

PAULETTE NARDAL

And be good, or I'll tell your  
father.

Roland tips his hat to Paulette and takes Andrée's arm,  
which she enjoys. Leaving:

ROLAND RENÉ-BOISNEUF

Do you know what's stopping the  
colonies from producing more  
bananas?

ANDRÉE NARDAL

What?

ROLAND RENÉ-BOISNEUF

Boats.

Paulette sits at her desk, alone now and tired, and opens  
mail. She puts aside something from the Ministry of  
Colonies, preferring a thick LETTER from her sister, Jane.

MONTAGE of Jane in her fresh, married life, as we hear her  
description written to Paulette.

We see the beautiful beaches of the island, its markets,  
but more importantly, we see Jane, with newfound style,  
wrapping her hair, and wearing bangles all up her arm.

JANE NARDAL (V.O.)

Greetings from Karukera Island.  
I'm calling it that now. Nothing  
should be called by the name of  
the colonizers, not anymore. What  
did Christopher Columbus know of  
this place when he deemed it  
Guadaloupe? He knew he had prayed  
at a shrine to the virgin before  
he left his hometown - that's all.  
The Arawak knew it as Karukera:  
"the island of beautiful waters",  
and I'm with them.

Jules is with Jane in some of these shots.

JANE NARDAL (V.O. CONT'D)

How strange it was for me my first  
night, Paulette. It was as if I  
had married not a man, but a

place. I know you will say that I am not far from home, and yes, the ferry from here to there takes not even half the day. Maybe I would have felt differently here if I'd come straight from Martinique, without living in Paris first and learning what it means to be black there.

Perhaps here we see Jane's sass as Jules tries to make decisions for her.

JANE NARDAL (V.O. CONT'D)

But here, now, and yes, married, I see the patriarchal customs, even, alongside all the wildness and tang, and I wonder how ever I could have suffered in a world so monotonous and so commonplace when compared to this.

Here we are close in on Jane, as she looks straight at the camera, her wrappers and perhaps a bit of hair, coming in and out of the frame in the wind.

JANE NARDAL (V.O. CONT'D)

I'll write a love story to my island for your paper. And I'll pray that you too can find a place, or a person, place failing, that seems your roots.

Paulette folds the letter.

Alone and with no words, she sits.

CUT TO:

36. INT. - ÉTIENNE LÉRO'S PLACE (LÉGITIME DEFENSE) - NIGHT

SIMONE YOYOTTE (22) is the only woman among the Martiniquan students in this room: Étienne Léro (22), René Menil (25) we know, but also THÉLUS LÉRO (23), MAURICE-SABAS QUITMAN, MICHEL PILOTIN, JULES-MARCEL MONNEROT (23)

SIMONE YOYOTTE

It was close enough. Hitler got more than 13 million votes.