



JONGO & ADRIANO

Chapter II: To pray or prey upon

Brazilian Empire, 1825
in a Black settlement in the interior, known as
Mocambo da Linha Verde...

Many months of flight were written,
but Jongo, an African from Angola, and
Adriano, a Brazilian crioulo, were still searching
for a home for their long-coveted freedom to be and to...
love.



I think I injured my left eye
when we crossed that plantation...



Let me see if you have anything in it, Adriano.
We could ask the town's *Ngongo* for some herbs...



Is that necessary?

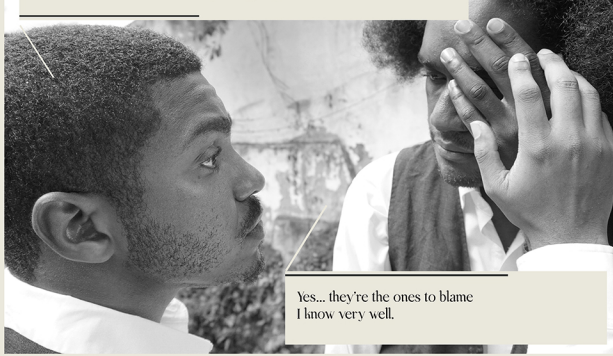
It's a little cut, my love.
And a little inflamed, but I think
it will heal soon.



I stumbled at the worst possible hour.
We can't be distracted for a moment, can't
even blink... in case something happens.



Don't blame yourself. We know who to blame,
it's not us, not me, not you. And you're going to heal.



Yes... they're the ones to blame
I know very well.



On the 29th of April of 1825, Jongo and Adriano celebrated five years of living alongside one another. As inseparable as they were, some thought they were brothers. The few people who understood what they had together, called them "man and wife." Even among Black people, many preferred not to look them in the face. As though looking were painful.

On this day of celebration, a day they'd dedicated to their first meeting, the first true look of love and recognition that had passed between anyone, they decided to exchange gifts: Adriano gave Jongo a figure of São Benedito and Jongo gave Adriano a dagger with a chicken carved into the handle.



You're so quiet, Jongo. Do you not
like your gift?

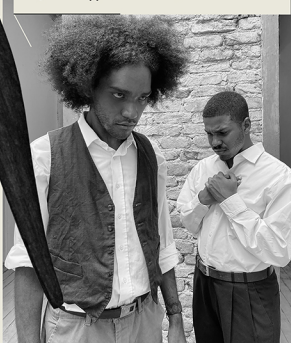


On the contrary, my love, I'm very devoted to São
Benedito, as you know well... He's beloved in my
hometown.



But I keep thinking how São Benedito was the
son of slaves brought to Italy from Ethiopia. He
was born free but sanctified for suffering so
many offenses... silently. Or rather, in prayer.

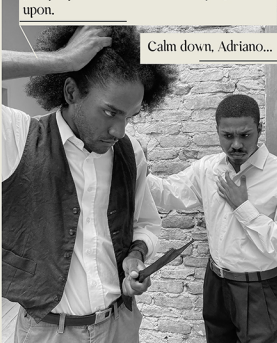
I'm exhausted too, Jongo!
But for the opposite reasons...



Your saint tolerated everything while he was
alive, but I don't want to live like that, Jongo!



Between praying or fighting, what would
you propose? I don't want to be preyed
upon.



Calm down, Adriano...

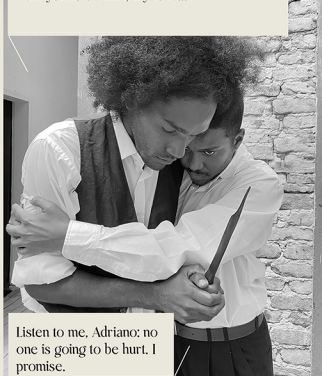
What is right and what is wrong, Adriano?
How can I be devoted to this Black saint if I do exactly
the opposite of what he preached?



I'm just tired, Adriano...



I can tolerate many things, Jongo, but I don't
want you to be hurt, my love...



Listen to me, Adriano: no
one is going to be hurt, I
promise.

Jongo & Adriano

Jongo Alex Reis
Adriano Almeida da Silva

Direction, Photography, Script, Editing, and Design Yhuri Cruz
Costume and Production Assistance Miguel Reis

JONGO & ADRIANO is a photonovela by Yhuri Cruz born of his performance-based research, "Blackphagy," and translated from Portuguese by Montana Ray. This story is inspired by the characters of a classic of Brazilian literature, "Um defeito de cor," by Ana Maria Gonçalves. Whatever resemblance these characters bare to historical fact might not be a coincidence.