

AMARA (CONT'D)

(refers to litter)

--This, and our attitude to the body? Separate, like an object to be used? Maybe the body and the earth have a touch of the divine, too. Maybe it's alive. Maybe it's the outermost part of the soul. Which might raise an ethical question. How to treat anything deemed "of the body." Maybe it's no "lower" thing to deem. Here's what I do know... when we see body and soul together, as one? Beautiful.

Amara points to the sun setting over the river.

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - DAY (BACK TO SCENE)

Back to Amara on the soundstage--

AMARA

So, yes, sex is a touchy subject. I submit to you this attitude is not truth. It's culture. A tradition. A tradition of seeing sex as dirty. Bad! Meanwhile, violence and killing? Eh, not as big of a deal. The whole point of my story is to question this attitude. Can we marry body and soul? Could sex even be spiritual?

We move away.

AMARA (CONT'D)

Wait, wait a second, before you go. What about the idea of soul? You know, "there is none. Nor spirit"?

We stop, and turn back slowly.

AMARA (CONT'D)

Now, hear me out. We have a desire for union. We care about things...

We shrug.

AMARA (CONT'D)

I submit to you the desire for union, to care, sympathize is what love is. Love is something that can't be measured, or put under a microscope. Yet love is what holds the world together. Moreover, who can deny the transcendent feeling during sex?

We shake no and move away again. Amara rushes to catch up.

AMARA (CONT'D)

What originates in our genitalia...
you can't deny it's one of the most
powerful forces on earth, can you?

Amara stops us.

AMARA (CONT'D)

Hold on a sec. Feelings from sex,
and feelings from the heart... I
know they can be in competition.
Yes. But they can also be in harmony.
That's the point of my story! There's
a relationship. We can harness our
sexual urges in service to the heart's
wisdom. You might even say this is a
goal in spiritual work!

Amara eagerly waits for our response. We shake no and move.
She walks with us.

AMARA (CONT'D)

Okay, fine. You can disagree with
me. I know the conventional wisdom
is to think of the erotic as easy,
tantalizing sexual arousal. But here's
my question to you.

Amara stops us.

AMARA (CONT'D)

What if the erotic can move us toward
living in a more fundamental way?

Amara now expects us to move away again. But we don't.

AMARA (CONT'D)

You didn't leave. That's great! So,
so... you're down with hearing about
how I discovered beauty in the most
unlikely place--in this marriage
between sex and spirit?

We shrug again.

AMARA (CONT'D)

Woo-hoo!

We move away again.

AMARA (CONT'D)

Okay, okay. I'll just start my story.
(MORE)

AMARA (CONT'D)
 (exhale to calm)
 You know how you live a certain way,
 and you believe you're living?
 (raises her hand)
 Yeeep. That was me...

We stop to hear her out, at last.

AMARA (CONT'D)
 Then you read a book or take a trip,
 or meet someone or do a service and
 you realize you've been hibernating?
 (beat for our reply)
 Okay so, I've been in the sex
 industry. Wanted to get out. So, I
 had cut sex out of my life. For six
years. Focused on finishing my degree
 in accounting. For six years this
 was my life. I--

Amara points. This begins a--

SERIES OF CUTS - AMARA'S DAILY LIFE

UPBEAT, RELAXED MUSIC. Throughout, Amara wears frumpy clothes.

NOTE: The COLORS ARE DULL in this flashback sequence.

ROUND 1:

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT/BEDROOM - DAY

ALARM CLOCK BLARES! Wakes up Amara. Winter Pjs. Happy.

AMARA (V.O.)
 --woke up in order to--

Sun shines bright outside.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT/KITCHEN TABLE - DAY

Amara studies her Accounting textbook--

AMARA (V.O.)
 --Study--

--Takes notes.

INT. BRESTAURANT - DAY

Amara serves food and drinks at a BREASTAURANT with a smile.