Summary of the film "sweet sweetback's baadassss song"



"Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song" is a film written produced and directed by Melvin Van Peebles who also played the title role in the movie.

The film is "dedicated to all the Brothers and Sisters who had enough of the Man", and with "the black community starring". After this dedications the film itself begins. It is a story of an Afro-American boy, who was made an orphan and has been "mothered" by an owner of a Los-Angeles bordello. The action begins in 1940-s and gradually follows the life of the boy till 1970-s.

The child becomes a towel boy in the bordello and being in his early teens has his first sexual experience with one of the prostitutes, who nicknames him Sweet Sweetback for his energy and huge penis. Then the movie flashes forward to the seventies, to find Sweetback working in a whorehouse and making his life as a porno-actor, who entertains visitors by making sex on a stage. One day Sweetback's boss named Beetle is visited by a pair of police officers, who are investigating murder of a black man. The black community is outraged by the murder and demands the police to immediately find a suspect.

So police wants to professedly arrest Sweetback and release him shortly thereafter due to lack of evidence. To their opinion this would calm down the blacks. Beetle wants no problems with the police, so he agrees and police arrests Sweetback. On the way to police station the police arrests a young member of the Black Panthers organization and handcuff both of the arrested together. The young Black Panther insults scolds for police officers,

so they un-handcuff him and take him out of the car to beat. Sweetback uses the situation to jump out of the car, beat the officers themselves and escape.

Upon escape he decides to fly to Mexico. On his way he is once more arrested and manages to escape during a riot. Then he discovers his story to a white man who becomes sympathetic with Sweetback and gives him new clothes. While Sweetback does that the police investigators finds an old, illiterate and blind man- Sweetback's father, who discovers the real name of Sweetback – Leroy.

Meanwhile Sweetback skillfully uses his main talent – a talent for sex. He visits a woman who can take the handcuffs off for sex, and becomes free from a disclosing sign of a former prisoner. On his way further towards the frontier Sweetback is captured by a group of Hells Angels, being all whites. But the women of the group are so impressed with Sweetback's penis, that they agree to help him with escape, once again for sex. Already near the border the police lays dogs on him, but he happily reaches Mexico, having murdered a sniffer dog.

Already on the other shore of Rio Grande Sweetback sends a message to the white viewers via screen: "Watch out - a baad assss nigger is coming to collect some dues." The ending is in a way unexpected, because in most of dramatic escape movies the characters die at the end. However, perhaps it is not yet the end, and Sweetback will really return to pay for his troubles.