

UNDESIRABLES (SCENE 2)

by

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EXT. SÃO PAULO - NIGHT

A big refuse dump. Flies buzz around. JOÃO (11) pokes with a rusty machete in the rubbish, not noticing the flies, nor the stench - his mind is elsewhere. João is a scrawny, dark skinned boy with a sallow sleeveless t-shirt and short jeans. The look in his eyes is as hard and dark as a war veteran's - the stare of a boy who has seen far too much in his short life.

In the background a dozen of kids are skimming the dump for food. Far behind them the lights of São Paulo glitter in the night.

João sticks his machete deep in the rubbish as if he made up his mind about something. With his other hand he whips some snot off his face. He gets up determinedly.

EXT. ABANDONED PARKING LOT - NIGHT

A self made shack in the protective darkness of an abandoned parking lot. Two four year old girls are waiting for him - a twin. João has one half eaten burger and half a can of beer. A banquet. The girls feast upon the food with rare content.

JOÃO

Sleep tight little sisters...

He walks away.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

São Paulo never sleeps. The traffic is heavy and deafening as ever, but the slow moving cars and heavy loaded trucks provide a shelter of some kind for João to move in between - away from the adults on the sidewalks.

He cuts a corner into a smaller street. The area becomes darker, but not less vivid.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

In the shadow of a portal he smokes some coca paste. With every inhalation his pupils dilate.

With eyes of a night hawk João is watching a fifteen year old girl from afar - ISABEL. She's a street kid like him, with sooty coloured shoulder long hair but she's tall for her age.

He sees Isabel getting into a second floor flat with an adult man. He stares after them until the door closes.

INT. SOCIAL FLAT - NIGHT

The door swings open as João bursts through - aiming a gun. The man is half undressed to his underwear, stumbles over his pants and hits the floor. Isabel is in t-shirt, no pants.

João aims at both of them - eyes wide with adrenaline and blood infused with dope.

JOÃO

Who do you want me to kill?

The man holds his shaking hands up in a plead to let him live.

ISABEL

João...

JOÃO

Why are you doing this? Who is making you do this?

The gun alters from left to right - from him to her. It's an odd sight since the gun is almost twice as big as the boy's hand. It's so heavy he can barely hold it.

JOÃO (CONT'D)

You should come with me.

His hand is shaking under the weight.

ISABEL

I do it for the girls.

JOÃO

I'm taking care of them. And you! How long have you been doing it? I told you never to do this!

ISABEL

João...

He lowers the gun.

JOÃO

No! No! This is not for you. I don't want it. Please... I know what it is... please, don't. It hurts me...

She approaches him...

ISABEL

Okay, okay. Sweet boy.

... and rests her head on his shoulder.

JOÃO

Come back with me.

Suddenly the man jumps up in an attempt to escape. In a reflex João aims and fires. BANG. The sound of the gunshot thunders through the room. The impact of the bullet throws the man hard against the bathroom door. Then he drops down. Blood pours from a hole in his chest. He's dead.

Isabel and João are numb for a few heartbeats.

A knock on the door brings them back to reality.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
Hello? What happened? Fernando?

João jumps to the door and closes the lock. Just in time.
The doorknob turns, but the door doesn't open.

MALE VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Fernando?

Isabel sees a small window in the bathroom above the toilet.

JOÃO
Let's go!

ISABEL
I won't fit through.

JOÃO
Come on, come on.

He pulls her into the bathroom.

ISABEL
I won't fit through!

She tries, but the window is too small.

JOÃO
The police is on the way! We have
to...

She takes a step back.

ISABEL
The neighbours know me. They will
send the Esquadrão de Morte after
us...

João turns back - unsure what to do.

ISABEL (CONT'D)
You go.

She looks at him.

ISABEL (CONT'D)
You go!

JOÃO
No...

ISABEL

Go! Go to the girls! I don't fit through!

JOÃO

No! The police...

ISABEL

I'm a minor... they will hold me and... I don't know... I'll tell them he attacked me...

João is confused - he paces to and fro.

ISABEL (CONT'D)

It was self defence. João...

She gets an idea.

ISABEL (CONT'D)

We have to make it look like self defence...

João hears the words, but doesn't understand. She stops him in his track and holds his hands in hers.

ISABEL (CONT'D)

If he attacked me... I'll be okay. They'll lock me up... but I'm a minor and... but self defence. I need the wounds to prove it.

Upon those words he looks up and pulls his hands away. It sinks in...

JOÃO

No. No. No.

ISABEL

You have to. You have to!

She takes his hand again and kisses the palm. They look at each other. João clenches his fist. Isabel prepares herself for the punch.

But he can't. Tears dwell up. The drugs and adrenaline fade, reality hits him hard for a moment. He collapses.

JOÃO

No. Can't hurt you.

She kneels down and hugs him.

JOÃO (CONT'D)

Not you... can't, cant'..

ISABEL

Is okay. Is okay.

She takes his head into her hands and looks deep into his eyes. She kisses him on the lips.

ISABEL (CONT'D)

My brave boy.

She pulls him up and wipes away his tears.

ISABEL (CONT'D)

It's okay. It's the only way.
They will believe me. And I'll be
out soon...

They stare at each other. João lifts his gun up high, lowers it again. He bites his teeth, swallows his tears. His whole body is shaking. He lifts the gun up again - breathing hard. He lowers it. One last glance. She closes her eyes. He swings the gun behind his head and hits Isabel in the face. Metal collides with flesh and bone. She collapses at once. He hits her again from the other side - even harder.

Then he drops the gun. Isabel's eye socket is split open, her nose is broken. She keeps her eyes closed, tries to bare the pain.

Outside POLICE SIRENS approach.

For a few beats they stare at each other. Her face is covered in blood. Then she gives him a small nod. There is a hint of gratitude in it - it was the only way out. That's all João needed. He runs to the bathroom, takes one last glance and disappears through the window.