

THE COLORS OF SIAKA

WRITER NUMBER: 19-DE06-W33

LOGLINE: An African boy is thrust in the midst of the
Ivorian Civil War.

FADE IN:

EXT. IVORY COAST SHORE - DAY

We see blue water, gentle ripples pass through. Then we pan over to see the hand that strokes the sea. We finally follow the hand to the face of SIAKA, 10, innocent countenance.

SIAKA (V.O.)
Blue. The color of the river. It was
there, surrounding me whenever I'd
go find fish with father and Sita...

Siaka's father, CHIMA, pulls a net full of fish from the side of their boat.

CHIMA
Children come, come.

Chima drops a net full of mackerels into the boat. SITA, 12, rushes in from one side, Siaka from the other.

CHIMA (cont'd)
Heavenly father keeps smiling on us!
We have too many once again.

Siaka and Sita begin to separate the fish into buckets. Chima smiles wide, a proud papa.

INT. SIAKA'S HOME - NIGHT

Siaka sits on the floor with a handheld book light, reads the Bible.

Chima puts a wad of West African CFA francs in an glass jar, looks over.

We see Sita at the table eating. Another bowl of food lies next to hers, untouched.

CHIMA
(to Siaka)
After all the work today, you have no
appetite?

Siaka's eyes stay glued to the scriptures.

SIAKA
(to Chima)
Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceeds from
the mouth of God.

Chima smiles.

CHIMA
It also says, "give us this day our
daily bread." That is the Lord's
prayer. Eat my son.

Siaka turns off his handheld light, puts away his Bible.

SIAKA
Yes father.

Siaka goes to the table, sits next to Sita, starts eating.

KNOCK KNOCK.

SITA
Who is that?

CHIMA
(toward the door)
Hold on.

Chima grabs his jar of money, runs it to the back room. He
rushes back, approaches the front door.

CHIMA (cont'd)
(toward the door)
Who is it?

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK.

Chima just about to open the door when it suddenly SWINGS
OPEN, KNOCKS Chima backwards. Several men in green
camouflage uniforms burst through-

CHIMA (cont'd)
NO! SIAKA, SITA RUN! RUN NOW!

One of the men in uniform hits Chima with the back end of an
AK-47. He goes unconscious.

Siaka momentarily paralyzed by shock. Sita pulls him up by
the arm.

SITA
Come on!

They run to Chima's room.

INT. CHIMA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Siaka hides under Chima's bed. Sita goes for the window, opens it. She turns, looks inside for Siaka-

SITA
They will find us here Siaka. We have
to go like father said.

Siaka doesn't respond, stays under the bed.

SITA (cont'd)
Siaka please!

Sita hears them coming. She dashes out the window.

Siaka still under the bed. For a moment we only hear silence except for Siaka's BREATH and the men's PLUNDER.

We then draw closer to Siaka's terrified face then hear Sita's voice-

SITA (O.S.)
NO! PUT ME DOWN-

TWO SHOTS FIRED then silence-

Siaka's tears well up, still under the bed.

From Siaka's view someone enters the room. We just see military boots then the bed abruptly lifts up revealing a faint hearted Siaka.

REBEL SOLDIER
Do not fight if you want to live.

Siaka, surrendered posture, gets up. A flood of rebels in green camouflage burst into the room, grab him, tie his hands, blindfold him-

CUT TO BLACK:

The SOUND of a VEHICLE ENGINE begins to come through-

SIKA (V.O.)
All I remember is green. The color of
their uniforms. They took my father
and my Sita. I don't know if they
live or die. I know I should've
helped them, but all I did was be
quiet and be still...I was a coward
when they needed me. Now all I see is
black.

CUT TO:

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE - DAY

From Siaka's view his blindfold is taken off- a man's face slowly comes into focus- we now clearly see ABIDEMI, 33, a face weathered with war.

ABIDEMI

Don't be afraid. I'm not going to harm you.

Abidemi pulls from his pocket snuff tobacco. He swiftly takes it through his nasal cavity. Siaka just watches.

ABIDEMI (cont'd)

The last time I saw my mother she told me something very strange- something I will never forget. After making me a home cooked meal, she looked at me in my eyes and she said, "You have the devil in you. Don't ever come to see me again."

(laughs)

So I respect her wishes...I have not seen her since.

He puts his hand on Siaka's shoulder.

ABIDEMI (cont'd)

Are you alright?

Siaka hesitates to respond. Finally-

SIAKA

I'm fine.

ABIDEMI

Good. Now you will help us bring liberation to all the people of this state. We will be heroes...When that day comes mother will understand the devil she saw.

EXT. NORTHERN REBEL CAMP - DAY

Siaka, now unbound, walks with several other children, behind Abidemi. His men monitor them closely, AK-47 over their shoulder.

As they walk through the camp they see men and children in uniform enjoying their plunders: drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes, roasting goats, fish and the like.

Close on Siaka, realization of what he's there for comes over him.

EXT. NORTHERN REBEL CAMP RIVER - DAY

Siaka fishes along the river with other children.

Abidema walks through, he notices Siaka has caught twice as many fish as the others.

Abidema approaches Siaka.

ABIDEMA

I've never seen someone catch so many fish so quick. You are smart.

Abidema pulls Siaka away from the other children.

ABIDEMA (cont'd)

Is this what you want to do forever or do you want to be more than just a fisherman?

Siaka unsure.

ABIDEMA

You can be more and I will make you more.

Siaka emboldened for a moment-

SIAKA

But I like to fish.

ABIDEMA

Listen just as you capture fish I will show you how to capture the hearts and the minds of the people. City by city, village by village, hut by hut.

SIAKA

How you captured me?

Abidema notices his resistance, then LAUGHS it off.

ABIDEMA

You are a work in progress.

EXT. NORTHERN REBEL CAMP - HIGH HILL

Abidema leads Siaka, now dressed in a green camouflage uniform, to the pinnacle of a high hill. It overlooks the entire camp.

ABIDEMA

We are here.

Siaka tries to mask his worry.

SIAKA

What are we going to do?

Without warning Abidema loads his AK-47.

Siaka's eyes widen.

ABIDEMA

No.

(beat)

Take it.

Siaka shakes his head "no".

Abidema grabs him, forces Siaka to hold the weapon.

SIAKA

No no.

ABIDEMA

You will learn to shoot. Pull the trigger.

Siaka hesitates-

Abidema gives him a look, reminds Siaka who is in control.

Siaka closes his eyes.

ABIDEMA (cont'd)

I will aim for you.

Abidema aims down the hill.

ABIDEMA (cont'd)

Now shoot!

A BARRAGE of shots are released.

From Siaka's view we see someone has fallen down in the camp.

Siaka a mixture, alarmed and perplexed-

Siaka now by himself. He continues through the town. He sees a small building, scales it, then enters.

INT. SMALL BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Siaka walks into what looks like a grade school classroom. He draws his gun, walks through, examining the desks, the chalkboard, the windows. He then hears a LOUD CREAK, scans the room quickly, tightens his grip on the trigger.

He sees a closed closet, walks to it, opens it.

We see a man, crouched down, wrapping himself around several children-

MAN IN CLOSET
Please don't shoot!

Siaka points his gun closer to the man.

SIAKA
Who do you represent?

The man hesitates-

Siaka puts the gun directly to his head.

SIAKA (cont'd)
Who do you represent!

GIRL'S VOICE (O.S.)
He is a man of God, a pastor. He
teaches us the word of God.

Siaka baffled by the voice-

MAN IN CLOSET
No please! He will kill us all! Run
now!

Siaka turns around-

SIAKA
Sita.

Sita in disbelief.

SITA
Siaka...What are you doing?

The pastor still wrapping himself around the children.

PASTOR

He is a rebel! He is dangerous! He
will slaughter us all! RUN NOW!

SITA

(to pastor)

No he is my brother.

Siaka's mind in conflict, he clutches his weapon tighter.

SIAKA

They killed you. They killed you and
father-

Sita takes a couple of cautious steps toward Siaka.

SITA

They took me. I went through
unspeakable things. I almost died
then I was rescued by them...and now
I will rescue you.

Siaka shakes his head-

SIAKA

What you went through...I know.

The pastor and the other children look on- a mixture of fear
and anticipation.

Siaka looks out the windows, searching for other rebels.

He eventually lowers his weapon. Sita runs to him, hugs him
tight.

First Siaka just looks on, he then reluctantly hugs back.

SIAKA (cont'd)

They will not let us live.

SITA

Remember what father used to say. He
keeps smiling on us. Why will he stop
now?

The pastor raises himself from the closet-

PASTOR

We must hide.

Sita takes Siaka by the hand, leads him to a hiding place.

EXT. SMALL BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

From God's view we see the building. As we gain more distance moment by moment we see a group of rebels approaching it. They make their way inside-

 SIAKA (V.O.)

Sita is alive and she showed me that
God had not forgotten about me. He
still came for me. He rescued me. Now
I am in my my heavenly father's hand
and no matter what comes I have now
seen the color of his love.

Now we just see the blue skies and the blue heavens, full of
peace and placidity.

FADE TO BLACK.