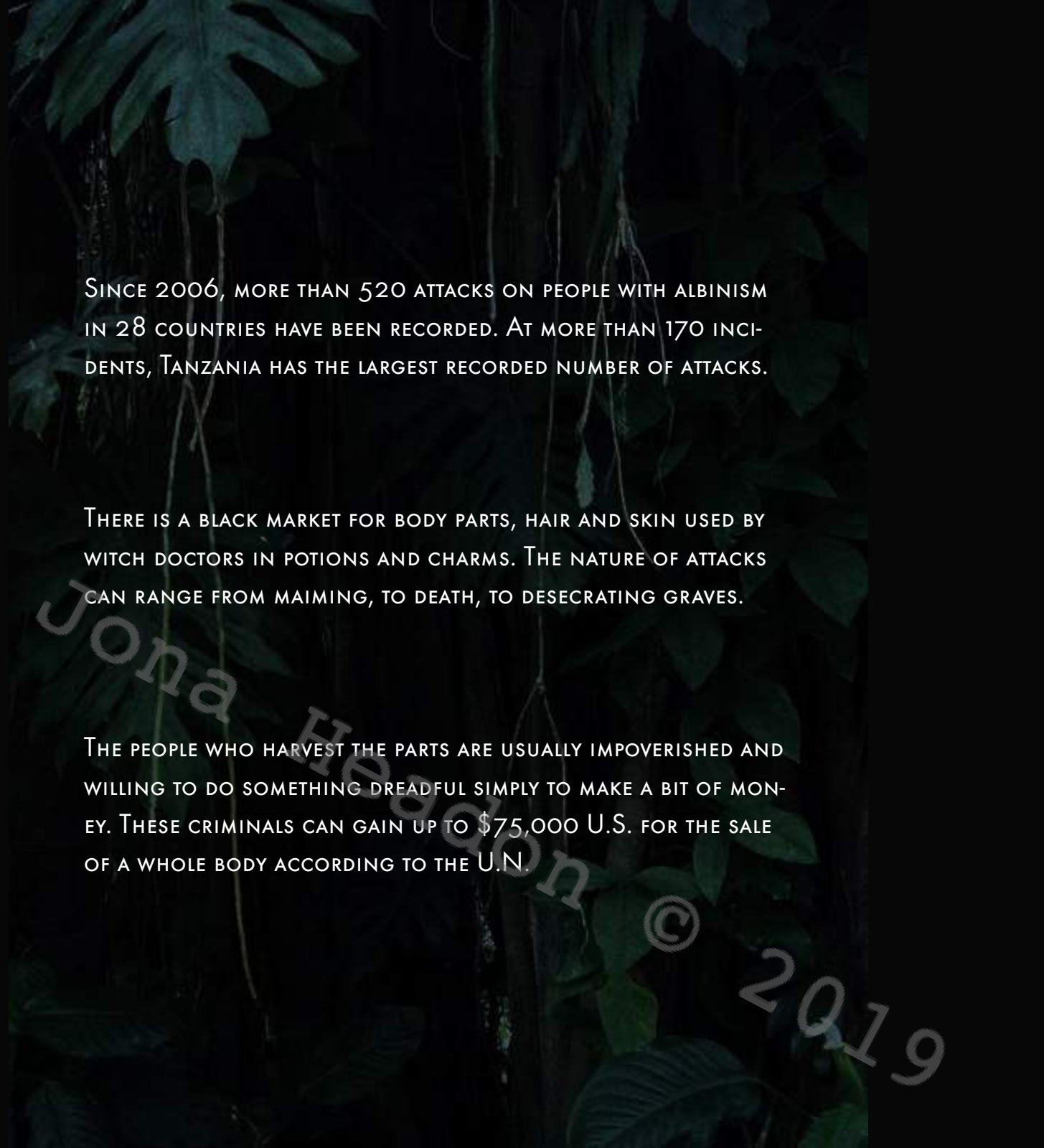


WHEN PREY SLEEPS

WHEN PREY SLEEPS

A TREATMENT BY JONA HEADON

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WHEN PREY SLEEPS

SINCE 2006, MORE THAN 520 ATTACKS ON PEOPLE WITH ALBINISM IN 28 COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN RECORDED. AT MORE THAN 170 INCIDENTS, TANZANIA HAS THE LARGEST RECORDED NUMBER OF ATTACKS.

THERE IS A BLACK MARKET FOR BODY PARTS, HAIR AND SKIN USED BY WITCH DOCTORS IN POTIONS AND CHARMS. THE NATURE OF ATTACKS CAN RANGE FROM MAIMING, TO DEATH, TO DESECRATING GRAVES.

THE PEOPLE WHO HARVEST THE PARTS ARE USUALLY IMPOVERISHED AND WILLING TO DO SOMETHING DREADFUL SIMPLY TO MAKE A BIT OF MONEY. THESE CRIMINALS CAN GAIN UP TO \$75,000 U.S. FOR THE SALE OF A WHOLE BODY ACCORDING TO THE U.N.

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WHEN PREY

FEW ATTACKERS AND WITCH DOCTORS HAVE BEEN
BROUGHT TO TRIAL, LET ALONE CONVICTED.

SLEEPS



Jona Headon

NOT ONE BUYER IN THIS MACABRE TRADE
HAS EVER BEEN PROSECUTED.

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WHEN PREY SLEEPS IS A GUT-WRENCHING PORTRAYAL OF THE ALBINO CRISIS IN TANZANIA. THE FILM WILL EXPLORE THE DANGERS OF BLIND BELIEF IN CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND BEGS ITS CHARACTERS TO QUESTION ITS TRAJECTORY AND TO CHANGE DIRECTION BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. IT EXPLORES THEMES OF MOTHERHOOD, LIES AND BELIEF IN A SMALL SIX CAST MEMBER ENSEMBLE.

AT ITS VERY CORE, WHEN PREY SLEEPS IS A UNIQUE HORROR FILM AND THE TRAUMA PERMEATES TO THE SURFACE IN DIRE DISPLAYS OF FEAR, PARANOIA AND GREED. ARCHAIC BELIEFS IN TRADITIONS AND STORIES RESTRAIN OUR CHARACTERS FROM ANY FORM OF A HAPPY ENDING IN THE SAME WAY ARTHUR MILLER'S THE CRUCIBLE RELENTLESSLY BOILS TO ITS INEVITABLE INJUSTICE. ONCE THE ACCUSATION OF WITCHCRAFT HAS BEEN UTTERED, IT IS NOT LONG UNTIL FINGERS ARE BRAZENLY POINTED AND LIVES CHANGE FOR THE WORST.

WITHOUT THE USE OF JUMP-SCARES OR OTHER-WORLDLY MONSTERS TITILLATING THE AUDIENCE, THE FEAR IS BIRTHED FROM THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS STORY IS HARDLY FICTIONAL.

THE FEAR IS REAL. THE HATRED IS TRUE.

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WEEDS
PREY SLEEPS
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SETTING

TANZANIA, AFRICA.

ON A SMALL PLOT OF DUSTY LAND BESIEGED BY
DENSE FORESTLAND, THE PAINFULLY RURAL
ENVIRONMENT WILL SERVE AS PRESSURE POT.





THERE ARE ONLY 6 MAJOR SETS THE FILM WILL REGULARLY RE-USE:
MOZA'S PROPERTY, WHICH INCLUDES TWO SMALL HOUSES AND A BOREHOLE;
THE WILD AND UNFORGIVING FOREST;
THE DIRT ROAD; AND THE REINCARNATING CAVE.

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WHEN FREY SLEEPS

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CHARACTERS

ACTORS WILL PERFORM IN ENGLISH, OCCASIONALLY USING SWAHILI WORDS FOR MORE SOCIALLY COLLOQUIAL AND CULTURALLY TRADITIONAL REFERENCES.

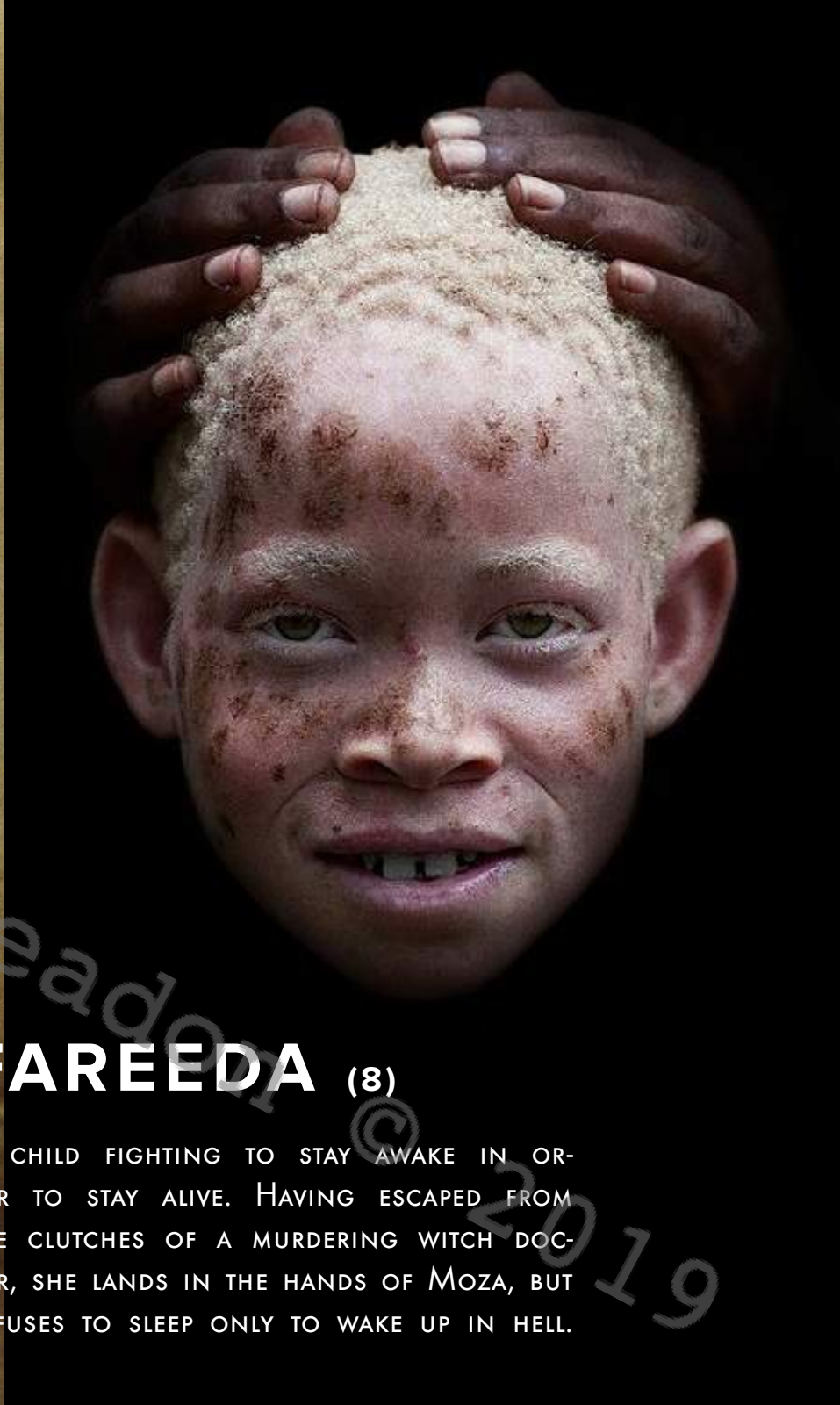


MOZA (28)

A MOTHER AT HEART DESPITE BEING ROBBED OF PARENTHOOD. WHEN A CHILD IN NEED ARRIVES AT HER DOORSTEP, SHE IS TOO DAMAGED TO LOVE AGAIN. SHE FINDS SHE'D RATHER CHOOSE HATE.



WHEN PREY



FAREEDA (8)

A CHILD FIGHTING TO STAY AWAKE IN ORDER TO STAY ALIVE. HAVING ESCAPED FROM THE CLUTCHES OF A MURDERING WITCH DOCTOR, SHE LANDS IN THE HANDS OF MOZA, BUT REFUSES TO SLEEP ONLY TO WAKE UP IN HELL.

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JOSEPHAT (35)

A WAYFARING STRANGER TRAVELLING FROM THE CONGO. WITHOUT A PENNY IN HIS POCKET, HIS MISSION IS TO GET HOME TO ETHIOPIA. WITH SECRETS OF HIS OWN, HE KNOWS NOT TO ASK QUESTIONS OF OTHERS.

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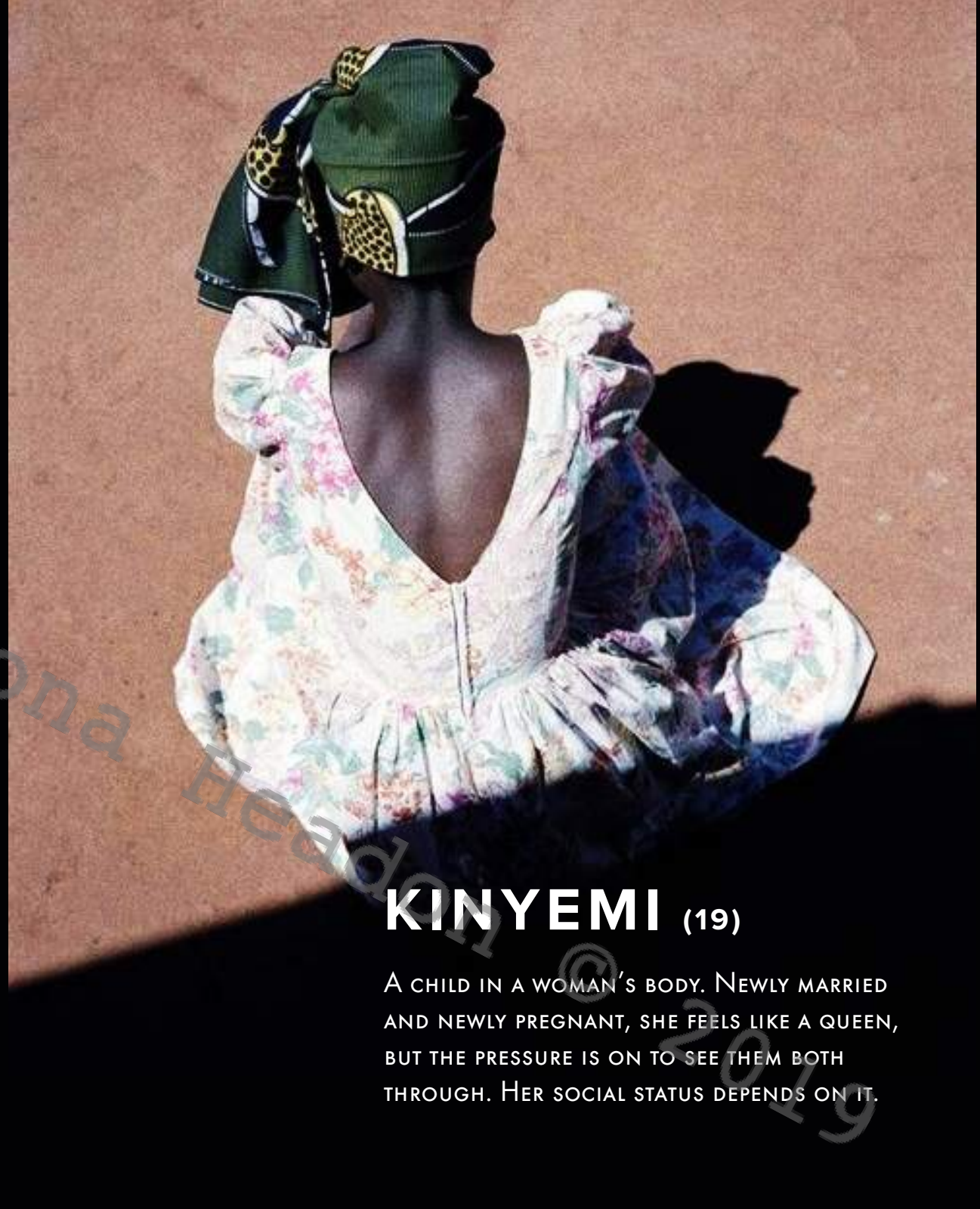
ABASI (35)

A MAN WHO IS DONE WITH STRUGGLING. DIGGING DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO A BLACK HOLE PROMISES A RAY OF LIGHT, BUT THE DESPERATE PURSUIT TURNS HIS SOUL DARKER THAN EVER BEFORE.



WHEN
PREY
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KINYEMI (19)

A CHILD IN A WOMAN'S BODY. NEWLY MARRIED AND NEWLY PREGNANT, SHE FEELS LIKE A QUEEN, BUT THE PRESSURE IS ON TO SEE THEM BOTH THROUGH. HER SOCIAL STATUS DEPENDS ON IT.

© 2019



MWAMBA (50)

ALWAYS IN SEARCH OF 'WHITE GOLD', HE IS A MAN WHO HAS LIED FOR SO LONG THAT THE LIES ARE NOW HIS TRUTH. THE VILLAGE DEPENDS ON HIS WORD, AND HE IS NEVER WRONG.

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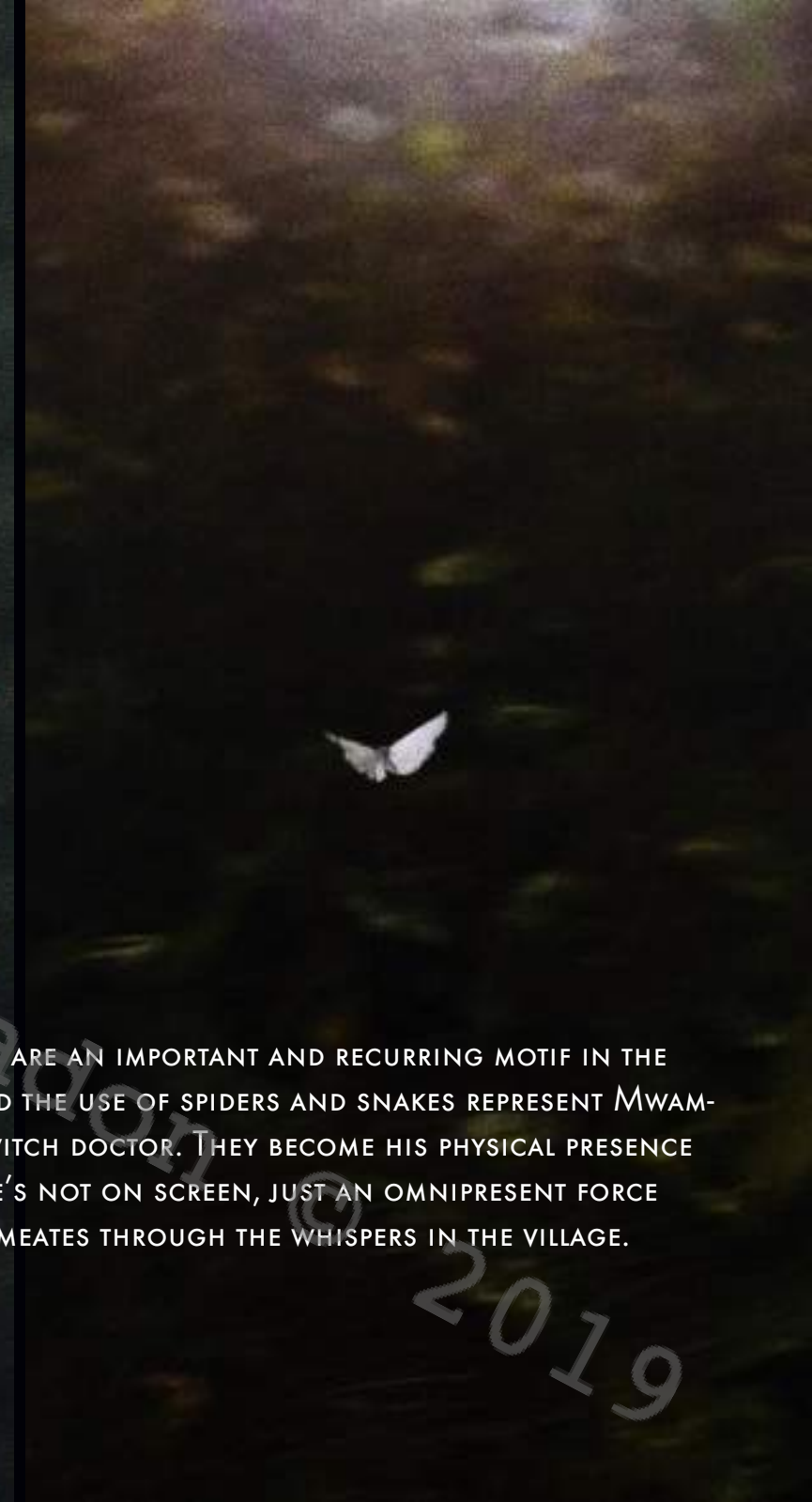
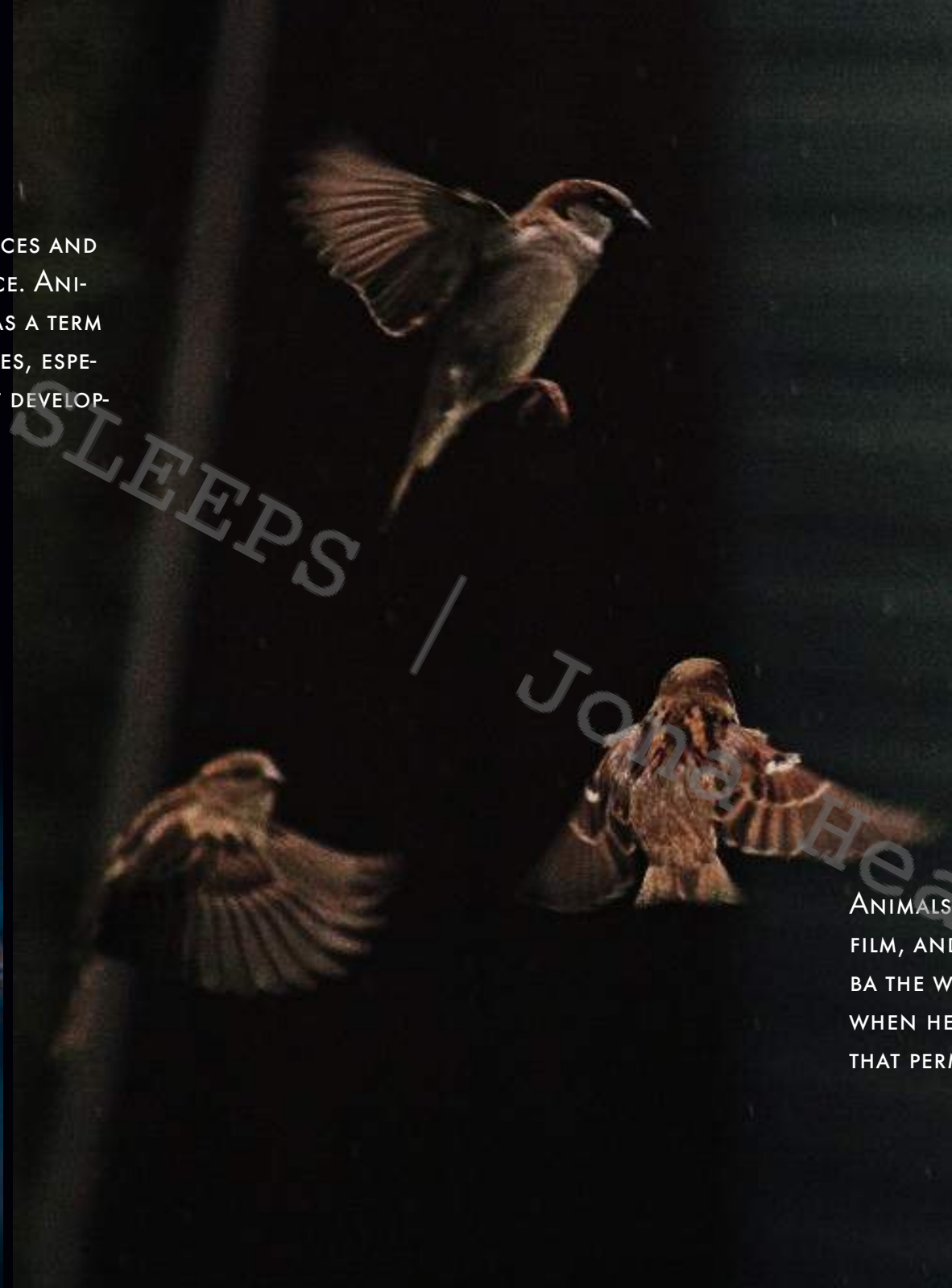
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MOTIFS

A CENTURY AGO, 76% OF AFRICANS PRACTICED TRADITIONAL OR ANIMIST RELIGIONS. TODAY, THAT NUMBER HAS DROPPED TO 13%.

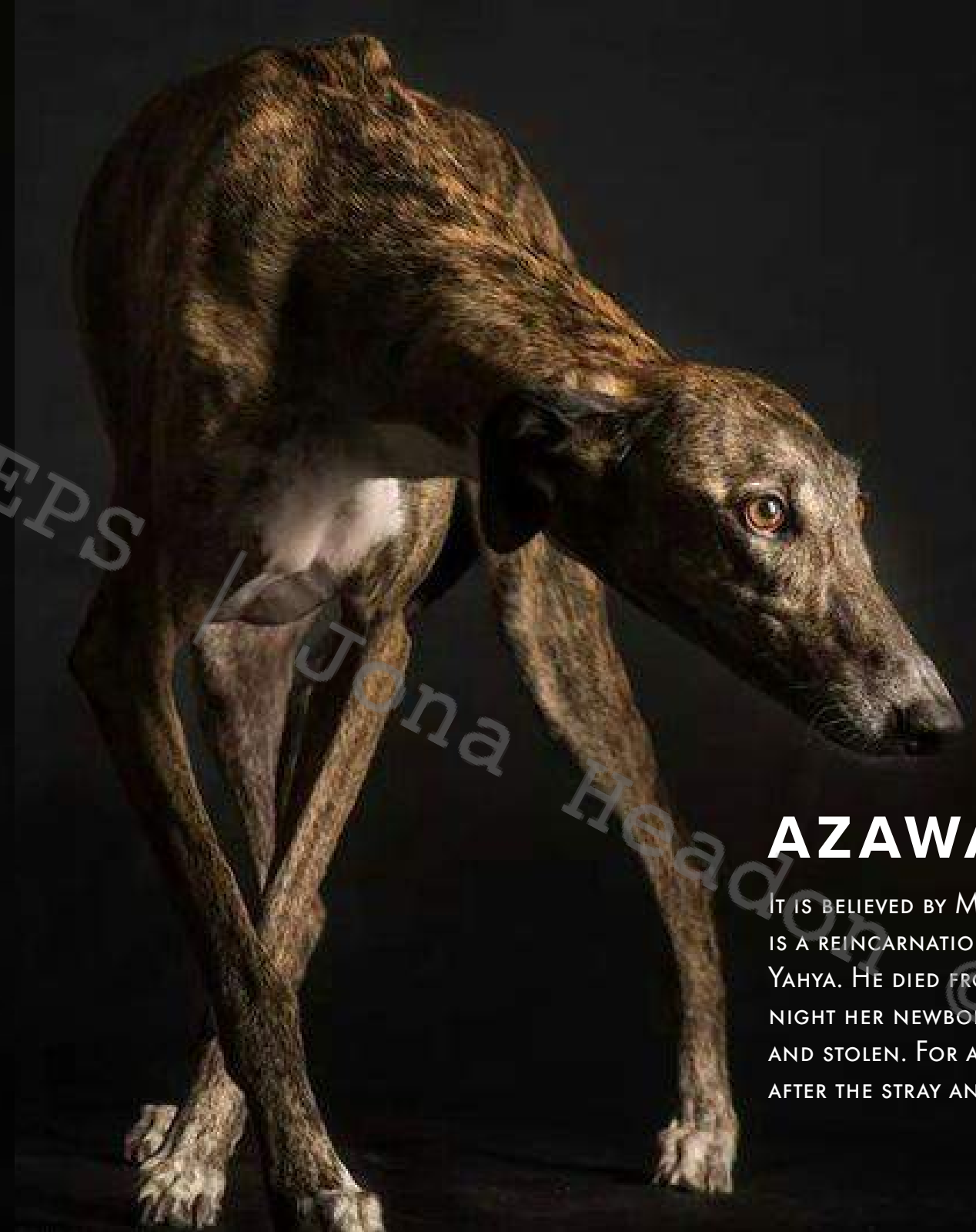
WHEN

ANIMISM IS THE RELIGIOUS BELIEF THAT OBJECTS, PLACES AND CREATURES ALL POSSESS A DISTINCT SPIRITUAL ESSENCE. ANIMISM IS USED IN THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION AS A TERM FOR THE BELIEF SYSTEM OF MANY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, ESPECIALLY IN CONTRAST TO THE RELATIVELY MORE RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANISED RELIGIONS.



ANIMALS ARE AN IMPORTANT AND RECURRING MOTIF IN THE FILM, AND THE USE OF SPIDERS AND SNAKES REPRESENT MWAMBA THE WITCH DOCTOR. THEY BECOME HIS PHYSICAL PRESENCE WHEN HE'S NOT ON SCREEN, JUST AN OMNIPRESENT FORCE THAT PERMEATES THROUGH THE WHISPERS IN THE VILLAGE.

2019



AZAWAKH (BREED)

IT IS BELIEVED BY MOZA THAT THIS STRAY ANIMAL IS A REINCARNATION OF HER LATE HUSBAND YAHYA. HE DIED FROM A CROCODILE ATTACK THE NIGHT HER NEWBORN ALBINO CHILD WAS KILLED AND STOLEN. FOR A YEAR, MOZA HAS LOOKED AFTER THE STRAY AND FED HIM.

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WHITE BREASTED PIED CROW

IT IS ALSO BELIEVED BY MOZA THAT THEIR AUNT ADLA WAS REINCARNATED INTO A PIED CROW. SO SHE KEEPS HER IN A CAGE TO FEED HER AND PROTECT HER FROM PREDATORS.

THE PIED CROW IS AFRICA'S MOST WIDESPREAD MEMBER OF THE AFRICA BIRD SPECIES, INHABITING MAINLY OPEN COUNTRY WITH VILLAGES AND TOWNS NEARBY.

THE WHITE FEATHERING IS A CLEAR REPRESENTATION OF THE NEED FOR HARMONY BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE.



WHEN PREY SLEEPS



KING BABOON TARANTULA

THE KING BABOON TARANTULA IS NATIVE TO EAST AFRICA, ESPECIALLY KENYA AND TANZANIA. IT IS HIGHLY DEFENSIVE AND VOLATILE POSSESSING VERY STRONG VENOM.

MWAMBA KEEPS A LIVE TARANTULA IN A JAR IN HIS HUT. HE BELIEVES IT IS THE SOURCE OF HIS POWER, AND EVERYTIME A VILLAGER SEES A SPIDER, THEY BELIEVE IT IS THE WITCH DOCTOR WATCHING AND LISTENING.

Jones | Jonathan | © 2019

WHEN PREY SLEEP

BLACK MAMBA

THE BLACK MAMBA IS AN EXTREMELY VENOMOUS SNAKE.

IN A THREAT DISPLAY, IT OPENS ITS INKY-BLACK MOUTH OF ITS COFFIN SHAPED HEAD AND OFTEN STRIKES IN A SUCCESSION. IT MOSTLY PREYS ON SMALL VERTEBRATES SUCH AS BIRDS OR OTHER SMALL MAMMALS.

THE BLACK MAMBA SEES EVERYTHING FROM THE GROUND AND FROM THE TREES. ANOTHER REASON WHY IT HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO THE MALIGNANT MWAMBA.



Jon

Headon

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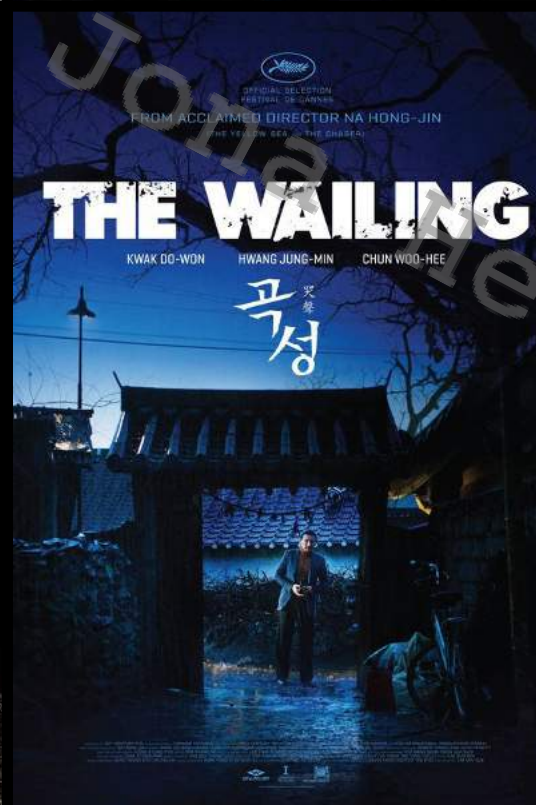
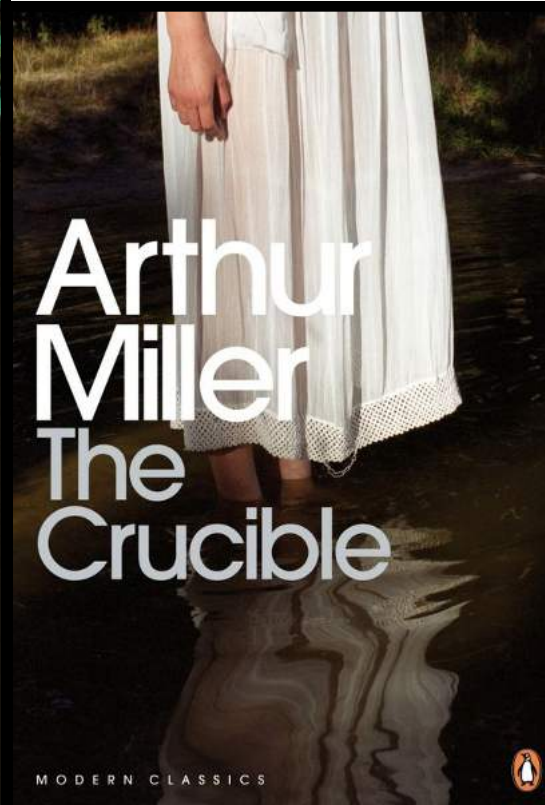
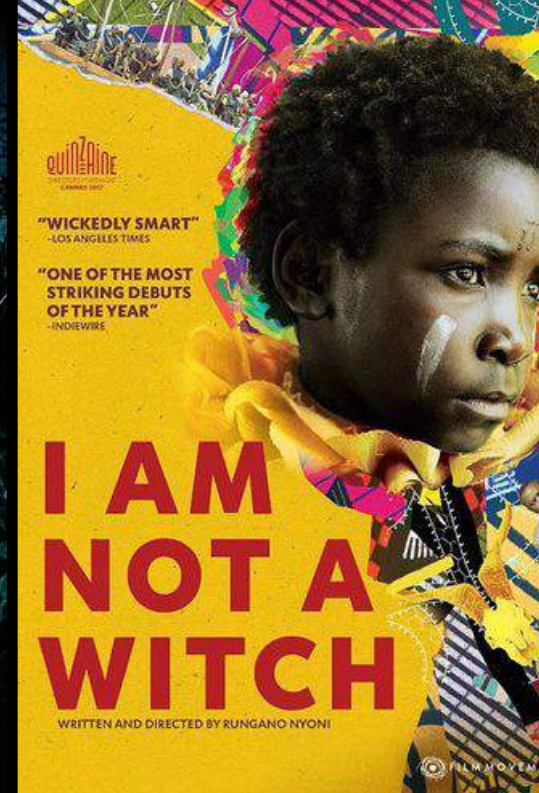
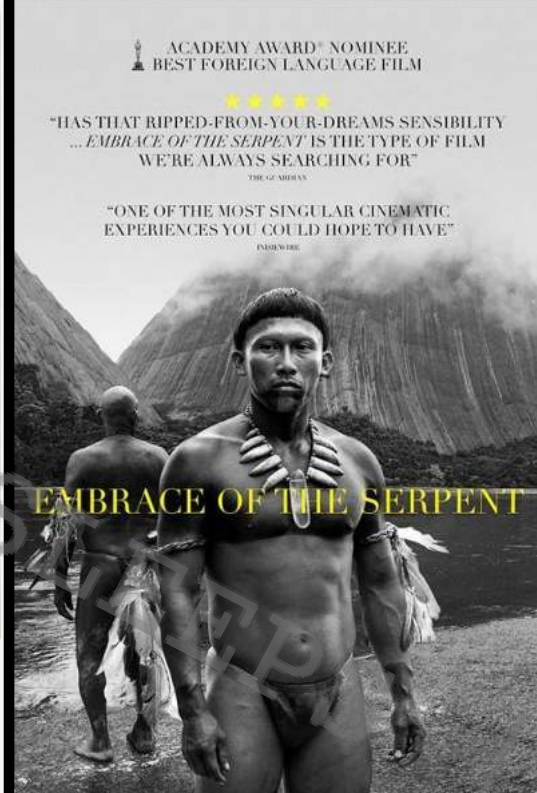
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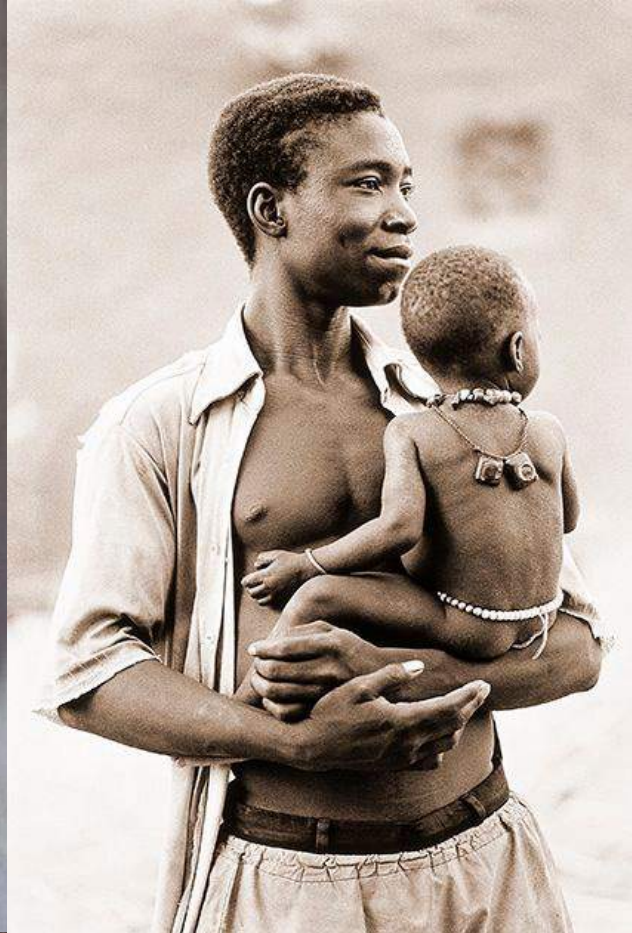
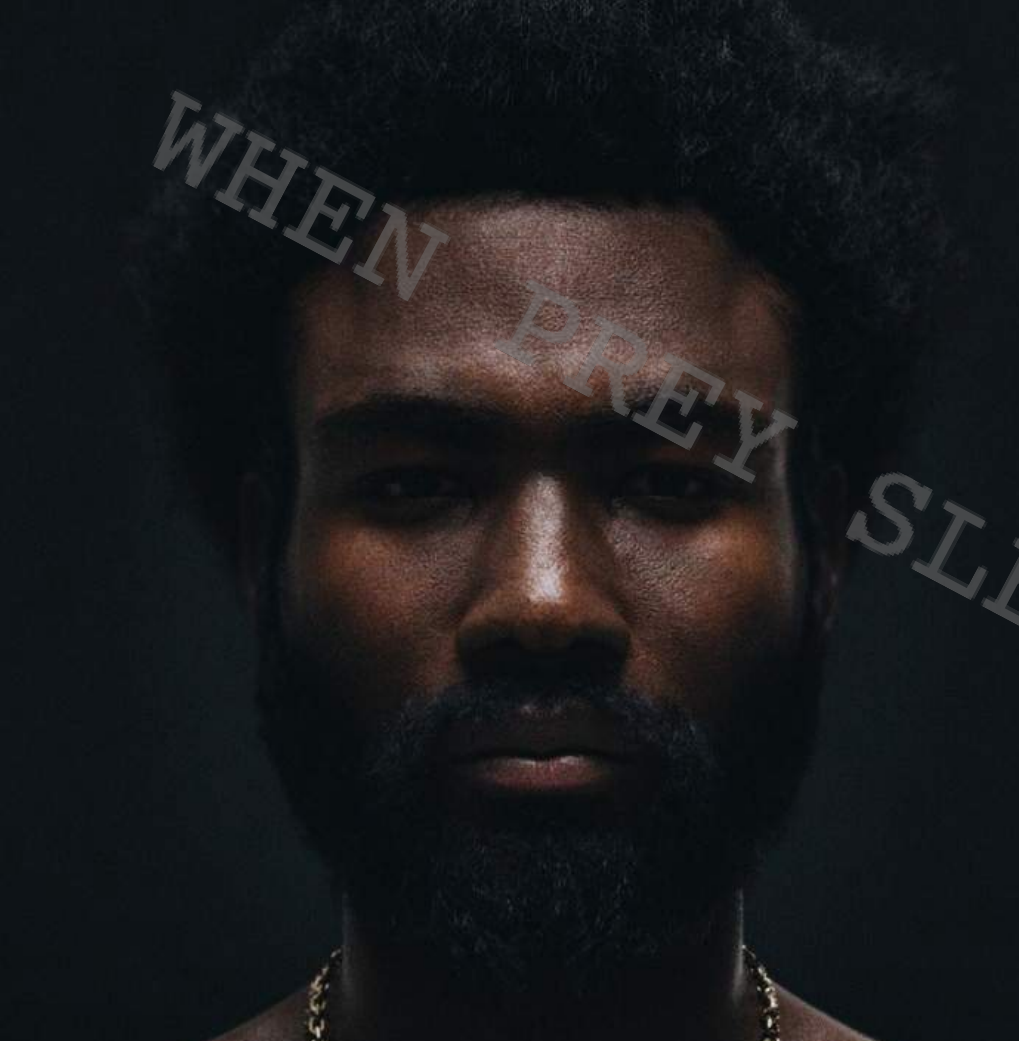
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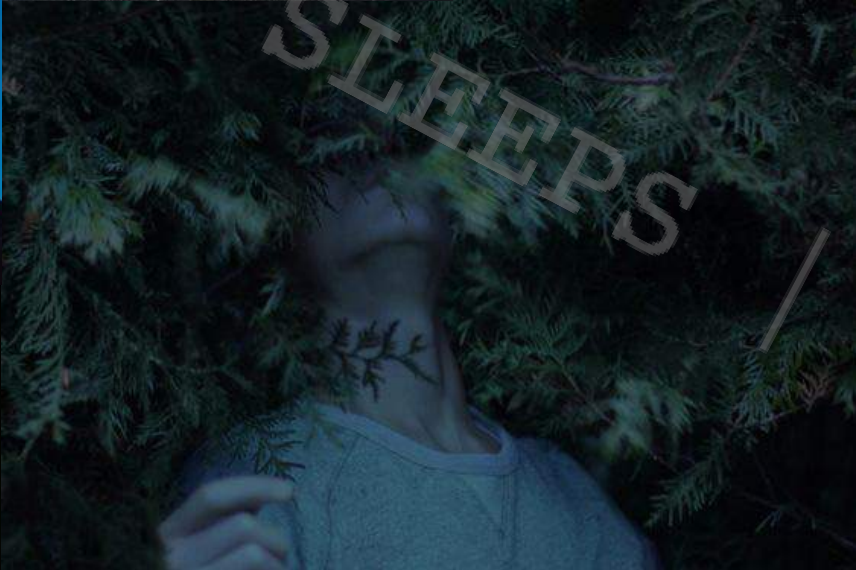
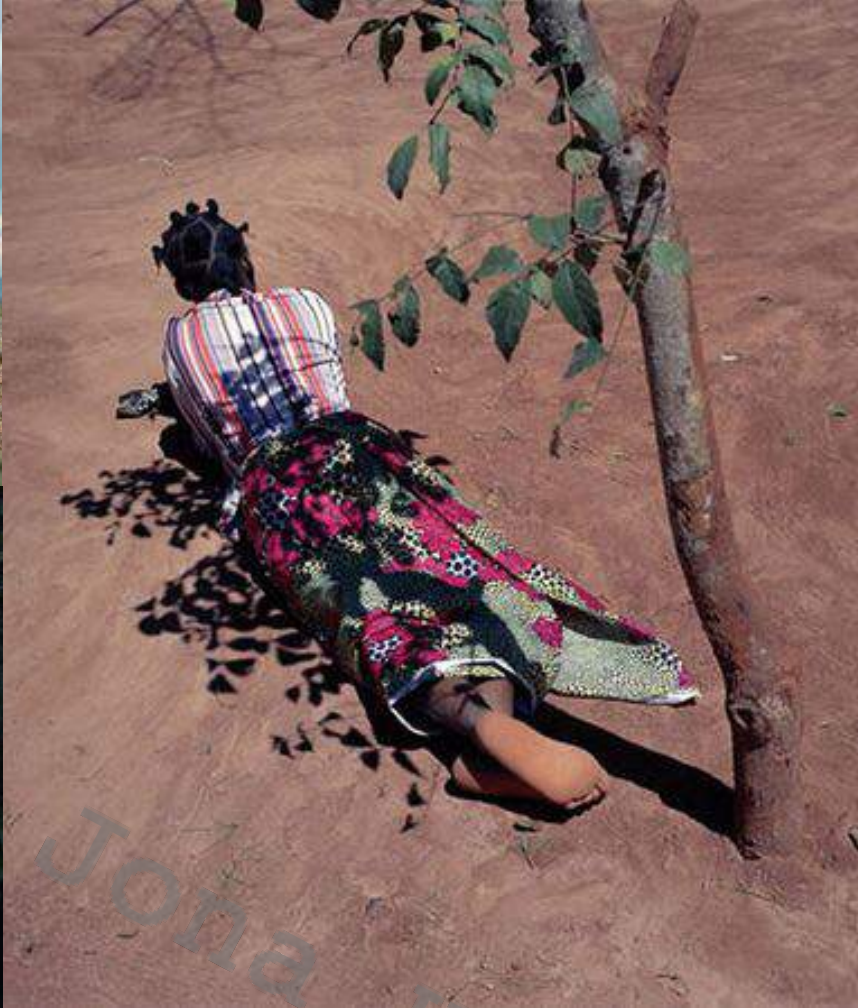


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