



Everyone Comes from Belterra

A Novel

by

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Glossary

In Alphabetical Order

Portuguese

Água de côco: coconut water

Aí: 'I'm here'; informal acknowledgment that a person has arrived

Apelido: nickname

Barraca: kiosk; food or drink stand

Bater o papo: chat aimlessly, bullshit

Boa tarde: 'Good afternoon'; 'good day'

Boa viagem: 'happy travels'; 'bon voyage'

Bom dia: good morning

Boto: river dolphin of the Amazon basin

Brasileiro/a: a Brazilian

Caboclo: mestizo; Brazilian of mixed descent

Cachaça: cane sugar spirit

Cale a boca: 'shut up!'

Camaleões: lizard, not necessarily a chameleon

Camarada: comrade; used frequently in capoeira speech and lore

Carioca: a native of Rio de Janeiro

Chato: boring

Chaves: keys

Chegando: is coming; participle of verb 'chegar'

Cobra: a snake

Como que 'ta?': 'How are you?'; regional slang

Com certeza: of course; certainly

Conto: a much larger denomination than a *milreal* (see milreis below)

Coruja: an owl

Cruzeiro do sul: the Southern Cross, a constellation seen at night in the Southern Hemisphere

Cuia bowl: bowls made from the cuia fruit, often ornamental

Curandeiros: hucksters selling local medicines

Diga-me: 'tell me'; also used as an informal greeting.

Dono: master or formal version of 'sir', once used for slave and plantation owners

Dona: madame; formally used for lead woman in household

E aí: 'There it is'; 'Alright'

É sério: Are you serious?

Entendeu: 'do you understand?'; 'know what I'm saying?'; 'right?'

Estradas: a rubber estrada is a trail followed by rubber tappers through the forest

Faz favor: 'please'; used more in Portugal

Fique tranquilo: 'stay calm'

Filho da puta: son of a whore, an insult that is tossed around widely and is not always offensive

Foda-te: 'f--- you'

Guerreiro: a warrior

Gostoso: tasty

Gripe: a cold

Hervas: herbs

Indios: an indigenous Brazilian

Isso: 'That's it', said when the person has shown that he or she understands the point

Já: already

Jangáda: a traditional flat-bottomed sail boat used by fisherman in the state of Bahia

Ilha: island

Ladrão: jerk; punk

Malandro: a tough or thug, someone who causes trouble

Mandigueiro: trickster; magician; person known for their wily resourcefulness

Mandioca: manioc, a tuber that is eaten as a staple

Mata: the deep forest

Meu filho: 'my son'; used respectfully by an elder

Merda: shit

Meus deus: 'My gods'; not blasphemous;

Milreis: the old currency of Brazil

Moleque: 'guy', 'tough guy'

Muito prazer: 'nice to meet you'

Não: no

Não é: 'Right?'; 'Am I right?'

Não sei: 'I don't know'

Negócio: business; venture; but also loosely means 'thing'

Negro: black man

Nordeste: northeast

Nossa: shortened form of 'nossa senhora'; see below

Nossa Senhora: Our Lady, (Christian saying), uttered when troubled or bothered

Nova Iorque: New York

Obrigada: thank you (feminine)

Olha: 'look'; 'you see'

Opa: 'wow'; an expression of enthusiasm

O que é isso?: 'What's this?'

O senhor: 'sir'

Otimo: great; fantastic

Paraná: slang for water channel in the Amazon; (also a state in southern Brazil, and, as long as we're talking about it, the site of a major battle during the 19th century war against Paraguay commemorated in capoeira lore, but not used in this context)

Pau: tree

Pousada: inn

Pra caralho: 'a shitload'

Prancha: a ball of boiled latex

Pinga: cachaça, a cane sugar rum; also refers to a shot of rotgut cachaça

Pode: 'you may'

Porca: a regional word for 'give me another drink'

Porra: 'shit'

Profissão: profession

Quara-feira: Wednesday

Que pena: 'too bad'

Rapaz: man (slang)

Ribeirinho: river dweller, living in simple huts by the river

Seringueiro: rubber tapper

Sertão: dry, arid region; scrubland

Sim: yes

Tão linda: 'so beautiful'

Ta and Ta bom: 'alright'; 'okay'; used frequently in speech; shortening of verb 'estar'

Talvez: maybe

Tem dendé: 'have palm oil'; a capoeira term, dendé is known for providing strength and power.

Tranquilo: 'take it easy'; 'be calm'

Tudo bem: 'how are you'; 'everything good?' (informal greeting)

Vagabundos: vagabonds; criminals; bastards

Vai se foder: 'go f--- yourself'

Valeu: 'thanks'; informal

Valor: of value

Vamos-lá: 'let's go!'

Veja: 'look'

Xadréz: chess

French

A bon: ah, yes

Ben: 'well'

Con: a fool; idiot

Grand nez: literally, 'big nose'; a head perfumer

Tant pis, n'est-ce pas?: 'That's how it is, right?'

Tais-toi: 'Shut up!'

Miscellaneous

Caiman: *Caiman crocodilus*; a reptile related to the crocodile

Tin Lizzie: a Ford Model T car

Wardian Case: glass aquariums (terrariae) used by botanists and naturalists to collect specimens in the early 20th century