

Talking Points: Sin Nombre

Gangs, Brotherhood, Rituals

The Mara Salvatrucha, as known as MS 13, is notorious for expanding across the Americas killing and practicing vandalism. While this has given El Salvador a bad name, most of the members consist of Mexicans, which is the reason why the movie was set in Mexico. The relationship between the mareros is extremely complicated; first they talk about loving each other and next they talk about killing for lying. They have no consideration and easily justify their actions. The bond, though, is still strong and you don't see such a strong commitment anywhere else. These men are willing to die and kill for the gang. It's their life. Seeing that, it is important for the men to get acclimated to the harshness by first getting beat up by the fellow members. The little boy Smiley must've felt a sense of security and power with being in the gang, which is also most likely, why other men choose to join.

The Journey

Throughout the movie we were able to get a first hand look at the journey across the borders, starting in Honduras. It takes about a month to travel, running past the "migra", making pit stops where people offer their hospitality in return of nothing. The sacrifices made are rough, and I realized how neither of my parents have ever talked to me about their journey. The jumping off trains, the being victimized for being a female, the paying to get across a river, half-naked. It's also very traumatizing and heart-wrenching, thinking that so many people go through this to come to this country for a "better life." The deaths, to me, are not worth it. It's amazing how people still continue to take this journey, even after being deported.

Father-Daughter Relationship

The father-daughter relationship was extremely dull and tasteless. The father seemed to care a lot about his daughter but she was quiet and seemed resentful. After so many years, it's disappointing to see the father come back and try to take her away with him. What if he was never deported? Still, we see that Sayra was distraught when she discovered that her father passed away. The father, though, seemed to care a lot more about his other family, whom he kept a picture of that he continuously looked at.

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