

PART 1: CHAPTER 4

I worked hard all week and Raymond came and told me that he'd sent the letter. I went to the cinema a couple of times with Emmanuel who doesn't always understand what's going on. So you have to explain things to him. Yesterday was Saturday and Marie came over as we'd arranged. I really fancied her because she was wearing a pretty red and white striped dress and leather sandals. You could see the shape of her firm breasts and her suntanned face was like a flower. We caught a bus and went a few miles out of Algiers, to a little beach surrounded by rocks and bordered inland by reeds. The four o'clock sun wasn't too hot, but the water was warm and rippled with long, lazy waves. Marie taught me a game. You had to drink from the crest of the waves as you swam along, gathering all the foam in your mouth, and then turn on the back and spurt it up at the sky. This made a lacy spray with melted into the air or fell back in a warm shower onto my face. But after a while my mouth was burning with the bitterness of salt. Then Marie joined me and clung to me in the water. She pressed her mouth to mine. Her tongue cooled my lips and we rolled in the waves for a while.

When we'd got dressed again on the beach, Marie looked at me with sparkling eyes. I kissed her. From that point on, neither of us said anything. I held her to me as we hurried to catch a bus, get back home and throw ourselves onto my bed. I'd left my window open and it was good to feel the summer night flowing over brown bodies.

This morning Marie stayed and I told her that we could have lunch together. I went down to buy some meat. On my way back up I heard a woman's voice in Raymond's room. A bit later old Salamano swore at his dog: we heard the sound of footsteps and the scratching of paws on the wooden stairs and then, 'Filthy, lousy animal', and they went out into the street. I told Marie all about the old man and she laughed. She was wearing a pair of my pyjamas with the sleeves rolled up. When she laughed, I fancied her again. A minute later she asked me if I loved her. I told her that it didn't mean anything but that I didn't think so. She looked sad. But as we were getting lunch ready, and for no apparent reason, she laughed again, so I kissed her. It was at that point that we heard a row break out in Raymond's room.

First we heard a woman's shrill voice and then Raymond saying, 'You cheated on me, you cheated on me. I'll teach you to cheat on me.' Some dull thuds and the woman screamed, but it was such a terrifying scream that the landing was immediately filled with people. Marie and I went out too. The woman went on yelling and Raymond went on hitting her. Marie said it was terrible and I didn't say anything. She asked me to go and fetch a policeman, but I told her that I didn't like policeman. Anyway, one came along with the plumber who lives on the second floor. He banged harder and after a moment the woman started crying and Raymond opened the door. He had a cigarette in his mouth and a sugary smile on his face. The girl rushed out to the door and announced to the policeman that Raymond had hit her. 'Name?' the policeman said. Raymond told me. 'Take that cigarette out of your mouth when you are talking to me,' the policeman said. Raymond hesitated, looked at me and drew

Commented [1]:

Why does Meursault enjoy this friendship?

Commented [2]:

physical

Commented [3]:

Why is she still with Meursault?

Commented [4]:

Why? What do policemen represent?

on his cigarette. At that the policeman hit him really hard with a thick, heavy slap, right across the cheek. The cigarette fell several yards away. Raymond's expression changed, but he didn't say anything for a moment and then in a humble voice he asked if he could pick up his **bag**. The policeman told him he could and added, 'But next time you'll remember not to clown around with policemen.' All this time the girl was crying and she repeated, 'He hit me. He's a pimp.' 'Excuse me, officer,' Raymond out in, 'isn't that against the law, that, calling a man a pimp?' But the policeman told him to 'shut his mouth'. Raymond then turned to the girl and said, 'Just you wait, **my pet**, we'll be seeing each other again.' The policeman told him to shut it and said that the girl was to go and he was to wait in his room until he was summoned to the police station. He added that Raymond ought to be ashamed of himself, being so drunk that he was shaking the way he was at that Raymond explained, 'I'm not drunk, officer. It's just that I'm standing here, with you in front of me, and I'm shaking, I can't help it. He closed his door and everyone went away. Marie and I finished getting lunch ready. But she wasn't hungry, I ate nearly all of it. She left at one and I slept for a bit.

Commented [5]:
Raymond's attitude

Commented [6]:
Salamano's dog as well?

At about three there was a knock on my door and Raymond came in. I didn't get up. He sat down on the edge of my bed. He didn't say anything for a minute and I asked him how it had gone. He told me that he'd done what he wanted to do but that she'd slapped him and so he'd beaten her up. I'd seen the rest. I told him I thought that this time she'd really been punished and he ought to be pleased. He agreed and pointed out that whatever the policeman did, he couldn't take back the blows she'd received. He added that he knew all about the policemen and knew exactly how to handle **them**. He then asked me if I'd expected him to hit the policeman back. I replied that I didn't expect anything at all and anyway **I didn't like policemen**. Raymond seemed very pleased. He asked me if I'd like to go out for a walk with him. I got up and started combing my hair. He told me that I'd have to act as a witness for him. I said I didn't mind, only I didn't know what I was supposed to say. According to Raymond, all I had to do was to say that the girl had cheated on him. **I agreed to act as a witness for him**.

Commented [7]:
He said that he has connections with the underworld

We went out and Raymond bought me a brandy. Then he wanted a game of billiards and I just lost. After that he wanted to go to a brothel, but I said no because I don't like that sort of **thing**. So we made our way slowly back and he kept telling me how pleased he was that he'd managed to punish his mistress. I found him very friendly towards me and I thought it was a good moment.

Commented [8]:
In this afterwrrd, Camus says that Meursault doesn't lie. What do you make of this statement with regard to this line?

Commented [9]:
Why doesn't Meursault wish to go to a brothel?

From some distance away I noticed old Salamano standing on the doorstep looking flustered. When we got nearer, I saw that his dog wasn't with him. He'd look in all directions, spin round, peer into the darkness of the hall, mumble a string of unconnected words and then start **searching the street again with his little red eyes**. When Raymond asked him what was wrong, he didn't answer at first. I vaguely heard him muttering, 'Filthy, lousy animal,' and he went on flustering. I asked him where his dog was. He replied abruptly that he'd disappeared. And then all of a sudden he spoke rapidly: I took him to the Parade Ground, as usual. There were crowds of people, round the stalls at the fair. I stopped to watch "the Escape King". And when

I turned to go, he wasn't there any more. Of course, I'd been meaning to get him a smaller collar for a long time. But I never thought the lousy animal could disappear like that.

Raymond then explained that the dog might just have got lost and that it would come back. He cited cases of dogs that had travelled dozens of miles to get back to their masters. This only seemed to make the old man more flustered. 'But they'll take him away from me, don't you see? If only someone would take him in But they won't, everyone disgusted by his scabs. The police'll get him, I know they will.' So I told him he should go to the pound and they'd give it back to him for a small charge. He asked me how much the charge was. I didn't know. Then he got angry: 'Pay money for that lousy animal. Ha! He can die for all I care.' And he started swearing at it. Raymond laughed and went inside the building. I followed him and we said goodnight to each other on the upstairs landing. A minute later I heard the old man's footsteps and he knocked at my door. When I opened it, he stood for a moment in the doorway and said, Excuse me, excuse me. 'I asked him in, but he didn't want to. He was looking down at his boots and his scabby hands were trembling. Without looking up at me, he asked, 'They won't take him back from me. Otherwise what will I do?' I told him that they kept dogs at the pound for three days for their owners to collect them and that after that they dealt with them as they saw fit. He looked at me in silence. Then he said, 'Goodnight.' He closed his door and I heard him pacing up and down. Then his bed creaked. And from the peculiar little noise coming through the partition wall, I realized that he was crying. For some reason I thought of mother. But I had to get up early in the morning. I wasn't hungry and I went to the bed without any dinner.

Commented [10]:

What is the tone of Raymond? How does he console him?

Commented [11]:

How different or similar is Meursault's tone ? How different is Meursault from Raymond?

Commented [12]:

Why?

Commented [13]:

What is the

Commented [14]:

Why did he think of mother? Did he miss her? Again, what is the significance of Salamano and his dog?