

EXT. SWAMP - DAY

MOTHER FRANCIS, LAVINIA and the WHITE WOMEN and CHILDREN who were congregated on PATE'S HILL are now crowded together in the wet swamp. A couple WHITE WOMEN VOMIT into the swamp. Half the WOMEN are crying.

FAT LADY

I cannot tell you how much I dread to go home and have to take care of our servants again.

MOTHER FRANCIS

It is the slaves who own me. Morning noon and night I'm obliged to look after them, to doctor them and attend to them in every way.

PIMPLY LADY

These niggers are so spoiled.

FAT LADY

I can't even read at night without being bedeviled by sixteen niggers after everything you can imagine.

PIMPLY LADY

There is hardly one of our servants that can be trusted to do the simplest work without being stood over.

MOTHER FRANCIS

You think your niggers are stupid? If I order a room to be cleaned I never can be sure I am obeyed unless I go there and see for myself. If I send a girl out to get anything I want for preparing the dinner, she is as likely as not to forget what is wanted, and not to come back till after the time at which the dinner should be ready.

FAT LADY

And when you reprimand them, they only say

(Negro voice)

I don't mean nuttin' wrong, missus.