

## Mengele Zoo

MINO AQUILES PORTOGUESA, a poor young butterfly collector living in a South American jungle village ruled by brutal police representing a corrupt regime beholden foreign business interests, is the sole escapee of a petroleum industry-instigated land grab massacre that wipes out his family and co-villagers. On the run and starving, he is adopted by kindly itinerant magician SEÑOR MAGICO, who teaches the child his trade. Finding an herb whose juice protects from flame, they incorporate it with spectacular results into their act, which they take across a continent thoroughly raped by the US government on behalf of international corporations. MAGICO is burned alive by drunken Americans and their minions, who are in turn gunned down by 13-year old MINO. Using the magician's savings, MINO buys a mansion on the coast, where he continues building his butterfly collection, meeting same-aged neighbour MARIA ESTRELLA PINÃ. The pair spend idyllic days days bathing nude from MINO's dock off which there is an old shipwreck, finally consummating their young love. The reverie is broken by MINO's arrest for his killing of the American murderers of MAGICO. Deported to the country of his crime, MINO is horrendously tortured until he turns on his captors, killing his interrogators, setting the prison on fire. Finding refuge on a banana plantation, he is spirited out to the jungle, where he stays with crazed revolutionary/gold hunter JUAN IBANIEZ and his sickly son CARLOS. When CARLOS dies, MINO takes on his identity, leaving compound and revolutionary behind. Coming to a big city, he saves young street arab ORLANDO VILLALOBOS from the police. The two become fast friends, living a layabout life in the slums where they share all, including the same young women, notably the beautiful IDLEBRANDA. MINO, using juggling skills, lands a job in the bar of Lebanese immigrant BAKTAR SULEYMAN ASJ ASIJ. MINO and ORLANDO further bond through MINO's assassination of their corrupt mayor. MINO realises that the shipwreck off the dock of the house he owned may contain treasure, and he returns there in disguise. Caretaker/girlfriend MARIA is gone; MIHO diving finds gold; he also finds evidence of violence surrounding MARIA's disappearance. ORLANDO discovers that MARIA is imprisoned. MINO and ORLANDO insinuate themselves into university studies, becoming star students. MINH meets ZULK, a university expert on insect life. MINO and ORLANDO reunite with ILDEBRANDA, now herself a student. Inspired by socialist and deep ecological principles they form revolutionary cell *Mariposa* (Sp = "butterfly"), operating from TORPEDO's bar. Joining with fellow-student and newspaper editor's daughter JOVINA PONS, they liquidate JOVINA's father with her eager approval. The four bond through long discussions and group sex. Expertly using blowguns with poison-tipped darts and exercising tight operational discipline with MINO as overall leader, they operate separately to engage in a comprehensive campaign of spectacular terrorism, targeting first world corporate and governmental ecological offenders. A butterfly symbol unique to each terrorist, MINHO's being the blue *Morpho*, is left behind as a calling card after each act of terror. Newspapers under governmental pressure try to hush the details, but assassinations of journalists and editors break the story open, creating sympathy for the Mariposa group, inspiring copycat cells. MINO single-handedly explodes a US oil and mining trust building, killing hundreds. Mariposa's goal is to stop the eradication of rain forests. Many ecological offenders in the US, Europe and Japan fall under the blow guns and poison, notably the US's UN ambassador and the top echelons of the World Bank. After a last spectacular action in Istanbul, the Mariposa group plans to retire to the South American jungle. They discover they have been compromised by ZULK, who was a hidden governmental agent. Assassinating counter-terrorist agents onto their trail, they fail to eliminate ZULK, who has the antidote to the blowgun poison. The unknowing four friends, surprised while relaxing in their Turkish seaside resort, are mercilessly gunned down in a counter-terrorist operation, with wounded MINO, determined not to be taken, diving into the sea, the possible only survivor.