

Historicizing La Plena

[coquí]

[plena sounds]

[pandero]

Narrator: “And it was in Ponce. Ponce Señorial. A city jealous of her Spanish roots, where there would be a popularization of our most renowned Afro-Antillean musical expression: Puerto Rican plena.

Satirical. Playful. Ironic in its content. Taking advantage, like the Spanish romance would, of the circumstances of the moment... like that wonderful thing that a vengeful female shark that swallowed a North American lawyer in Central Guánica.”

[sounds of the newspapers being read aloud]

[train]

plenero: “Female shark...”

[repique]

plenero: “Female shark of the sea... has eaten an American lawyer... she had his spinal column, looking like a walking boat. Female shark of the sea, that has eaten an American.

Come on, guys, sing this plena now. The female shark, which has eaten an American. Come on!”

[panderos sound]

[accordion joins]

[*chorus*: “Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea, which has eaten an American”]

[*plenero*: “his spinal column was, very much like a walking boat. The female shark of the sea, which has eaten an American”]

[*chorus*: “Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea, which has eaten an American”]

[*plenero*: eah!]

[*chorus*: “Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea, which has eaten an American”]

[*plenero*: “In the very moment what he went swimming, in the Santurce beach which belongs to San Juan.”]

[*chorus*: “Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea, which has eaten an American. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea, which has eaten an American”]

[*plenero*: Come on!]

[accordion solo, as panderos and güiro continue sounding in the background]

[*chorus*: “Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea, which has eaten an American. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea, which has eaten an American”]

[*plenero*: “they said that he was a lawyer, from central Guánica. Bet he doesn’t mind the female shark.”]

[*chorus*: “Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea, which has eaten an American. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea, which has eaten an American”]

[*plenero*: “Sunday afternoon, it was, when he went to the, he was walking like shi...sh kabob because of the female shark]

[*chorus*: “Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea, which has eaten an American. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea. Female shark of the sea, which has eaten an American”]