

Yamaha 300

By Cutberto Lopez
Translated by Mando Alvarado

Scene 1

The sea, far from the shoreline. Night. Very little light. A sound. A small, rhythmic splash on the water gets closer and closer. It's a dark boat almost as dark as the night. We can barely make out its shape. Small lights. An engine, a Yamaha 300, roars. If there were more light, we could see the froth of the sea.

Animal

Yo. Check it, this baby can roar. We're gonna fly.

Cananis

You're gonna blow the engine, bro.

Animal

Check it, this is music, loco. Pay attention, inside my Yamaha, it has all the great bands of Sinaloa. Listen, it's playing "El sauce y la palma." Ay, ay, ay, arriba Sinaloa motherfuckers.

Cananis

You're full of shit bro, you were born in El Desemboque.

Animal

I'm from where I say I'm from and I want to be from Sinaloa. Right in the middle of it, Aguaruto.

Cananis

In Aguaruto, if you're not a joto then you're a puto.

Animal

Aguaruto is the land of the hard-ass motherfuckers. They got this plant that gives birth to the most dangerous Narco motherfuckers ever born. Ay, ay, ay...Listen, listen to how it plays, "Los tres animales" my Yamaha. 300 hundred horses perfectly tuned. All playing the same note.

Cananis

You're gonna fuck it up and then I'm gonna have to whip your ass.

Animal

How'm gonna break it? It's brand new. And if it do break, I'll swim back and kill the motherfucker that sold it to me.

Cananis

Ya! Turn it down. The Coast Patrol is gonna hear us and we'll end up in the pen.

Animal

Why? We're just fishing.

Cananis

At this speed?

Animal

It's cause we're chasing after flying fish.

Cananis

Fucking Animal, you're stupid bro. If you blow the engine, we're gonna throw down bro. The Shark doesn't like mistakes. Don't forget the bitch slaps he gave you the other day.

Animal lowers the velocity. The Yamaha pushes the boat at a smoother pace over the water.

Cananis

That's better. It's better to get there when we get there, than not get there at all.

Animal

One of these days, I'm gonna eat up the Shark. I'm gonna cut him up into little pieces, fry his ass up. Bam, lots of fucking salsa and down he goes.

Cananis

Ah look who's big time. You need to stop talking shit or the Shark's gonna cut your dick off.

Animal

Only when he sucks on it.

Cananis

Man, you talk a lot of shit, bro. He's gonna put a bullet in your head and shut that mouth permanently.

Animal

As long as I'm the motherfucker at transporting goods, they ain't gonna do shit to me. They can't do this shit without me.

Cananis

There's chingos of transporters.

Animal

But I'm the best. They're never gonna catch me.

Cananis

They better not. Cause I don't want to end up in the Big one in Nogales.

Animal

Fuck that yo, I'd die first before getting locked.

Cananis

That's so?

Animal

Before they grab me, I'll grab hold of that anchor, wrap it around me and throw myself to the bottom of the ocean.

Cananis

Shit. You're not going in alone, if it's fucked, we're fucked together.

Animal

But who's gonna catch us? Who? (*Little by little he raises his voice challenging the sea and the gods who are said to live in them*) Who? Who? WHO? You hear it?

Cananis

What?

Animal

Listen.

Cananis

What?

Animal

You hear that? Nothin'. No one says shit. Everyone keeps their mouths shut. They know that no one has the balls to step up to me.

Cananis

Fuckhead, there's nobody out there.

Animal

Even if there were, me and my Yamaha 300 would dominate.

Cananis

Sometimes, engines break.

Animal

Only when driven by pendejos. By the way, what does your little toy say?

Cananis, experienced with the handling of GPS, sonar and radar, consults instruments that are delicately arranged on a crossbar of "La Vero," the same name of the boat in which the men travel.

Cananis

We're good. We're like 40 miles out. The Cessna is already in the air, it'll be landing in Carborca, the exact same time we should be getting there.

Animal

You're not scared that stupid thing could be wrong?

Cananis

The GPS? Never. That's why it was invented. To correct our wrongs.

Animal

But what if it is wrong? What happens?

Cananis

Well, then we're fucked.

Animal

I know how to get to the beach.

Cananis

But then you'll arrive without the load and, in less time it takes for a rooster to sing, the Shark will load your ass up with forty-one bullet holes.

Animal

Why forty-one?

Cananis

To kill everything including the little faggot you got up inside your ass.

Animal

What?

Cananis

You don't get the joke?

Animal

I don't think it's very funny.

Cananis

That's what happens when you smoke a lot of green bro, you burn up the neurons that give you a sense of humor.

Animal

You want to know which other ones are fucked up?

Cananis

Which ones?

Animal

The ones with patience, so...Move that ass Yamaha! My little lovely Yamaha! *(He starts to sing a version of "La Yaquécita" at the same time keeping pace with the combustion of the engine.)* Yo tengo una Yamajita que quise mucho en Sonora y cuando ella baila cumbia el que la ve se enamora. Ay mi Yamajita, ay mi Yamajita, tu tienes un cuerpo Hermosa que parece sirenita. Y todos los Yaquis dicen pues que te traes hombre Yori y yo les contesto a todos que yo me caso con Vero...

Cananis

Slow down. Slow that fucking thing down. Shit. There's a patrol coming. Lower it, so they think that we're fishing.

Animal

Fucking Vatos De Blue. Fucking assholes, yo, one of these days, I'm gonna turn their uniforms all red.

Scene 2

Night covers the Panga. The Yamaha emits a brief purr, as if to complain about the low speed. Animal speaks on the cell phone with Vero, his fiancée.

Animal

My Vero...

Vero

I can't hear you.

Animal

I can't talk too loud. I'll wake up the fishes.

Vero

I can't hear you. Call me back.

Cananis

Leave that shit alone.

Animal

Shut the fuck up.

He calls again.

Animal

My Vero, can you hear me?

Vero

Armando?

Animal

Yes, baby doll, it's me.

Vero

I can hear you now.

Animal

Did you go?

Vero

Yes.

Animal

How many?

Vero

Seven.

Animal

You sure?

Vero

Yes.

Did you count them? Animal

Yeah. Vero

How? Animal

Armando! Vero

None of them went out? Animal

No. Vero

Did the Virgin tell you anything? Animal

Yes, you better be good to me. Vero

Seriously, what did she tell you? Animal

Fucking Animal. Cananis

And you, focus on your fucking little toys. Animal

What? Vero

Not you. This fucking stupid guy that's helping me, he's getting tangled up in fishhooks. Animal

What time do you get back? Vero

Animal

You know there's no set time baby. It all depends on the catch.

Vero

Be careful.

Animal

I'm not hanging up yet.

Vero

Good.

Animal

What? Do you want to hang up?

Vero

Don't start.

Animal

It's just a little joke. It looks like you've burned your sense of humor hormones.

Vero

What?

Cananis

That was so fucking stupid bro.

Animal

You need to shut the fuck up or I'll strap you to the anchor and throw you to the bottom of the sea and let the sea wolves fuck you.

Vero

Maybe I should hang up.

Animal

It's not you baby. It's this fucking guy I'm working with. Hey, did you go to that putito dressmaker?

Vero

He's not gay, he's just a little feminine.

Animal

Oh, you say he a real man?

Vero

As a matter of fact, he is.

Animal

How do you know?

Vero

Women know these things.

Animal

You wanna be with him or what?

Vero

No. Don't be disgusting. It's not that deep.

Animal

No?

Vero

Just leave it alone. The dress is beautiful.

Animal

I don't give a shit about the dress. You look beautiful in any thing. Hey, but I don't need you to look too fucking hot. Just beautiful.

Vero

Your mouth's gonna water when you see me.

Animal

Yo, don't say that. I don't want you to look too good, cause in the church ceremony, my fucking cock will get so hard and I won't be able to let the Father finish the service. I'll grab you by the neck and we'll shoot out the fucking door and head to the love motel.

Vero

Not so loud. They can hear you.

Animal

Who?

Vero

Well, I don't know. Who's with you?

Animal

Just my assistant. He's rounding up the fishing line.

Vero

Who is he?

Animal
He's a new guy. You don't know him.

Vero
Okay...

Animal
Okay que? You want to hang up?

Vero
No. Okay nothing.

Cananis
They're getting close, we have to move.

Animal
I will.

Cananis
Okay, not too fast, head west, so they think we're trolling for fish.

Animal
I got to go, little one, we found an embankment.

Vero
Be safe. Because I don't want to end up dressed in white, left at the alter like some vieja at the rancho.

Cananis
Hurry up, asshole.

Animal
Bye baby doll.

Scene 3

On the other side of the sea, the Patrol keeps a watchful eye on La Vero.

Captain
Are they still there?

Officer

Yes sir.

Captain

Are they moving?

Officer

Yes, a little bit, I think they want us to believe that they're fishermen.

Captain

Do they know we're here?

Officer

It appears so. Should I give them a bump?

Captain

No. Not yet.

Officer

When?

Captain

When I tell you. That asshole's gonna know who his daddy is.

Officer

He's smart.

Captain

He's a dog and I eat dogs for dinner.

Officer

How much longer before the cargo arrives?

Captain

Hasn't left yet. Haven't received the call. Relax. Let's let them be for a bit.

Officer

Coordinates Captain?

Captain

To the port.

Official

Warp speed?

Captain

Don't be a fucking idiot, this isn't a Hollywood movie.

Official

How much and when?

Captain

A little bit but really fucking fast.

Scene 4

Cananis

Now, you can go a little faster. But do it calmly.

Animal

What's the word on the street?

Cananis

That the Captain of the boat is a pendejo.

Animal

They leave?

Cananis

They're on the way to the port.

Animal

How come they don't see us?

Cananis

Instruments must be old. But this shit here's the ultimate. That's why we're never gonna get caught. They don't have the technology I have.

Animal

I got a big fat techonology. You talk about it as if it's yours.

Cananis

And you don't? Whose Yamaha 300 is it?

Animal

But it's gonna be mine, like this boat. Two more trips and the Shark's gonna give me the papers.

Cananis

And what are you gonna do with her?

Animal

I'm gonna take Gringos on boat rides to earn me a couple of dollars.

Cananis

What about the job?

Animal

Got to be even-steven, yo. (Calmly) If you're greedy they'll put you down and if you're late, they'll fuck you hard. I got to do me a few more jobs and then swim like I'm dead. You get me?

Cananis

Yeah, I get you.

Animal

Yo where have you been? You left then you came back?

Cananis

I like to do business outside the port.

Animal

And now? How come they sent you for this load?

Cananis

This is special cargo. It's a delicate load and the pay is fucking great.

Animal

Well yeah, 10 g's is a lot of money.

Cananis

That's why we can't fuck up.

Animal

What they send?

Cananis

You know that info is never divulged.

Animal

Is it coming from Columbia?

Cananis

Doesn't matter to me. As long as it's special.

Animal

Maybe it's snow from the mountain queen.

Cananis

I don't know, and I don't want to know.

Animal

Yeah right.

Cananis

When you're the look out, it's better not to know. But even with that, sometimes it can go bad brother. If you're not discreet. If someone finds out that you're in this shit, it gets dangerous for you real quick.

Animal

What do you know? You don't know nothin.

Cananis

How come the Shark slapped you across your face?

Animal

Cause I did something stupid.

Cananis

To hire a band like Los Tigrillos to play at your wedding is a fucking dumb ass move. Since when does a boatman like you have that kind of coin to pay for a band like that?

Animal

That's my shit.

Cananis

Yeah it is, but then authorities start poking around, start investigations, heads go missing bro.

Animal

Yo B, the whole port knows how the bizness goes.

Cananis

Nah homes. They think they know, but they're not sure. And that's how it should be. You should thank the saints above that all you got from the Shark was a slap across your face.

Animal

Look, look up at the stars.

Cananis

And?

Animal

Look, the world moves baby and things change.

Cananis

Not everything. We're always gonna keep doing the runs and the deals. Don't forget that we're the mules, locked and stocked, but still only mules.

One of the sophisticated instruments that Cananis owns emits a sound. He places an ear piece in his ear. Animal hadn't noticed the device under Cananis's sweatshirt.

Animal

What's that?

Cananis

Wait a minute.

Animal

What is it?

Cananis

A radio, the best fucking piece of equipment on the market. It has ghost frequencies. Let's go. Change to 30 degrees south. They changed their course.

Animal

Why?

Cananis

I don't ask. Put a squeeze on it because if we don't get to the point in time, they're gonna hang us by our dicks till they're stretched out like milk intestines. Crush it homes.

Animal

That's what I like to hear, done with intensity loco!

The Yamaha emits a great roar, and the boat sets off at high velocity. Its lights disappear into the darkness.

Scene 5

A bedroom in the humble home of the humble Vero. We see a wedding dress and other items associated with the ceremony. Two thuggish men on the Sharks orders, invade Vero's home.

Shark

Calm down...Calm down little one. Nothing's gonna happen to you. Quickly, look over there. (*The thuggish men desperately look for something.*)

Vero

It's not me.

Shark

It's you. Don't be such fucking animals, don't break anything. That's why people call us beasts. Just look around, calmly.

Vero

Not me.

Shark

I know it's you. There, under the TV. As a matter of fact, change the channel, I don't like the news. It's nothing but violence. This world's completely fucked.

Vero

It's not me.

Shark

Cutie, you're stubborn. It's you. Look everywhere, it's got to be around here somewhere.

Vero

Who am I?

Shark

Goddamn it. Looks like, I even get to play a psychologist today. Keep looking. Do you know where they are?

Vero

Yes.

Shark

Where?

Vero

Where what?

Shark

Don't be a smart ass. No matter what, we're gonna find them.

Vero

No. Not that, please. They're gifts. No. Don't break them. No!

Shark

Just speak up little one, tell us where the photos are and we're out of here.

Vero

You got the wrong person.

Shark

Not again. You're Veronica right?

Vero

Vero, my name is Vero.

Shark

You're Animal's girlfriend?

Vero

I'm not.

Shark

You're Armando's girlfriend?

Vero

No.

Shark

Don't fucking lie to me.

Vero

I'm his fiancé. We're getting married in a month. Please don't break the wedding trinkets. We got them sent from Guadalajara. It was a lot of trouble and they're beautiful. I always dreamed of a pair of doves kissing. Armando wanted some seagulls but seagulls aren't for weddings.

Shark

And the photos?

Vero

My cousin Tomas is going to take them. He stole a camera from a bunch of gringos and it takes great photos. People come out real nice.

Shark

You really think you're smarter than me don't you? Look good, they've got to be somewhere.

Vero

It's not me.

Shark

We never really know who we are. You want some water? Bring her some.

Vero

What are you looking for?

Shark

Some photos. They're not at his house. The only place they could be is here. Maybe you don't know? Animal didn't leave you anything to stash away?

Vero

I don't know what you're talking about.

Shark

Armando, he didn't leave you anything for safe keeping?

Vero

Yes.

Shark

Where are they?

Vero

Inside the bear, the teddy bear, that green, sea green, the biggest, the fattest, the one with the black eyes.