

The Mosquito Coast activities. NB2

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mosquito_Coast

The Mosquito Coast is a 1986 American movie which tells the story of a family that leaves the United States and tries to find a happier life in the jungle of Central America. However, their jungle paradise quickly turns into a dystopia as their stubborn father becomes erratic and aggressive.

Plot

Charlie Fox (narrator) explains that his father, Allie Fox, a brilliant inventor, is fed up with the American Dream and consumerism, believing that Americans "buy junk, sell junk, and eat junk." He also fantasizes that there is a nuclear war on the horizon as a result of American greed and crime.

Allie and Charlie want to buy components for a new invention, an ice machine known as Fat Boy. When he sees that the product was made in Japan, Allie refuses to buy it. After Allie and Charlie acquire the components at a local dump, he finishes his creation.

That night, Jerry tells "Mother" that he believes something terrible is going to happen. But she believes something good will happen. The next morning, Allie throws a party for the immigrant workers before telling his family that they're leaving the United States.

The family meets Reverend Spellgood onboard a boat. He is a missionary and their daughter Emily flirts with Charlie. Allie and the Reverend have entirely different religious views. Allie believes Spellgood is a religious fanatic; Spellgood believes Allie is a communist.

When they arrive in Belize, Allie buys a small village called Jeronimo in the rainforest along the river.

Mr. Haddy takes Allie and his family upriver to Jeronimo. Allie meets the inhabitants and starts building a new, 'advanced' civilization. The locals like Allie and his family, but Allie's civilization keeps them working very hard. Reverend Spellgood arrives to convert Jeronimo's citizens. Allie builds a huge version of "Fat Boy" to produce ice. When he completes the machine, he hears rumors of a native tribe in the mountains that have never seen ice. Allie arranges to take ice to the tribe but after a two day journey, when they arrive the ice has melted.

When Allie returns to Jeronimo, Spellgood has taken a lot of people from the village, scaring them with stories of God's biblical destruction. Some rebels visit Jeronimo and want to stay there. Allie and his family accommodate them while Allie makes a plan to get rid of them, freezing them to death. When they are sleeping in the giant ice machine, Charlie locks the door and turns it on. The rebels, waking in panic, shoot their way out and the machine explodes. By the next morning, both the machine and the family's home is in ruins, and chemicals from the destroyed machine have severely polluted the river.

Going downstream, Allie and his family arrive at the coast. Mother and the children believe they can return to the United States. Allie announces that they have all they need on the beach and tells them that America has been destroyed in a nuclear war.

One night, a tropical storm forces the family out to sea. The family becomes physically and emotionally weaker for lack of food and shelter.

Traveling upstream once again, the family gets to Spellgood's community. Charlie finds out that the United States was not destroyed and that Emily will assist them in escaping from Allie, Charlie obtains the keys to a jeep. Allie sets Spellgood's church on fire. Spellgood shoots Allie, paralyzing him from the neck down. The family escapes aboard the boat.

The family begins traveling downriver again, with Allie coming in and out of consciousness. Allie asks his wife if they are going upstream. She lies to him for the first time. Charlie's narration reports the death of Allie, but gives hope that the rest of the family can live their lives freely from now on.

Glossary:

Dystopia (from the Greek): community or society that is undesirable or frightening.

Rebuff: reject (someone or something) in an abrupt or ungracious manner.

barge: a long flat-bottomed boat for carrying freight on canals and rivers, either under its own power or towed by another.

Schism: a split or division between strongly opposed sections or parties, caused by differences in opinion or belief.

Barbed wire: a type of steel fencing **wire** constructed with sharp edges or points arranged at intervals along the strand(s).