

## Migration and Love

Most millennials will end up having a bad day because they didn't get enough likes on a "Woke up like this" picture they posted 5 hours prior. Meanwhile, there are people who are literally fighting for their lives on a train to survive. Hoping to exchange freedom for survival. *Sin Nombre*, a film by Cary Joji Fukunaga, highlights two different narratives which will ultimately cross paths in the least expected way. The first focuses on the heart-felt story of a young girl named Sayra and her father who are attempting to leave the country in the hopes for a better life. The other, focuses on a young male named Willy, who ultimately decides to leave the violent criminal gang he was once associated with, MS-13. Both characters crossed paths when they got on "La bestia". Willy was on there for the purpose of going to another city along with two other gang members. Sayra becomes infatuated with Willy after he saves her from being potentially raped on the train by Sol's second hand that was taking them north. Their complex relationship together really changes the storyline for better or worse.

Adding love to Fukunagas survival story really complicated the narratives of both characters. Fukunaga seems to have added this new found love in order to illustrate that love is complicated. For instance, at the very beginning of the movie, Sayra doesn't seem too eager to go on the train with her father. Inclusively saying that if she wanted to, shed do it by herself. I think this shows how Sayra clearly didn't seem to care for her future nonetheless leaving with her father. This also can show how so many young immigrants don't really have a choice when it

comes to whether or not they want to leave their lives behind. Towards the middle part of the story, once Sayra comes into contact with Willy. Sayra becomes very interested in him and even leaps off the train to follow him leaving her father behind. This highlights the director's point about love being complicated because Sayra clearly didn't care enough for her father, but did immensely for Willy. And even then, she fell for someone who was a part of a gang known for being dangerous. This comes into terms with the theme of "you fall for who you love". In Willy's case, he killed his own brother over a stranger after his girlfriend was killed by him. His love for his beloved Maria Marlene was ultimately stronger than his loyalty to the gang. This brings the director's unique addition of love to the next level as both characters are willing to sacrifice their survivals in a new twisted way.

Their relationship really shows one cliché overlooked theme. That is, that there is no perfect scenario when it comes to love. For instance, when Sayra fell for Willy, it was when he saved her from being potentially raped. Keeping in mind that this is under the circumstances most little expected. When the characters are cold, hungry, and sleep deprived. They both are living in two different but similar lives. Attempting to escape death. Sayra fleeing her country in exchange for safety and Willy continuing his journey forth after his murder. This ended up becoming a mutual friendship between them. And after consistent nagging, Willy finally allows Sayra to join him and he decides to help Sayra to the Mexican border even though he acknowledges he's a dead man after what he did. I think that his ultimate choice at the end of the film is that for Willy, it represents hope. In the first scene after the murder of his brother, he looked incredibly hopeless with his neck down in the cold rain. It wasn't until after he met Sayra that he lifted his chin up and decided that not everything was lost. As for Sayra, I think this represents perseverance and strength. After the news of her father's death, she cries for a bit but

continues on with the help of Willy to go to the US. And even then, after Willy's death she continues on to the US as if though nothing ever happened. Willy's choice of continuing on revealed the themes of strength and hope.

It seems as though it is safe to say that without Sayra there would have been no hopeful Willy and without Willy there wouldn't have existed Successful Sayra. The director did an amazing job crafting a story in which love changed everything for the better or the worse. Fukunaga crafted two narratives strung in by the name of love. Furthermore, it gave power to the themes of bravery, hopefulness, and determination. As well as highlighting how love just happens and you're willing to sacrifice it all when it comes to it.