

The movie "casa" "a
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**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

The movie I watched for the reflection paper is entitled “ Casa”, taglined “ A blind husband, A sexy wife, An ex-lover, In a house by the bay”. From there, you can deduce the story as much as I did the first time I read it. It starts off when Isabel (Asia) and Sam (Michael) moves into Sam’s old house/mansion by the bay in the province. During the night of the wedding, the first sex scene is shown.

It was wild and animalistic sex which in my opinion is not befitting a married couple’s first night as man and wife. A few days after the wedding, Sam, being a fresh grad at the PMA, was summoned to fight in Mindanao, a lifelong dream of his because according to him, “ Nandun ang aksyon!”. Isabel is now left as a simple housewife with only her niece for company. Out of nowhere comes Louie (Paolo), the “ ex-lover”, assuming that Isabel only married Sam because he had money. He comes on to Isabel saying “ Tuturuan kitang magmahal muli”. Isabel attempts to push him away, but she still welcomes him to her house and treats him as an honored guest.

Days pass and Louie brings a tabloid containing news about the war in Mindanao. And Isabel automatically assumed that Sam met his doom in Mindanao. As expected, Louie was there to comfort her. It took no time at all before Isabel and Louie was getting it on in the house. Nine months pass, Isabel and Louie continue their love affair.

Louie stays in the house but only during late nights and early mornings because Isabel fears that her neighbors might see him go in and out of the house. One day, a knock came at the door. Isabel opens it to find soldiers who claimed to be subordinates of her husband. Apparently in the van where

they arrived in was Sam bearing a Kris, now a Lieutenant, and unfortunately also blind. Sam moves back into the house which means that Isabel and Louie's affair is now officially an affair since Sam is confirmed to be alive. As expected, Louie pushes to continue the affair and Isabel agreed after little argument in which the deciding factor was Louie's argument: " Ang bulag, inutil.

Ang bulag, HINDI NAKAKAKITA!" And so they carry on with the sick business, in the same freaking house! Louie still stays there everyday during nights and early mornings and they continue to do their evil all over the house. This goes on for I don't know how long. One day, Sam wakes up and miraculously regains his vision and doesn't tell Isabel, because from what I gather, Sam was intelligent enough to suspect his wife, although one can only suspect so much when you're suddenly blind. That night, Sam finally witnessed firsthand the stupidity happening in his own house. He still had hesitation that night but not after he finally thought things over, his decision was to kill Louie but not Isabel because he said they would both end up in hell and " Ang demonyo, kunsintidor yan.

Hindi ko hahayaang magkasama muli kayo ng maligaya". As expected, Sam killed Louie with the symbolic Kris. The End. One of the scenes which made a big impact on me was the one when Sam and Isabel were having breakfast the day Sam was supposed to leave for the war.

Isabel seemed to be sulking at the idea of Sam leaving and he was trying to console her by telling her about the honor and the benefits they would be receiving after he did service. Then Isabel said something like, " Iba pa rin "

young and ito ka. How can I make love with a medal?" In my opinion that scene sucked because it seems to degrade women to some extent. It was as if women only deserved sex from men, because that was the primary issue that she raised regarding Sam's deployment to Mindanao. And what's worse is that Isabel asserted it herself, given the fact that she is a woman.

Women are being degraded, and the film seems to show that women enjoy being degraded after all. The sex roles assigned to males and females are also evident in this movie. Men are the breadwinners, the typical job is something related to physical labor such as working in the military. Women are left in waiting, they attend to household work and maintenance, stuff like that. But the infidelity of the wife is what deviates from the stereotypical gender norms, as men are the ones seen to have more tendencies towards polygamy.

This is in accordance to the concept of machismo, wherein men feel that they can prove or strengthen their masculinity based on the number of partners that they have. In general, I didn't like the film. As in not one bit. Such badly-made films like these not only bring disgrace to the film industry, but to Filipino culture as well, as these forms of media reflect and inevitably influence culture. Either they support the stereotyped sex roles, go against them, or define a fine line between typecasting and authenticity.

But whatever Casa did, it did badly. This ought to be condemned.