

Birds Of A Feather

By

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The book: Birds Of A Feather

FADE IN:

LAURA (PRE-LAP)

In the town where I live, palm trees line the block and sway to the cool breezes from the Atlantic Ocean. My neighbors smile and wave at several children jumping rope across the street...

EXT. STREET - DAY

We open up with the view of a sunny sky. Down below, a group of young girls are jumping ropes on the sidewalk of the street.

SUPERIMPOSE: PALM BAY.

LAURA (V.O)

Palm Bay is known for being a great place to call home; it's not far from the beach and is typically sunny. You wouldn't think something crazy would happen here, yet it did.

INT. JUVENILE DETENTION VAN - DAY - MOVING

LAURA is driving the van down a scanty road. OFFICER DIRK sits in the passenger seat.

Two juvenile offenders sit in the back of the van.

The van stops at a red light. We transit to...

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

...There are no cars behind the van.

The Camera pans away to two VULTURES feasting on a dead raccoon across the street.

Across the street stands the Space United building.

INTERCUT: INT/EXT OF VAN

Laura waits patiently for the traffic lights to turn green.

Out of the Space United building, an eccentric man dashes out through the front door. He holds something likened to a bottle of wine. Two security guards bolt out of the front door in pursuit.

Officer Dirk watches the drama. Laura watches indifferently.

OFFICER DIRK

Check that out.

LAURA

I know. I see them. Two bucks says the skinny guard tackles him.

The two officers watch on.

Suddenly, the eccentric man trips and falls. The wine bottle crashes to the ground, a small smoke escapes from it as it shatters. The content of the bottle splash into the retention water at the edge of the property by the road.

The two security guards stop in their tracks and immediately cover their faces with their arms.

The eccentric man steps back with a horrified look on his face.

MAN

OH NO!!

Suddenly, a giant vulture flies through the smoke, swoops down over him, and nearly knocks him over.

One of the security guards runs back to the building and pushes a red button on the outside wall, prompting an alarm like a high pitched screech to go off.

The vulture flies again over the water toward the eccentric man. Instantly, he runs back toward the building as the vulture snatches the bottle and flies upward, flapping its giant black wings.

OFFICER DIRK

That was one big vulture. What does he want with smoking wine?

Laura watches as the giant vulture continues to ascend toward a cell phone tower. A few vultures glare down over the road.

The giant vulture lands on the tower, turns around, and starts crushing the bottle with its beak, raining down glass shards to the ground.

LAURA (V.O)

I remember thinking how good it was that no one was standing underneath the tower. I didn't know then that this was just the beginning of a war between man and winged beasts.

The traffic lights turn green, Laura drives off.

INT. JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER / CELL HALLWAY - EVENING

The glass security door slides open, Laura and Officer Dirk escort two large males in with shackles on their wrists. Walking them to their cells.

LAURA (V.O)

These two are from opposite gangs in the local neighborhood. One is nicknamed Crown, whose main purpose is to sell marijuana on a certain corner lot. The other gang is called the Union, a larger group of thugs who centered on the sale of sexual favors from prostitutes and bouts. The leader of the Union owns a club in the worst part of town. They had one very special boxer who, if he survived his next few weeks in our juvenile detention center, might even make it to a national heavyweight championship boxing match.

Laura and Officer Dirk reach the cells of the two inmates, which are opposite each other.

LAURA (V.O)

The pride of the Union was JACK "THE MACK" STUBINS who was just arrested for the fourth time for grand theft.

OFFICER DIRK

(smiles)

Go park the car, Camp. These two are in for the evening.

LAURA

Not so tough in chains, are they?

One of the inmates is JACK "THE MACK".

JACK

You wouldn't say that in the ring.
You ain't so tough without a badge.

OFFICER DIRK

You won't be seeing another boxing
match for some time.

JACK

Don't be so sure.

Jack chuckles, one of his platinum tooth shimmers.

OFFICER DIRK

That tooth is more than this week's
paycheck. Now that the governor too
three percent of our paycheck,
yeah, I'd say it's worth a lot
more.

The officers lock the inmates in their cells. Then they
begin to walk back.

CAPTAIN MCBRIDE stands in the doorway of her office with a
checklist in her hand.

Laura and Officer Dirk walk out of the cell hallway.

CAP. MCBRIDE

How was the court? That truck kid
behave?

Cap. McBride hands Officer Dirk the checklist.

LAURA

No problems.

OFFICER DIRK

He's got a mouth on him.

Officer Dirk signs the checklist.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)

I'm going to go fill the van with
gas. I'll be right back.

Officer Dirk scratches his head and struts out of the glass
enclosure.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Sugar, you see tomorrow's docket?

LAURA
Full house.

CAP. MCBRIDE
The boxing kid sure looks like a handful.

LAURA
He'll be leaving sometime tomorrow, and I don't think he realizes that they are making room for him next door.

Cap. McBride shakes her head in disapproval.

CAP. MCBRIDE
It's going to be a long day tomorrow, so get a good night's rest.

LAURA
(smiles)
I'm looking forward to it.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Is your husband going to cook you something fine and dandy?

LAURA
Being a chef's wife has its perks.

CAP. MCBRIDE
You've got to give me the recipe for those cookies you brought last Christmas. I am getting sick of asking.

LAURA
He said that they were a family restaurant secret.

CAP. MCBRIDE
We all got our secrets.

Cap. McBride leans toward Laura.

CAP. MCBRIDE (CONT'D)
Now get going. I'll see you tomorrow.

LAURA
I've still got five minutes left on the clock.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Get!

(slowly smiles)

Don't come back without that recipe
and the one for chicken marsala.

Laura heads for the exit door. She waves at Jack and exits the building.

EXT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Laura walks out of the building. She walks up to a MAZDA RX-8, opens it and enters. Then she drives away.

INT. LAURA'S HOME / KITCHEN - EVENING

LOUIGI stands in front of the kitchen cabinet making dinner. He is naked from the waist up.

Laura comes in and sneaks up on him.

LOUIGI

(still backing Laura)

How was work?

LAURA

Same ol', same ol'. Captain McBride
wants that cookie recipe.

Louigi chuckles deeply. Laura wraps her arms around his waist. Her fingers tumble down his six pack stomach muscles.

LOUIGI

I read in the paper that Jack "the
Mack" was arrested yesterday. Have
you seen him yet?

LAURA

You know I can't talk specifics.

LOUIGI

He's extremely dangerous. Did you
see what he did in his last fight?
Mahoney didn't even last fifteen
seconds in the ring with him.

Quietly, Louigi shyly backs away, turns and loads two plates with pasta and sauce-covered chicken. He heads towards the back porch.

Laura notices a small table with two chairs in the garden for dinner, near the bird feeder. Noting the bird feeder is empty of sunflower seeds, Laura bends over, grabs the plastic bag underneath the sink, and follows Louigi behind.

EXT. GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

It is windy. Louigi sets the food down on the table. He sees the bag in Laura's hand, then his gaze falls on the empty bird feeder.

LOUGI

I was wondering why I hadn't seen any blue jays this morning. The squirrels must be hungry.

LAURA

(filling the bird feeder)
Not hungrier than I am.

Laura drops the sack and sits down. Louigi hands her a spoon and napkin. They both begin to eat.

The family dog, DOOFUS, runs out of the house and sits in a corner.

LOUGI

Your sunflowers are finally opening.

Laura glances over to the nearly five-foot sunflowers, she proudly smiles.

LOUGI (CONT'D)

So, are you taking extra precautions at work since you have a boxing celebrity.

LAURA

I can't talk specifics. You know that.

LOUGI

Mack's there? Where else would they take someone under eighteen in Brevard? Trust me, tell me what's going on. Are they going to adjudicate him? He's old enough to be tried as an adult, and he has the championship boxing match scheduled for soon.

LAURA
You don't even like boxing.

LOUIGI
How's your dinner?

Laura takes a bite from her chicken that seems to be so hot. The look on her face tells us how delicious the meal is.

LAURA
Is the basil from the garden?

LOUIGI
I dried them up in the sun.
(smiles)
You would not believe how much time
I spent trying to find the perfect
basil for you.

LAURA
How'd I get so lucky, Louigi, to
have you in my life.

Louigi leans over and kisses her lips.

LOUIGI
(jerking back)
Ouch. Your badge got me.

Louigi chuckles, showing her a scratch the badge left on his skin.

Laura quickly removes the silver star and grabs him in her arms. They kiss passionately.

Louigi gently picks her up and carries her over to the hammock tied between two queen palms. He gazes into her eyes for a moment. They begin to kiss again.

LOUIGI (CONT'D)
(chuckles)
Glad we got the fence.

LAURA
So glad.

Laura tries to kiss him again.

LOUIGI
I should put the food back in the
fridge. Just give me a moment.

LAURA
(sadly)

No.

Louigi turns toward the table, grabbing the leftovers. He glances back over his shoulder and smiles as he takes the plates inside.

A big vulture lands near the bird feeder. It has red in its eyes, blood from its nose, and white liquid drooling at its mouth.

Laura sits up in the hammock staring at the vulture. The vulture's gaze turns in her direction, unsettling her.

The vulture hops twice toward the bag of seed. It pecks at it a few times and then pulls out a giant cockroach. Laura worryingly watches all along.

LOUIGI (O.C)
Get out of here!

Louigi is holding a broom as he shoos the bird away with broad strokes.

LOUIGI (CONT'D)
Go!

The vulture just sits there staring at him. Doofus stands alert.

LAURA
Leave him be, Louigi.

Laura jumps up from the hammock and dashes over to her husband. Slowly, together, they back away toward the patio door.

LOUIGI
What's wrong with that bird? Did
you see its eyes?

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Louigi and Laura quickly enter. Louigi quickly locks the door.

Suddenly, the vulture flies at the glass door. It crashes hard and cracks it. Shaking its head, it drops, then hops away, and stares at Doofus with a dazed look in its eyes.

LOUIGI
It's got rabies.

Louigi opens the door for Doofus to enter.

LOUIGI (CONT'D)
Go, Doofus!

As Doofus rushes pass the bird, the vulture snaps at the shoulder. Doofus leaps to the left and rushes into the house.

LAURA
They don't get rabies.

Laura shuts the door.

LAURA (CONT'D)
No, this bird has something wrong
with it. I better alert animal
control.

Laura grabs the telephone receiver off the wall and begins to dial a number.

Another bang at the glass door. The crack on the glass becomes larger. Louigi is horrified as the bird shakes back to its feet and flies away in two big swoops.

A responder is heard from the other end of the phone.

RESPONDER (V.O)
Animal control. How can we be of
service?

LAURA
(to Louigi)
That thing is gone, right?

Louigi, still in shock, nods his head. Laura hangs up.

LOUIGI
What the hell was wrong with that
vulture? It looked like it wanted
to attack us.

Laura puts down the phone and hugs her husband. Doofus pads to the glass door and yelps.

INT. CAP. MCBRIDE'S OFFICE - EVENING

Captain McBride sits behind her desk. Officer Dirk escorts Jack in. His hands and feet are cuffed. He makes a large crashing noise as he sits in front of the desk.

Cap. McBride glances over at Officer Dirk and smiles.

CAP. MCBRIDE
How has your shift been so far,
Dirk?

OFFICER DIRK
Better, since you called me into
your office.

Officer Dirk winks at her.

JACK
(chuckles)
That looks like some misbehaving
going up in juvie jail.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Mind your business.

Cap. McBride glares at Jack.

CAP. MCBRIDE (CONT'D)
We've been friends for a long time,
Dirk and me. We don't take kindly
to kids that are born with a silver
spoon in their mouth and got the
world on a string.

Jack eyes squint in disbelief.

JACK
You don't know me.

OFFICER DIRK
Watch your mouth.

Officer Dirk moves a paper and pen from the captain to Jack.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)
Sign that. We gave you this so
you'll know the rules and what we
expect from you.

Jack picks up the two page document and starts to read through it.

JACK
Only fifteen minutes of showers?

OFFICER DIRK
(chuckles)
We provide the soap.

JACK
You watch, too, or is Big Momma
here more your thang?

Officer Dirk moves closer and leans down towards Jack.

OFFICER DIRK
You watch your mouth, Mack, or you
will be sleeping on cement. I'll
take away the mat.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Cement's got no cushions. Not like
those big old beds with box springs
and fluffy pillows.

OFFICER DIRK
I don't think he gets a pillow
tonight, Cap.

JACK
We got to do this? Be all mean cop
to the criminal. I've done nothing
to either one of you. You have no
idea who I am or where I've come
from.

OFFICER DIRK
I heard he's a chip off the ol'
block. His father is up at the
state pen for murder.

JACK
I ain't nothing like my pops.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Who's his daddy?

OFFICER DIRK
You mean, you didn't know? It's all
over the news about his father
trying to get to attend the boxing
championships. A lawyer is trying
to work it out so that he can see
his son get the belt he trained him
to wear.

JACK

That's what's in the news? It ain't like that. I don't even want him there. I don't want to ever see him again.

Officer Dirk is taken back by the response. Jack is mad.

CAP. MCBRIDE

If you don't like cons, why are you trying so hard to be one? So he's proud of you for stealing that car or for being considered one of the most dangerous gang members we have on the Space Coast?

JACK

You already think you know me.

CAP. MCBRIDE

I've seen too many of these gang members from both sides of the city come in here thinking they are the baddest of the bad. You want to see bad? Try being a mother for a day and see if you don't break down.

Officer Dirk walks around the desk and puts his hand on her shoulder.

OFFICER DIRK

It's okay. He doesn't know about Douglas.

Cap. McBride eyes well up.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Every day I come here and meet one of you from this gang or that gang. You drop out of school. Get drug addicted. Do crime and then expect sympathy from us that you've had it rough. Tough break, kid. You didn't have to follow in your father's footsteps. You were the one that decided to cross the line between what is right and wrong. You did. So now you're here, and you're my mess.

JACK

Who's Douglas?

CAP. MCBRIDE
Don't mention his name! You got no
right.

JACK
(apologetically)
Sorry.

Jack shifts his gaze to Officer Dirk's sympathetic face.

JACK (CONT'D)
I can see whoever he is must mean a
lot to you.

CAP. MCBRIDE
My son, Douglas Bobby McBride, is
seven years old and he's got
cancer. You think the world owes
you something. Well, it doesn't.
So, Jack the Mack, you are going to
behave when you are here and follow
those rules. Do you hear me?

Jack adjusts in his chair.

JACK
(softly)
Yes, ma'am. You won't have no
trouble from me. My momma died of
breast cancer two years ago, and
that's when my dad went crazy. He
was always violent towards her, but
you should have seen him when she
was dying. Never left her side.
Crying like a baby, he did, all day
and night. Begging God to save her
and he'd be a good man.

OFFICER DIRK
You shouldn't have brought that up
to someone whose only son has
cancer.

JACK
Not trying to be disrespectful, but
I know. It ain't easy seeing
someone you love get cancer. He's
only seven? Yeah, you are right.
Life ain't fair to me or you,
Captain. But here we are, stuck
together like glue until my trial.
There are other gang members in
here who wouldn't mind me dead. So

(MORE)

JACK (cont'd)
 you better watch my back in here. I
 don't have eyes in the back of my
 head.

OFFICER DIRK
 I do.

Jack signs the paper.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)
 You're my responsibility here.

CAP. MCBRIDE
 And mine. Just follow the
 instructions, and you won't have
 any trouble in juvie.

INT. CELL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Officer Dirk and Jack walk down the hall. The shackles on
 Jack announce their presence.

Hoots and hollers emanate from other juveniles in the cells.
 Lots of muttering circulate down the hall.

TEENAGER #1
 You're gonna win that championship,
 Mack.

TEENAGER #2
 You got this.

As Jack walks pass a cell. MILES, the inmate in the cell
 goes:

MILES
 Watch yourself around the Crowns.
 Bart is in cell two down from you.

JACK
 (mutters)
 Can't do much in a cell.

MILES
 They take us out in the yard
 together.

OFFICER DIRK
 Shut up and go to bed, Miles.

MILES

Just trying to help a brother. You better watch him in the yard.

Officer Dirk and Jack continue down the hall.

TEENAGER #3

You're our champ! Next Friday the belt is all yours.

Officer Dirk and Jack stop in front of an empty cell.

BART (O.C)

(softly)

Enjoy your last night alive.

In the cell next to Jack's stands BART. He is twice Jack's size.

Officer Dirk stops, then turns to Bart.

OFFICER DIRK

What did you just say? You want the hole tonight?

BART

You got rules. First you take away my mattress, then it's the hole.

JACK

(to Bart)

What's the hole?

BART

Solitary. It's not in the ground, but it's dark in there.

Jack turns to Officer Dirk.

JACK

You think a Crown or Union member is gonna care about being in the dark? It would be better for us to miss lunch or something.

Bart giggles, then his dark eyes tighten.

BART

My name's Bart. And I am going to kill you tomorrow.

Officer Dirk opens Jack's cell and begins to remove his handcuffs quickly.

OFFICER DIRK
I'll talk to Cap about moving you.
Just wait here.

Jack enters his cell. His shifts his focus away from Bart.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)
I'll be right back.

Officer Dirk shuts the door and locks it.

BART
Nothing you can do will save him.
(through clinched teeth)
He's toast.

JACK
(to Officer Dirk)
Better move me to the right side of
juvie. The left side is not my
people.

INT. CAP. MCBRIDE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Captain McBride sits at her desk. Officer Dirk rushes in and stands in front of the desk.

CAP. MCBRIDE
What's the matter?

OFFICER DIRK
We need to move Jack from 114 to
92. His cell is right next to two
Crown members, and he's Union. They
are threatening to kill him.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Will this crap ever end?

Cap. McBride whirls around and pulls a folder in her desk. She crosses the "114" written on the document and writes "92".

CAP. MCBRIDE (CONT'D)
Okay, move him. We don't need the
trouble. Jack doesn't seem as
horrible as the others.

OFFICER DIRK
He may need to go to adult jail
next if this keeps up. We don't
need a riot.

CAP. MCBRIDE
 (chuckles)
 I thought you were into that sort
 of thing.

Officer Dirk bites his lower lip.

OFFICER DIRK
 Not tonight, pretty lady.

INT. LAURA'S BEDROOM - DAWN

Louigi sleeps peacefully as his CPAP machine expels air. Laura sleeps beside him. She wakes up and glances at the alarm lock. It reads 4:45. She shuts it off before it rings.

Yawning, Laura begins to climb out of bed. Louigi wakes up and removes his mask.

LOUIGI
 Good morning, beautiful.

Surprised, Laura rolls over and stares him in the face.

LAURA
 You want me to move the alarm clock
 to eight o'clock, or do you not
 want to go back to sleep?

LOUIGI
 I think I'm up. You want breakfast?

LAURA
 I'll just grab something in the
 break room. I want to go in early
 to make sure Dirk did alright.

LOUIGI
 (kissing her)
 You mean if Jack the Mack behaved
 himself?

LAURA
 I can't talk specifics. You know
 that.

LOUIGI
 That's okay. I can sense you are
 worried.

Laura leans in and kisses him.

LAURA
How did I get so lucky?

LOUIGI
Nice. Change of subject. But since you did, I am the lucky one.

LAURA
Are you? Every day you have to worry if I will come home.

LOUIGI
True. But you wouldn't be happy doing anything else. Wearing a badge is in your blood. I couldn't see you doing anything else than being an officer, unless you were in forensics. You love solving crimes with clues.

Laura falls back on the pillow.

LAURA
You know why I got into law, I wish it was a different story.

LOUIGI
Don't think about that.
(slings his arm around his pillow)
I would never do to you what your father did to your mother.

Laura closes her eyes, fighting back tears.

The sound of a man's voice moaning in pleasure is heard in the background.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

The room is empty. No pictures on the wall. The voice of the man moaning in pleasure is louder now.

The door knob twists, LUCINDA (30s) comes in with LAURA (7). They are both surprised as they hear the man's voice.

Lucinda heads for the kitchen. She returns with a gun in her hand. She hastily ascends the stairs.

LUCINDA
(to Laura)
Call the police!

Laura slowly follows Grace up the stairs.

Lucinda stops in front of her bedroom, where the sound is coming from. She pushes the door open.

IN THE ROOM

MIRANDA, an overweight woman is under the blanket with DERREK, Lucinda's husband. Their clothes lie on the floor.

LUCINDA (CONT'D)

I'm going to kill you for cheating
me!

Miranda jumps out of bed, screaming in shock as Lucinda aims the gun at Derrek. Miranda looks at Laura, standing behind Lucinda.

MIRANDA

I didn't know. Please don't kill
me. Look! Your little girl.

Lucinda glances over at Laura, then turns back to Derrek, sitting guiltily in bed.

LUCINDA

How long has this been going on?

MIRANDA

Two weeks. I swear I didn't know he
was with anybody else.

LUCINDA

I'm his wife of ten years. This is
his daughter.

MIRANDA

I didn't know. I wouldn't have if I
knew.

Miranda angrily glares at Derrek.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

I will kill him myself. Hand me the
gun.

Lucinda waves the gun at Miranda, signaling her to leave. Miranda quickly grabs her clothes, slaps the hell out of Derrek, then bolts out of the house.

Tears run down Laura's cheeks.

LAURA
(crying)
Mom, please put down the gun.
Please don't kill daddy.

Lucinda glances at Laura, then slowly she puts down the gun.
Derrek gasps with relief.

DERREK
Thank you.

LUCINDA
Get out.

END OF FLASHBACK.

EXT. JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER / GARAGE - MORNING

The Mazda RX-8 pulls to a halt. Laura alights and heads towards the front. She hits the buzzer.

Cap. McBride's voice is heard through the outdoor speaker.

CAP. MCBRIDE (V.O)
Good morning, Sunshine.

The doors click, Laura opens them...

INT. CHECK-IN POINT - CONTINUOUS

Laura comes in and stands in front of the glass door.

Cap. McBride nods to her from the control room. The glass door opens and Laura walks into the facility.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Captain McBride sits in front of the monitors. Laura comes in and signs the captain's sheet.

CAP. MCBRIDE
You arrived five minutes early.

LAURA
How was it last night?

CAP. MCBRIDE
Jack the Mack didn't sleep much. I took his mat away because he tried to talk to another gang member.

LAURA
(sighs)
They never learn.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Other than that, it was a pretty
quiet night.

Officer Dirk walks in.

LAURA
My house was attacked by a giant
vulture last night. I've never seen
anything like this bird. It had
giant red eyes.

Cap. McBride is dazed.

CAP. MCBRIDE
I would say it could be rabies, but
vultures can't get rabies. In fact,
they wouldn't eat a raccoon off the
road if it had it. They have
something internal that tells them
not to eat anything with a disease.
How they know, I can't guess.

Officer Dirk takes the sign-in sheet from Laura.

OFFICER DIRK
There's one like that outside in
the yard. Huge one. You should see
it.

LAURA
How many we got for court today?

Cap. McBride pulls out the manifest and studies it for a
moment.

CAP. MCBRIDE
You have three in the morning and
maybe two reprimands in the
afternoon.

OFFICER DIRK
It's going to be another long one.
Should I keep the kids out of the
yard?

Cap. McBride didn't respond. She suddenly rises and heads
out of the room, like she saw something. Laura follows her
behind.

Officer Dirk begins to eat his sandwich, following the ladies behind.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Cap. McBride stops before a window. She stares out the window to the half basketball court in the yard. She sees a giant vulture perched on a tree.

Laura and Officer Dirk stop behind her.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Oh my God. That's a big one.

Laura leans over to around the Captain, seeing the giant vulture. The vulture squawks at them.

Officer Dirk puts in the code to the door and throws out the rest of his sandwich.

OFFICER DIRK
Now he'll eat and go away.

The vulture swoops down and sniffs the sausage.

CAP. MCBRIDE
(smiles)
That's generous of you to give your breakfast away.

OFFICER DIRK
They were two for this morning, I already ate one.

The trio watches as the vulture continue to move its beak around the sandwich. Then just stares at it.

CAP. MCBRIDE
What's wrong with that thing?

LAURA
The one last night acted crazed. It nearly tried to break down my glass patio door.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

A lanky teenager and a sun-leathered man in his late-fifties walk down the hallway with Captain McBride. They both dress in white uniforms, and wear a "VISITORS" tag. The man holds a tranquilizer gun in one hand, while the boy holds a giant net.

MAN

Vultures can't get rabies. They can sense if a dead animal has rabies, and that's the only dead animal they won't eat.

CAP. MCBRIDE

I don't care what the winged thing has. I just don't want him overlooking the yard with the kids out there.

The trio walks up to Laura, standing guard at the door to the yard.

The man sees the vulture now perched on the basketball hoop, with blood dripping from its beak.

MAN

(snidely)

Lovely.

Laura glances at his name tag, which reads "PETER".

LAURA

Nice bird, PETER?

MAN/PETER

Peter Miller.

LAURA

I had a bird like this at my house last night, and it nearly broke my glass patio door. How much experience do you have as an animal control officer?

Peter straightens his glasses and scoffs.

PETER

I have been in this business for over twenty years. I wrestle gators. You think a bird is tough? Now, he is a big one. I might need to take two shots, but I won't need to get close. I'll shoot 'em and take 'em to be tested. It'll cost you a hundred bucks.

LAURA

Not my bill.

Laura unlocks the door, glancing down at the teenage boy. He is watching the bird, his eyes widened, he gulps down hard.

PETER

Stay here, son.

(gulps back a wobble in his
voice)

After he's down, come bring me the
net.

LAURA

The boy can't remain in the
facility unsupervised.

PETER

I called and asked the captain if I
could bring JAKE in so he would see
what happens to boys who don't go
to school. He thinks my job is all
easy and that there's no need to
get a diploma.

LAURA

I see.

PETER

Keep an eye on him while I take
down the bird. It won't take but a
minute.

EXT. YARD - CONTINUOUS

Peter walks out the door and crouches down like an
approaching puma.

He takes out a tranquilizer dart and places it in the barrel
of the gun. He crosses the basketball court, creeping so as
to not be detected by the vulture.

The vulture's eyes are closed as if it is sleeping.

INTERCUT: HALLWAY/YARD

As the barrel of the dart gun faces up, four more giant
vultures swoop down and start attacking Peter. They screech
as they rip his flesh.

Laura quickly grabs her hand-held radio.

LAURA

CODE BLUE, RED YARD. CODE BLUE, RED
YARD.

Laura runs out into the yard.

Officer Dirk runs out of the control booth. Cap. McBride runs behind him. They run for the yard.

Peter crosses his arms in front of his face, while the vultures feast on his unguarded stomach.

Laura swings her fist, punching one off Peter's stomach. She grabs his legs.

Officer Dirk runs to the scene, pushes another off Peter and grabs his wrist. His body is now motionless.

Jake stands by the door, screaming. Cap. McBride grabs him and begins to pull him inside.

JAKE

Dad! Help my dad!

Officer Dirk and Laura carry the man into the facility. They drop him on the floor.

Laura quickly grabs the fire extinguisher off the wall and sprays the vultures as they try to enter the facility.

More corrections officers run to the scene.

JAKE

Dad!

OFFICER #1

Police and an ambulance are on their way.

Laura grabs Jake's arm and pulls him down the hall as he resists. Officer Dirk squats beside Peter, trying to hold in his belly organs.

JAKE

Aren't you going to try CPR?

INT. JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER / LADIES BATHROOM - DAY

Laura stands in front of her locker. She has just finished dressing up after a shower. She pulls out her cell phone from the locker and dials a number.

LOUIGI (V.O)

Hi, honey! How's work going? I already put some beef stew in the Crockpot, so it will be ready for you after my shift at the restaurant.

LAURA

We're on lockdown for at least the next twenty-four hours, so I won't be home. Save me a bowl for tomorrow.

LOUIGI (V.O)

Lockdown, huh? Mack already causing problems?

LAURA

Some wild animal problem on the property. Don't worry about it, I'm safe inside. Mack and all the kids are fine.

LOUIGI (O.C)

Why do you have to stay?

LAURA

The state requested some extra security while animal control officers removed the problem. That's all. I'll be inside, so I won't be in any danger at all, honey.

LOUIGI (V.O)

What is the problem? A black bear, or a panther?

Louigi gasps from the other end of the phone.

LOUIGI (V.O) (CONT'D)

It isn't one of those birds like last night, is it?

LAURA

There's nothing for you to even worry about. I'm kind of pissed I have to stay.

LOUIGI (V.O)

What ain't you telling me? What's going on? What happened?

LAURA

Captain McBride requested more security around the facility because of an animal sighting, and with Jack the Mack around, you know how we need to protect him since he's a boxing superstar.

Officer Dirk pokes his head in through the door.

OFFICER DIRK
You dressed, Camp?

Laura lowers her cell phone.

LAURA
Well, if I wasn't, you'd be seeing
a lot of skin right now, wouldn't
you?

OFFICER DIRK
Captain McBride is holding a
meeting for all of us in her office
now. Only skeleton crew on the
kids.

LAURA
I'll be right there.

Officer Dirk closes the door. Laura holds her phone to her
ear again, her hand trembling.

LAURA (CONT'D)
I've got to go. I'll be home in the
morning. I'll call you on my breaks
until midnight.

LOUIGI (V.O)
Call me!

LAURA
Bye.

Laura hangs up the phone.

EXT. HALL WAY - CONTINUOUS

Officer Dirk stands outside the ladies bathroom, waiting.
Laura comes out. They both walk closely down the hallway.

Officer Dirk grabs her by the shoulder.

OFFICER DIRK
You told Louigi what happened?

LAURA
You know I don't give specifics.

Color drains from Laura's face.

OFFICER DIRK

It might make the news since there was a death. It would probably be better if you told him, so he doesn't get worried.

Laura quickly faces him.

LAURA

You think telling him that a vulture killed a person here is somehow going to make him feel better?

OFFICER DIRK

If you don't tell him, he might get his news from the news, and we all know what could happen then.

LAURA

(gasps)
Panic.

OFFICER DIRK

Every parent of these kids will be down here.

LAURA

The ones that actually give a crap.

OFFICER DIRK

So, you've noticed that a lot of these kids don't have parents that care? I noticed that too, that very few of them even visit.

The two officers continue down the hallway.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)

Guess they gave up on them.

LAURA

I don't know, but you have a point. Who knows how the news might spin this, and I don't want Louigi to worry more than he already has to.

INT. CAP. MCBRIDE'S OFFICE - EVENING

Cap. McBride sits behind her desk, almost trembling. Several correction officers are in the room, Officer Dirk and Laura included.

CAP. MCBRIDE

We've had a death this morning caused by some wild vultures. Animal control is sending special reinforcements from Orlando which should arrive in about an hour.

OFFICER DIRK

They should bring me a riffle, and I'll take care of them all.

LAURA

(smiles)

We all know how well you shoot.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Vultures are protected Florida wildlife. The actions that they are currently displaying do not fall under their normal behavior patterns. They ain't known for killing anything. They eat mainly roadkill. Animal control would like to capture one for testing to see if we are dealing with some sort of unusual bird disease or even possibly something that could pass to humans.

OFFICER DIRK

Like the Bird Flu or that Corona Virus from China did.

CAP. MCBRIDE

We certainly want to stop or eradicate anything that could spread an illness to human populations. Our facility is about five miles from the nearest city, so it's good that the majority of the sick birds seem to be congregating here. We will remain on lockdown until the situation outside is resolved or the birds fly off.

OFFICER DIRK

What about Jack the Mack? He was scheduled to stand before the judge today to see if he will be tried as an adult.

CAP. MCBRIDE

We know that he is a high-profile case. However, we have alerted the court of our situation and reported that Jack the Mack cannot appear in court today.

OFFICER DIRK

Oh, his lawyer would love that. You know he was going to get him off or have him out on bond so that he could make the championship boxing match on Friday. That match could make Jack the Mack a national champion boxer.

CAP. MCBRIDE

The court is aware of the situation.

Cap. McBride locks gaze with Officer Dirk.

CAP. MCBRIDE (CONT'D)

That is all the responsibility I have on this case. Our job is to keep these kids out of harm's way. We don't listen to the rumors that he's really the devil's pawn.

OFFICER DIRK

That match is his career on the line.

(takes a step back and cocks his head)

I don't even watch boxing all that much, but I've seen the advertisement on television, and there was even a clip on TMZ about Jack the Mack getting arrested. This could be perceived as a way of keeping him away from the match.

CAP. MCBRIDE

He took that Rolls Royce. He made it his so we all have to accept that no lawyer can get him off completely from that charge anyway.

(MORE)

CAP. MCBRIDE (cont'd)
People pay for their crimes in this
state.

LAURA
Has anyone told him yet?

CAP. MCBRIDE
None of the juveniles are aware of
the situation that happened with
the animal control officer. The
press, no one knows. All they know
is that we are on lockdown and no
one is allowed within a thousand
feet of the facility.

LAURA
I'll tell him. He worked hard for
that belt. He needs to know he
might not make it to that match. I
want the pleasure of telling him
myself.

OFFICER #2
He's a good kid with a criminal
father. Be gentle.

LAURA
Really? Good kids don't break the
law in my book.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Alright. You tell Jack the Mack
that he isn't going to trial today
so he can call his lawyer and let
him know. The last thing we need is
a lawsuit over the lawyer's time
because he went to trial when Jack
the Mack couldn't show up.

LAURA
Okay.

CAP. MCBRIDE
But do...do it gently. I don't want
a fight or have to put him in
confinement over this. It's bad
enough we've had a death in the
facility.

A male officer goes:

OFFICER #3

I got a hot date tomorrow night, I don't want to miss it over some stupid birds.

MAN (O.C)

Actually, vultures are not dumb.

Everyone turns their gaze at the door, where a Wildlife Officer is standing. He wears an Indiana Jones-type hat and a brown uniform with a Florida Wildlife badge on the left breast. He walks into the office.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Can we help you?

MAN

My name is RUDY CHANCE. Chance for short. I'm going to capture the birds, all of them, stick them in my cage, and you all will be going outside in about three hours.

LAURA

(smiles)

Really? That's what the last guy said. He said fifteen minutes, and he winded up in pieces.

Chance taps his cowboy hat.

CHANCE

He wasn't a Florida cracker who'd been raised among these big black beauties.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Welcome.

Cap. McBride stands up and shakes Chance's hand.

Laura zones out in thought. She stands up and hastily walks out of the room.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

It is a normal day. The sun is dazzling the horizon.

Lucinda, now in her fifties, is swimming in the open sea twenty feet away from the shoreline. Suddenly, she could smell blood. She tries not to panic, staring around. She sees a dark, grayish-black fin breaking the surface moving and rapidly a few feet away.

MAN (O.C)

Shark!

Lucinda glances to shore to see a young, teenage surfer waving his arms for her to come out of the water.

A seagull scolds Lucinda over.

TEENAGE BOY

Shark, lady! Get out of the water now!

Lucinda begins to swim hastily towards shore. She swims into the half part of a bleeding giant swordfish. She swims even faster, unaware a monster-size shark is swimming in her direction.

Lucinda reaches the shore and runs toward the teenager.

TEENAGE BOY (CONT'D)

Yo, that was close.

Lucinda whirls around to see the shark raise up its giant jaw and engulf the marlin's head, biting through the skull so only the sword of the fish remains.

TEENAGE BOY (CONT'D)

That's a great white motherfucker.

Lucinda inhales deeply, trying to catch her breath. She looks up at the teenager in displeasure for a moment.

LUCINDA

I made it.

TEENAGE BOY

By the skin of your chinny-chin-chin, ya did. We probably shouldn't be out here anyway. Did you hear about vultures going crazy at that juvie jail and killing somebody?

Lucinda grabs her towel off the beach sand and begin drying off.

LUCINDA

In Cocoa? My daughter works there.

TEENAGE BOY

Not sure. Maybe up north. Heard vultures are killing people, like Hitchcock kinda stuff.

(picks up his board)
Well, no surfin' today. Watch the
skies too.

The teenager begins to walk away. Lucinda admires his
physique.

LUCINDA
My name's Lucinda. You want my
number?

The teenager waves back and chuckles.

TEENAGE BOY
I told you to watch the skies,
Mary, not reach for the stars.

LUCINDA
Out of my league?

TEENAGE BOY
Naw, you're righteous for an ol'
broad. Just shackled already.

Lucinda sees a giant vulture circling above the remains of
the marlin. She picks up her cell phone out of her beach
towel.

LUCINDA
He's cute. But crazy. Vultures
wouldn't attack humans.

Lucinda's phone starts to ring. She glances at the phone
screen, then answers.

LAURA (V.O)
Mom?

LUCINDA
Yeah, some guy on the beach just
told me somebody was killed at a
jail by vultures. Sounds crazy, his
talk. Then I saw your call.

INT. JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER / HALLWAY - SAME

Laura stands in the hallway holding her phone to her ear.

LAURA
It's true. All of it. We're on
lockdown, and an animal control
officer is trying to capture one of
(MORE)

LAURA (cont'd)
 the vultures to see what disease it
 has. It's nothing I've ever seen.

INTERCUT: PHONE CONVERSATION

LUCINDA
 I just saw a vulture attack a
 swordfish in the water.

LAURA
 You need to get inside, Mom.

Lucinda begins to hurry toward the parking lot.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 Get into your car. Do you still see
 the vulture? Is it anywhere near
 you now?

Lucinda looks over to the ocean, and the bird is gone. She
 glances all around the sky.

LUCINDA
 Where did it go?

Lucinda continues to hurry into...

EXT. CAR PARK - CONTINUOUS

...Lucinda weaves between cars, searching for her sedan.
 Her phone still on her ear.

Lucina locates the car and fumbles for her remote to open
 the door. She glances back to see the massive vulture
 swooping down. She screams, clicks the remote, and gets into
 the car as the bird dives toward her.

LAURA
 Mom, what happened?

LUCINDA
 A bird swooped down at me, but I'm
 okay. I'm in my car now.

Lucinda locks the door and peers through the driver's
 window.

LUCINDA (CONT'D)
 I don't know where it is.

The vulture swoops down, sits in the driver's side mirror and immediately begins pecking on the window. Lucinda screams as the window cracks.

LUCINDA (CONT'D)

It's here. Outside. It's trying to get in.

LAURA

Start the car, Mom. Drive off. It won't be able to keep up.

(clutches her phone tightly)

Do it now! Hurry.

LUCINDA

The window is breaking.

Lucinda pushes the start button and swiftly puts it in reverse.

The vulture titters and falls hard onto the pavement. Blood surrounds its wings.

Lucinda rolls down her window to look at the injured vulture. The bird sits back up and expands its wings. Lucinda turns the car and speeds away, screeching the tires. She drives onto the highway.

LAURA

Mom, are you okay?

LUCINDA

Yes, I'm on the highway going away from the beach. I'm on my way home now.

LAURA

I'll call you later. Stay inside. I've got to go talk to one of the inmates, and I'll call you later.

LUCINDA

Be safe, honey. Love you.

Lucinda ends the call.

INT. JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER / HALLWAY - DAY

Officer Dirk and Laura are walking Jack down the hallway. His hands are cuffed. They approach an adjoining hallway.

CAP. MCBRIDE (O.S)

Stop her!

The trio enters the adjoining hall. They stop as they see-

Two corrections officers are holding a young lady, as she struggles to free herself. Cap. McBride approaches them.

YOUNG LADY

Let me go.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Who the hell are you? I don't know if you realize this, but this is a juvenile jail, and most people don't try to break in here. They try to escape.

JACK

Let this little filly break in. She's a firecracker.

YOUNG LADY

I'm not a filly or a firecracker, Mr. Mack. I am a reporter for the Sun, and there has been a death at this facility which may stop you from getting to the ring Friday night. The public and your fans have a right to know why and what happened to Peter Miller.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Aw, crap.

Cap. McBride shakes her head.

CAP. MCBRIDE (CONT'D)

That still doesn't give you the right to drive into our garage and pretend to be a food delivery service agent.

JACK

(laughs)

You thought she was a food delivery service. What's your name, beautiful.

The young lady stops fighting the officers and straightens out her skirt.

YOUNG LADY

I'm DARLA MATTHEWS, and I work for the Sun as a sports reporter.

OFFICER DIRK

You're Darla? Yeah, she's on the radio show. I'd heard her name before. She's legit, Cap.

CAP. MCBRIDE

You may be who you say you are, but you can't just break into my facility and do an interview.

JACK

Why not?

CAP. MCBRIDE

It's not visiting hour.

DARLA

Do you think reporters go by visiting hours? Do you realize the significance of this young man behind bars? Proceeds from that were going to St. Jude.

CAP. MCBRIDE

(shocked)

St. Jude? Is that true?

JACK

Yeah, I think so. Funny how your daughter goes there, and I am trying to raise a million dollars for the hospital.

Jack faces Cap. McBride with a scowl on his face.

JACK (CONT'D)

My mom had cancer. She didn't go there but her doctor, Dr. Burton works there. So, I am going to help raise money to fight cancer. Their research goes to help everyone, not just kids. I got a sponsor who said if I win, he'll donate the million dollar to the hospital.

DARLA

It's part of the story that was to go in the paper along with the news that he's been put here for stealing a car.

JACK

That's got to be in your article?

DARLA

Yes, and also your father's gotten permission from the governor to be ringside. Then this death happened here, and the public has a right to know what's going on. Will you be there on Friday?

Jack glances over to Cap. McBride.

CAP. MCBRIDE

A million dollars for St. Jude?

JACK

Yes, ma'am.

OFFICER DIRK

He did steal a car. But for the hospital, we should try our best to get him to the ring Friday.

CAP. MCBRIDE

My officers will take you and bring you right back. You got to get permission from the judge too. I can't believe I'm saying this for a car-stealing gang member, but I will do my best to pull a few strings.

Jack's eyes light up.

JACK

Thank you! I'm gonna win.

DARLA

Are you excited that your father will be in attendance?

JACK

Actually...My dad reads your paper, so I'm just going to say that this whole thing is a dream come through. I regret stealing the car too.

Darla turns to Cap. McBride.

DARLA
This is a great story.

CAP. MCBRIDE
We could arrest you. You better
never do this again, ever.

DARLA
I understand. Now may I go?

Cap. McBride gestures to the two officers to release Darla.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Don't ever come back here.

DARLA
You don't need to worry. I just
needed the information to finish my
article. I also need more
information about the death. The
man left behind a wife and two
boys. What exactly happened here?

JACK
(to Cap. McBride)
Go ahead. She'll never believe you
anyway.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Give your lawyer a call, and Darla,
come into my office. This is going
to be shocking for you, and we need
to handle things so as to not scare
the public.

Office Dirk, Laura and Jack continue down the hall. Darla
follows Cap. McBride into her office.

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

Jack stands holding the receiver of the telephone to his
ear. Officer Dirk stands a foot behind him.

Laura stands beside Officer Dirk. She is staring outside
through the window. She sees vultures gathering on the pine
tree.

JACK
(into phone)
Could you have him change the court
date to Friday morning?

Jack pauses for a moment, staring outside where several vultures are circling in the air.

Laura looks unsettled.

LAURA
Three more minutes.

JACK
(into phone)
Don't come, Maw. Something is happening here, and I've got to clear my head.

Suddenly, Jack hangs up the phone and turns on a heel.

JACK (CONT'D)
Did something out there die? Do you see all of them? So many buzzards.

OFFICER DIRK
There's nothing for you to be concerned with inside.

The wind howls against the barred windows. Jack takes a step toward the door. He feels something isn't right.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)
Time to go back to your cell now.

JACK
I just want to take a look, man.
The door is locked without a code.
What's the matter?

Laura, growing more uncomfortable, nods to Jack.

LAURA
Take a quick look then.

Officer Dirk leans toward her and whispers:

OFFICER DIRK
I don't think that's such a good idea.

LAURA
Let him see for himself why we are on lockdown. Maybe then he won't be so upset with the whole thing and realize we are just protecting everyone inside.

Jack moves closer to the door. His eyes widen. A hint of terror crosses his face.

JACK

Noooo!

Jack quickly kicks the door twice -- The door flies from its hinges. He runs outside.

Officer Dirk starts running after him. Laura tries to stop him.

LAURA

The vultures! Jack can't get out of the yard with the fence! He'll come back.

OFFICER DIRK

(running)

He's our responsibility.

Officer Dirk stops at the door. Laura runs up to him. The door officers see what is happening.

INTERCUT: HALL/OUTSIDE

OUTSIDE

Jack is being circled by flying vultures. Chance lies on the ground, curled up in the fetal position. Jack is standing over him.

With one quick move, Jack removes his shirt and starts swinging it in circles over his head to scare the vultures away. One gets closer and he wipes it with the shirt.

LAURA

Jack's trying to help him.

Chance starts to crawl towards Officer Dirk and Laura, with his hands outstretched and fear in his eyes. His tranquilizer gun is on the ground. Jack snatches it.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Oh shit. Call for backup!

Officer Dirk grabs his radio.

OFFICER DIRK

CODE BLUE, RED YARD. CODE BLUE, RED YARD.

Jack slowly backs up towards the door, fighting off the vultures as Chance gets closer to safety.

Cap. McBride and several officers rush into the hall.

Chance reaches the door with Jack behind him, some officers rush to Jack as he continues to swirl his shirt.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)

Drop the gun.

JACK

I've got to get one.

Jack turns the gun up towards the sky.

LAURA

Drop it!

Officer Dirk jumps on Jack's back trying to knock him to the ground. With a big left hook, Jack knocks the officer from around his back, then quickly refills the gun and shoots it at the sky. A big vulture crushes hard to the ground in the basketball court.

Jack grabs the vulture with one hand, drops the gun and runs towards the facility.

Laura helps Officer Dirk back to his feet, and they hurriedly follow Jack and the rest of the officers back inside as the vultures begin to swoop down at them. They continue to duck to avoid their claws.

Everyone gets inside. Two officers reset the door in place and place several chairs to force it to stay up. The birds continue to fly at the door, cracking the glass, but the door holds shut.

LAURA

Thank God.

A staff nurse comes in and begins to tend to Chance. Jack holds up the motionless giant vulture.

JACK

What should I do with this? We should do something with it before it wakes up.

Laura grabs the bird from Jack.

LAURA

I'll handle it.

Laura hastily walks out of the hall, hurrying past Cap. McBride.

CAP. MCBRIDE
You're going back outside? I didn't
authorize that.

EXT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

The glass door of the facility slides open. Laura steps out, holding the giant bird over her head in one hand. She notices several vultures sitting all around the parking lot.

Laura takes another step towards Chance's van.

OFFICER DIRK (O.C)
I have your bank. If one of them
moves, I'll see it first.

Laura quickly glances back at the door, Officer Dirk and Jack are standing there with brooms in their hands, ready to strike.

Laura walks hastily but nervously towards the van. She stops at the van. Slowly, she clicks one side of the back doors. She swings it open and discovers a big metal cage inside the van. Outside the cage is a latch. She stuffs the vulture inside the cage and locks it with her handcuffs.

Laura turns around and shuts the door. She is shocked as all the birds are standing around her. One lands on the van, inches from Laura's head. Its face is covered in bloody feathers.

Laura takes a step, a vulture at her feet hops back. She continues toward the door, without looking any of them in the eye. She gets to the door and enters.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Laura gasps in relief.

OFFICER DIRK
Looks like you did the game
officer's job.

LAURA
How is he?

OFFICER DIRK
McBride just made an announcement
that they can reattach the eye at
the hospital. Other than that,
he'll live.

LAURA

Good.

JACK

What the hell is going on? Buzzards don't act like that to things that are alive.

LAURA

We're not sure why. I'm sure this is a fluke. Did you get cut earlier?

Jack nods no.

JACK

They got close but not close enough.

OFFICER DIRK

That was very quick thinking. You were out there before we even knew what was going on. That game officer probably owes you his life.

JACK

I thought that they were killing him, and I saw the gun on the ground. I did what either of you would have done if you had seen it first.

LAURA

I'm sure his family will appreciate what you did.

Jack studies the birds on the ground and in the trees outside.

JACK

They look diseased. Is there some kind of outbreak?

LAURA

We'll let animal control figure that out. I am sure they will. Right now, you need to go back to your cell.

JACK

Really? I think I deserve some time in the mess hall so I can watch a little television and get a snack.

LAURA
Get back to your cell.

Jack walks back down the hallway into his cell and slams the door shut. Officer Dirk and Laura follow him behind.

JACK'S FLASHBACK:

EXT. PARK - DAY

Jack (10) sits on the park bench with his father, DERRICK (30s). They are hanging out.

DERRICK
Someday you are going to wear the belt that was robbed from me.

Derrick tightens his chin, staring Jack in the face.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
That Smokey hit me with an uppercut to the jaw, and I was knocked out cold. It was a sucker punch, and the buzzer hadn't even sounded. He stole the opportunity away from me to wear that national championship belt. I don't want the same thing to happen to you. I am going to prepare you for anything and everything. You will wear that belt if it's the last thing I ever do.

JACK
I'll get it, dad. I've been punching the bag and practicing every day with Uncle Michael.

DERRICK
Michael is a pussy. I kicked his ass growing up all the time. We've got to train you to be sharp. It's the brain that wins boxing as much as the fists.

JACK
I am smart.

DERRICK
Not so smart.

JACK

I got an A on my math quiz.

DERRICK

I don't care about your grades. I want you to be street smart, not book smart. Someday you will run my business, and you've got to be street smart and have eyes in the back of your head.

JACK

I can do it.

A police officer walks pass the father and son.

DERRICK

(whispers)

Stay away from pigs.

JACK

I like cops.

DERRICK

See what I mean.

Derrick watches the officer walk away around some trees. He glances around to make sure no one is watching. He punches Jack with an uppercut to the jaw.

Jack passes out. Derrick slowly lies him down on the bench. Then Derrick slaps his face to wake him up.

JACK

(rubbing his jaw)

Ouch. What was that for?

DERRICK

Not being street smart. You need to pay attention, always. Next time, you better duck when my fist comes for that chin.

JACK

Next time?

Jack rubs his chin.

DERRICK

All the time, be ready from now on. You've got to be instinctive like a cat and hungry like a dog.

JACK
Like Rocky, dad.

DERRICK
Rocky was a pussy, too. I fought
the real one, not the actor, and
won. It was a sucker punch that
made me lose the belt. That won't
happen to you. I promise you that.

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. FLORIDA AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

It is buzzing. Fans are screaming as Jack steps into the ring. He wears a striped jumper. He glances down and sees Derrick sitting in the front row at the right side of the ring.

JACK (V.O)
Wasn't there for Mom and me most of
our lives, but tonight he got a
free night pass out of the state
pen.

CROWD
Jack the Mack! Jack the Mack!

Smiling, Jack raises his arms like Rocky Balboa.

Officer Dirk and Laura stand outside the ring.

Next to Derrick, stands a strikingly beautiful young woman. She's a teenager with the body of a supermodel and looks that makes everyone stare.

Jack slightly leans forward. He can see that both Derrick's hands and ankles are shackled. The young woman standing next to Derrick waves to Jack and blows him a kiss. Jack winks at her.

Derrick and Jack's eyes meet, and they stare at each other for a moment.

DERRICK
(mumbles)
Take him out.

Jack's opponent, JOHNNY, walks into the ring. He is a little shorter than Jack, but has about the same muscular build. He is from a rival gang. He appears a little scared, shaking a bit.

The two boxers meet in the middle of the ring, knocking gloves. The referee quickly points to the side. The bell rings.

Jack takes two steps back. He gives his first uppercut punch to the jaw of Johnny. He falls to the ground and passes out.

The referee rushes over to Johnny.

The crowd jumps to their feet. The hoot and hollers become so loud.

CROWD

Jack the Mack! Jack the Mack!

Jack glances at his father.

JACK (V.O)

Did what you wanted, dad.

REFEREE

(to Johnny's coach)

He's out cold.

Jack grins down as Derrick is led out by six corrections officers.

Officer Dirk and Laura motions to Jack to step down from the ring.

Jack steps down from the ring. He raises his hands to be cuffed.

OFFICER DIRK

We'll do that in the van.

Officer Dirk looks at Laura, she nods yes.

The two officers walk Jack through the screaming crowd. Suddenly, the young woman that was standing beside Derrick runs up behind them.

YOUNG LADY

Jack!

Jack stops and turns around. A look of affection radiates on his face. He opens his arms and the young lady flies in.

JACK

Hello, MARLA.

(to the officers)

This is my girl, Marla.

OFFICER DIRK
Hands off, Marla.

Officer Dirk pulls her out of Jack's arms.

JACK
(disappointed)
Oh, it's like that?

Officer Dirk nods.

OFFICER DIRK
No contact. Now go.

MARLA
I love you, baby. I am so proud of
you.

JACK
Pops taking good care of you?

MARLA
Yes.

Marla tries to hug Jack again. Officer Dirk pulls her back.

OFFICER DIRK
No contact, miss.

JACK
Her name's Marla.
(winks to Marla)
And I am going to marry her one
day.

MARLA
I love you.

INT. JUVENILE DETENTION VAN - NIGHT - MOVING

Jack sits calmly in the back of the van without handcuffs.
Laura sits in the passenger seat, while Officer Dirk drives.

Officer Dirk peers through the bars at Jack, then glances
back and forth the road. He is uncomfortable.

Laura observes Jack for a moment. A frown curls her face.

LAURA
Something's up.

OFFICER DIRK
Something is up. He's just sitting
there like he's waiting for
something.

LAURA
I should have cuffed him.

OFFICER DIRK
You think we're being paranoid?

Officer Dirk reaches for the glove box and pulls out a
teaser gun.

Jack smiles as he sees a semi-truck speeding up behind the
van.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)
Oh shit.

INTERCUT: VAN/HIGHWAY

The semi-truck drives up to the van, driving alongside it on
the lonely highway.

KELLY, a teenager in the truck points a gun at Laura.

KELLY
Pull over.

OFFICER DIRK
(to Laura)
This is bulletproof glass. I'll
outrun them.

Officer Dirk steps on the glass. The semi-truck speeds up
and rams into the van, causing it to flip.

Laura hits her head hard against the door, and blood begins
to pour down her forehead. Jack passes out.

Officer Dirk points to the teaser gun in front of Laura.

OFFICER DIRK
You okay? Get the gun.

The semi-truck parks beside the van. Kelly and five other
teenage boys come down. Three carry guns, while the other
two hold baseball bats. They walk over to the van.

One of the boys tries to open the passenger door of the
van... No way.

Another boy puts an explosive on the back door, they all step back and watch the explosive blow up. The door flies open.

Laura's ears ring from the explosion. She watches as Kelly and one of the boys pull Jack out. They carry him to the back of the semi-truck.

One of the boys puts another explosive on the passenger door and runs back. The explosive blows... No luck. One more explosion and the passenger flies open.

The boys grab Officer Dirk and Laura out of the van. Kelly drags Laura to the back of the semi truck.

Officer Dirk fights with the other three, throwing a few punches. The boy with a bat hits him in the stomach with it. Officer Dirk falls onto the ground. The bat comes down on his head.

BLACKNESS.

INT. SEMI-TRUCK - NIGHT

Officer Dirk, Laura and Jack sit in the van. Officer Dirk's forehead is swollen, while Laura continues to bleed.

Suddenly, the door opens. Kelly and two of the gang members stand outside, with their guns in their hands.

KELLY
(to Officer Dirk and Laura)
Get out.

The two officers come down. Kelly and the two gang members give Jack fist bumps as he comes down.

We are at...

EXT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The semi-truck is parked in the driveway of the farmhouse. The land is vast, surrounded by grass.

JACK
(to the officers)
This is my uncle's ranch.

KELLY
Your pops is inside.

JACK
You got him out too?

Kelly nods yes and points to the entrance. Officer Dirk and Laura trail behind Jack, with Kelly and the boys following them.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Derrick stands with a pistol in his hand. His brother, MICHAEL, stands beside him. Some gang members stand in the room.

Jack opens the door and enters with the two officers following behind. Kelly closes the door as they enter.

MICHAEL
Greetings.

JACK
Pops.

Jack walks up to Derrick, and Derrick embraces him.

DERRICK
I should have let you know that this was going down tonight, but I got word that we could be moved to Mexico City. We've got members there willing to bring us in and take care of things.

Jack shakes his head.

JACK
Pops, I gotta go back to juvie.

DERRICK
The vultures! No, we are moving to Mexico, I already have your things packed up. We are going tonight, and as far as the USA is concerned, we disappeared tonight after you became world champion.

OFFICER DIRK
And what about us?

Laura glances through the kitchen door that is ajar, six other officers are hog tied there with gags in their mouths.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)

What are you going to do with us?

Derrick steps closer to the officers and takes a deep breath.

DERRICK

You'll all die.

JACK

Pops, there's no reason to kill anybody.

Derrick turns to Jack.

DERRICK

We don't need any witnesses to this. The jet leaves in thirty minutes. All of our things are being sent in trucks as we speak. In a few hours, we'll start a new life. The both of us. Neither of us need to ever be in a cell again.

JACK

I hear ya.

(angry tone)

But this isn't going to make our crimes go away.

DERRICK

We can disappear to Mexico and live like kings.

One of the gang members steps forward and raises his gun.

GANG MEMBER #1

(to Derrick)

Say the word, and it's done.

JACK

Stop it! Stop threatening a cop.

LAURA

Corrections officer. I am not going to arrest anybody. I just want to go back to the Juvie. It's surrounded by bloodthirsty vultures at the moment, and it is my job to make sure everyone's safe. You kill us, and every cop will be after you for the rest of your life. That kind of crime doesn't go unnoticed anywhere, not even in Mexico.

DERRICK

The Union has power there. No one will be able to stop us there. We have places we can hide and still live like kings.

LAURA

Is running living like king?

Jack shakes his head.

JACK

Pops, I didn't want this. I got a lawyer coming to get me off from stealing that car. I don't want a life on the run.

DERRICK

That isn't a choice now. I did all of this for you.

Suddenly, the door opens. Marla walks in wearing a skin-tight dress.

MARLA

Jack.

Marla wraps her arms around his neck and kisses him.

MARLA (CONT'D)

I've missed you so much.

JACK

(smiles)

Hello, baby. I love you.

Jack kisses her again.

JACK (CONT'D)

Did you know about my dad breaking me out and wanting me to move to Mexico?

MARLA

Yes, baby. We could have a new life together. I've missed you so much.

(shrinking back)

We need to do what pops want.

JACK

You're in this?

Jack pushes her away.

JACK (CONT'D)

Without even talking to me about it? Did it ever occur to you that I am happy in America? I'm like the next Rocky, and I've got to stay in the ring.

DERRICK

That life you can live in Mexico.

MICHAEL

Maybe he has a point, brother. The boy doesn't need to go with you. You could go.

DERRICK

I'd never see him again. I am building a bigger Union there where we will have no Crowns to fight us. We'll rule gambling halls.

LAURA

(to Jack)

Is that what you want? To live the life of a gangster, forever? You are a good man.

DERRICK

Shut up.

Derrick waves his pistol at Laura.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

You don't know my boy.

LAURA

This is his Darth Vader moment. I had the same type of moment when my mother nearly killed my father. I had to decide at that moment if I wanted my father to live or die. I no longer wanted him to control my life and destroy the lives of my mother and me. I decided in a single moment that I wanted to do the right thing.

OFFICER DIRK

(to Jack)

What's your right thing? Is it killing officers and living a life of crime for your father or making the choice to come back with us to

(MORE)

OFFICER DIRK (cont'd)
Juvie where you can do things the
right way and get your life back on
your own terms?

Laura passes out. Officer Dirk grabs her and carries her
into a nearby bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Officer Dirk lays Laura on the bed. Jack comes in and stands
beside the bed.

Derrick and Marla enter.

JACK
She's lost too much blood.

OFFICER DIRK
We need to get Camp to the
hospital.

JACK
She's pale.

Jack raises a pillow and sits behind Laura.

DERRICK
You shouldn't care. She's nothing
but a pig.

JACK
Stop it!
(shoves his hands into his
pockets)
These two brought me to a new cell
so I wouldn't be killed by the
Crowns. They protected me, pops.

Suddenly, Derrick's demeanor changes. His angry expression
turns into compassion.

DERRICK
They helped you?

JACK
Yeah, pops. The captain even has a
kid at St. Jude's. It wasn't great,
but they helped me while I was
there. I wouldn't have gone to the
ring if it wasn't for these people
doing what they could for me. They
(MORE)

JACK (cont'd)
didn't have to do that. I stole the car, pops. They were just doing their jobs, and they don't deserve to die just because you want us to move to Mexico.

MARLA
(to Derrick)
Let me talk to him.

Derrick nods in approval. Marla sits next to Jack. Officer Dirk kneels beside Laura.

DERRICK
Ten minutes.

Derrick leaves, shutting the door behind him. Marla talks to Jack inaudibly.

Laura glances at the two lovers, then slowly she grabs her pants and raises it revealing a tracker device on her right ankle. Officer Dirk sees the tracker and smiles.

OFFICER DIRK
(whispers)
They'll know.

Laura quickly pushes down her pants as Marla wraps her hands around Jack's neck and gives him a kiss.

MARLA
I think we should go to Mexico.

JACK
I'm not going.

MARLA
I want us to go so you won't be in jail any more.

JACK
I did the crime, so I'll do the time.

MARLA
But I'm going crazy without you. I can't do this. The Crowns are relentless, and they want to take over the city. In Mexico, your uncle owns an underground casino. Michael will set us up, and the Union will be reborn.

Marla strokes Jack's arm while he ponders.

JACK
You'd live like a queen then.

MARLA
More like a princess to my prince.

JACK
I know. But I am already a prince
in this town.

MARLA
One that the Union wants dead.

JACK
Then we're nothing but cowards on
the run.
(kisses her)
I need more than that. I want us to
get married.

Jack kisses her again, the back of his arm slightly shifts
her shirt revealing a small tattoo of a crown on her lower
back -- Laura sees it.

JACK
(to Laura)
What are you doing looking up my
girl's shirt?

MARLA
She's a lesbian.

Marla pulls down her shirt.

Derrick opens the door and bolts in. Michael follows him
behind.

DERRICK
Times up. So are you coming to
Mexico with me, son, or do I have
to drag you there?

MARLA
(smiles)
We should go.

LAURA
Oh, I bet that is exactly what the
Crown wants?

Laura laughs.

LAURA (CONT'D)

You are going to do exactly what they want and not even realize it.

OFFICER DIRK

(to Laura)

Stay out of this.

Derrick points his gun at Laura.

JACK

Pops, put the gun down.

Officer Dirk stands up to protect Laura.

LAURA

Believe it or not, I am on Jack's side. You may not believe in him, but I see something in him. He'd make an excellent cop. He's got the skills, the brains, and the guts to do it. That is a rare combination. Jack would be the kind of officer I'd ride with. You are leading him away from a good life. So is Marla. You can kill me if you want to, but I am going to die protecting one in my ward.

JACK

(angrily)

Don't say that about my girl, Camp.

DERRICK

All I got to do is press the trigger, son.

LAURA

Marla is a traitor. She is trying to talk you into leaving the city just when you are on top of the world. You are unstoppable in that ring, and everyone knows it. You could get off in court if we speak on your behalf. You could have a good life.

JACK

She loves me. No one has ever loved me like Marla. We've been together a whole year now, and we're going to get married someday.

MARLA
 You tell her.
 (touches Derrick)
 Kill that bitch.

Officer Dirk readies himself for action.

LAURA
 You can kill me. But that is not
 going to change the fact that Marla
 is a Crown.

Laura rolls over on the bed and raises the back of Marla's shirt, revealing the crown tattoo.

MARLA
 That just means I'm a princess.

Jack is horrified. He is betrayed. Derrick points the gun at Marla.

MARLA (CONT'D)
 I'm not a Crown. That's crazy! I
 got this tattoo on my sixteenth
 birthday last year because my dad
 calls me a princess. It has nothing
 to do with the Crown gang! Don't
 shoot me, pops!

Marla's lips purse together. Derrick's eyes well up in disappointment.

DERRICK
 She's a Crown.

JACK
 (crying)
 How could you be a Crown and say
 you wanted to marry me?

Derrick lowers his gun and tries to embrace Jack. Jack pushes him away, but Derrick sidles closer.

JACK (CONT'D)
 Marla's a crown?

MARLA
 I'm not!

Marla runs for the exit. Derrick stops Jack from following her.

Kelly and the rest of the union members enter the room. One with a scar on his right cheek goes:

GANG MEMBER #2

You want us to stop her dead?

JACK

No! No more killings. Let her go.
We let these officers go, and we
fly out to Mexico. Okay? I'll go!

LAURA

No, Jack.

MICHAEL

(to Laura)

You best think of yourself right
now. We might actually let you all
go. We could just leave them tied
up, and then once we fly over the
border, call in where they all are.
No one has to die.

JACK

Uncle is right.

Derrick begins to rub Jack's back.

DERRICK

So we'll go to Mexico. It's too
late now. We can't return to jail.

LAURA

Yes, Jack can. Officer Dirk and I
will be sure to let the captain
know what happened here. We can
just go back to our jobs.

DERRICK

We went AWOL, son. They would never
let us do that now. I'm sorry about
Marla. I should have known that she
wasn't who she claimed she was.

JACK

I never saw that tattoo on her
back, pops.

(wipes his eyes)

Everything was a lie. All of it.

DERRICK

Son, I will look into it. It's no
wonder she wanted us to move so
quickly to Mexico.

OFFICER DIRK
You're falling into their trap.
They want you gone so they can take
over both sides of the city.

Suddenly, the door flies open. Its Captain McBride with a
gun in her hand. The gang members raise their guns, pointing
them at her.

Officer Dirk is mortified.

OFFICER DIRK
What are you doing here?

CAP. MCBRIDE
When you didn't come back, I
flipped on the tracker, and it led
me here. Now I left a message at
Juvie that if I didn't call in
fifteen minutes to send in the blue
shirts so we get Jack back to the
facility.

OFFICER DIRK
My God, you've got guts, beautiful.

Officer Dirk walks over Cap. McBride.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)
But I think a decision has been
made that they are going to Mexico.

Cap. McBride's eyes widen as she sees Laura covered in
blood. Laura sits up.

LAURA
I'm okay, Cap. It was the van
rolling over that did this.

CAP. MCBRIDE
(to Officer Dirk)
What happened to your forehead?

OFFICER DIRK
They did hit me with a bat.

Jack turns to the gang members.

JACK
Lower your weapons. This woman has
a child at St. Judes, and she's my
friend.

The gang members start to lower their weapons. One gang member whispers:

GANG MEMBER #3
He's gone soft.

JACK
I just had my heart ripped out of my body. So excuse me for wanting my friends alive.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Now we've got a situation at Juvie. We are surrounded by vultures, and at this moment, they are even scarier than all of you. So let's go, Jack, get into my van and Camp with Dirk will follow him.

DERRICK
My son's not going back to jail.

Jack walks over to Derrick and looks him in the eyes.

JACK
I am, pops. I don't want to do what the Crowns want. I hate Marla for what she did, but I'm not running. I don't want to live there. I want to go back. It's not too late. These people care about me.

DERRICK
I care about you, son. I want you to live like a king.

JACK
And not be able to live with myself. You're talking about killing people so we can rule Mexico. I just want to finish school and maybe go to college.

DERRICK
And what does a boxer need college for?

JACK
(boldly)
I want to be a cop.

Derrick is shocked and disappointed. He looks at Jack in disbelief.

Michael pats Derrick on the back.

MICHAEL

Your son wants to be a cop. He wants to go to school and have a life locking people like us up.

JACK

Yes, pops, so maybe it's me you should shoot instead of them.

Derrick's face reddens as he exhales.

DERRICK

(to Michael)

Let's go. Let's catch the plane. I've heard enough.

Michael and Derrick grab a few suitcases and head out with the gang members.

JACK

Guess that was enough to have pops leave me behind.

Jack walks into the living room.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jack comes in with a key in his hand. He begins to unlock the cuffs of the officers.

Captain McBride, Officer Dirk and Laura are seen standing in the living room.

OFFICER DIRK

He's setting them free.

Jack unlocks the cuff of the officer. The officer swings around and begins to fight Jack, trying to restrain him. Jack quickly grabs the officer and whirls him around to face Cap. McBride, Officer Dirk and Laura in the living room.

JACK

Tell him to back off. I'm going back to Juvie.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Everyone stop!

OFFICER

You don't have authority over us.
We need to arrest him and go after
his father.

CAP. MCBRIDE

I am responsible for these two
officers and that kid. I am in
command at the moment. I suggest if
you want to go after Derrick and
Michael, then do it. You're wasting
time with this kid. He's
surrendered.

The officers bolt out of the room. Some call for back up as
they do.

Cap. McBride comes into the kitchen and stands before Jack.

CAP. MCBRIDE (CONT'D)

(grins)

You're doing the right thing.

JACK

It cost me my father.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Let's get Camp and Dirk to the
hospital, and then I'll bring you
back to Juvie.

JACK

Sounds like a plan. I shouldn't be
in trouble for going AWOL because I
didn't know about any of this.

OFFICER DIRK

I can verify that.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Okay, I have to make a report, but
I'll record that you stood against
your father and freed the other
officers.

JACK

Thank you.

The three officers leave with Jack.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Officer Dirk and Laura lie side by side in their hospital beds. They are both on drips.

Officer Dirk picks up the remote and turns on the television hanging on the wall.

A newscaster is reading the news on television.

INSERT: TELEVISION SCREEN

NEWSCASTER

Panic is rising in the city, and rightly so. Some have even attributed the attacks by the vultures as the end of the world.

Images from vulture attack victims begin to show on TV.

NEWSCASTER (V.O)

A few have been killed, and many have been left injured.

OFFICER DIRK

The world seems to be ending.

A DOCTOR walks into the room and stands between the two officers.

DOCTOR

How y'all doing?

LAURA

Good.

OFFICER DIRK

Fine.

DOCTOR

Just take it easy, in a few days you'd be out of here.

Officer Dirk and Laura exchange a surprise glance.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I will come back later to check on you two.

The doctor leaves.

Officer Dirk and Laura exchange another look. We can tell they are up to something.

INT. TAXI - CONTINUOUS

The taxi drives through a scanty road. Laura and Officer Dirk sit in the backseat.

LAURA

I am going to sleep in the break room.

OFFICER DIRK

You take the sofa, and I'll take the brown chair.

LAURA

Deal. We can switch halfway through the night.

OFFICER DIRK

You're feeling better?

LAURA

Like brand new, minus a few stitches.

OFFICER DIRK

Now all we've got to worry about is bloodthirsty vultures.

LAURA

No problem. We'll have the taxi driver pull into the garage, and it's not like they can get into the Juvie.

INT. CAP. MCBRIDE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Cap. McBride sits behind her desk. She holds the receiver of her telephone to her ear.

LOUIGI (V.O)

You better let me speak to Laura, or I am going to come there myself to check on her.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Laura is fine. She's doing her rounds. I'll have her call you as soon as she's done, Louigi.

The friendliness on Cap. McBride's face disappears.

LOUIGI (V.O)
 You said that an hour ago. Let me
 speak to my wife now.

CAP. MCBRIDE
 Alright then. I'll put you on hold
 and stop what I am doing to go get
 her.

LOUIGI (V.O)
 I'll wait.

Cap. McBride puts the phone on hold and drops the receiver
 on the table. She sits there and watches the "Hold" light
 blink.

CAP. MCBRIDE
 You better hurry your ass back
 from, or he'll be here before you
 get back.

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER.

Cap. McBride remains seated behind her desk. She picks up
 the receiver and dials a number.

CAP. MCBRIDE
 If Louigi calls me again, stall him
 on the phone. Camp will be back any
 minute.

A female voice is heard from the other end of the phone.

WOMAN (V.O)
 He's called ten times.

CAP. MCBRIDE
 Camp is on her way. Once she gets
 back with Dirk, we'll have her call
 him so he stops worrying.

WOMAN (V.O)
 He said he was coming if we didn't
 put Laura on the phone.

CAP. MCBRIDE
 He said the same to me.
 (rubs her neck)
 Let's hope he doesn't come. If he
 does, she'll be here by then and he
 will never know how much I lied.

EXT. LAURA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Louigi comes out of the house. He walks up to a beat up pick-up truck parked in the driveway. He enters the car.

Doofus is seen at the window barking.

LOUIGI
 Sorry, buddy, you can't come on
 this ride. Don't worry, I'll bring
 momma home though.

Louigi starts the engine and drives off.

INT. LOUIGI'S TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

The road is empty. Louigi speeds the car down the highway with determination in his eyes. He pulls out a sharp kitchen knife from behind his belt.

LOUIGI
 I'm coming, honey.

Louigi sees a road-sign that reads "*Stay off the roads. Mandatory Curfew. All residents to stay indoors until further notice. Blockades at Camp Road.*"

LOUIGI
 So you think a few blockades are
 going to stop me?

Louigi places the knife on the dashboard.

LOUIGI (CONT'D)
 I'm coming, Laura.
 (thought)
 Wouldn't she be pissed at me if she
 knew I was coming?

Louigi shakes his head.

LOUIGI (CONT'D)
 McBride is such a liar. She's in
 trouble. She never goes this long
 without checking.

Louigi wheels the truck to exit from the highway onto an adjoining road.

A giant vulture hits the windshield of the truck with a loud thud. The glass shatters, spreading in the truck.

Blood flies all over the windshield, obstructing Louigi's view.

Louigi slams the brake.

LOUIGI (CONT'D)
(taking a deep breath)
Holy crap! Got one.

Louigi's phone begins to ring. He takes the phone out of his pocket and answers the phone as he resumes driving down the bushy road.

LOUIGI (CONT'D)
Hello, Laura?

INT. LUCINDA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME

Lucinda sits on the couch holding her phone to her ear. She looks worried.

LUCINDA
(panicked)
No, it's her mother. Laura's not answering her phone.

INTERCUT: PHONE CONVERSATION

LOUIGI
I know. She called me to tell me the facility was on lockdown and after the boxing match she would have to go back to the facility for the night. I've been calling there, but they won't put her on the phone.

LUCINDA
Something's not right. This isn't like Laura not calling for so long. What do you know about the vulture attack?

LOUIGI
Laura told me that none of the kids were hurt, and the person who was killed was an animal control officer. She claimed that everyone was safe inside. I am headed to the JDC right now, and a vulture just ran into my windshield.

Lucinda is shocked.

LUCINDA

Are you alright? Do you have
Doofus?

LOUIGI

I'm good. And I don't have Doofus.
He's home. If something should
happen to me and you can't can't
get hold of Laura, please check on
Doofus.

Lucinda clutches her phone.

LUCINDA

Don't worry. I will go in the
morning to make sure he's fed. Will
you make sure to call me once you
see her and tell her to call me?

LOUIGI

Yes. Try not to worry.

LUCINDA

I've been worried since she put on
the badge. Her grandfather was a
cop in Brook have for over thirty
years. She grew up listening to his
stories. This is his fault. And her
father had to ruin everything at
her graduation by showing up.

LOUIGI

You were so proud of her. You need
to let go of your hatred for them.

Louigi spots tree branches blocking the road.

LOUIGI (CONT'D)

I got to go. It looks like there
are some bushes in the road. I'll
need to get it out.

Louigi hangs up the phone. He stops the car and drops the
phone in the passenger seat.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

...Louigi cautiously comes down from the car. He looks up at
the sky, and nearby trees. He hurries to the large branch.

Louigi picks up the branch and drags it toward the side of
the road. He turns to walk back to the truck. His eyes widen
in shock.

Six vultures are on the hood of the truck. One is on the open door. They are all staring at Louigi.

Louigi ponders for a moment. He takes a step towards the truck. One vulture opens its wing as if to warn him.

 LOUIGI
 (frightened)
 Nice birdie.

Louigi takes another step, another vulture opens its wing and squawks at him.

All the vultures flap their wings and fly at Louigi. He ducks and starts to run in the opposite direction. He could see a park down the road.

Louigi runs into...

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

The park is fairly lit. No one in sight.

...Louigi looks back to see the vultures flying closely behind him. Their claws outstretched as if ready to bounce on him at any moment. He runs towards two trees. One of the vultures crashes into one of the trees.

Louigi spots a cabin. A middle-aged man with a fishing pole is sitting at the dock.

 LOUIGI
 Hurry! Get inside!

The man jumps up and opens the door to the cabin. Louigi rushes in...

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

...The man slams the door just as Louigi rushes in.

 MAN
 They are after you!

 LOUIGI
 They're diseased.

 MAN
 I'm FRANK LASLOW.

Frank places his fishing pole on the side of the room.

LOUIGI
(smiles)
I'm Louigi Camp.

The vultures hit the door.

FRANK
Looks like you are lucky to be
alive.

LOUIGI
What are you doing here? Isn't the
park closed?

FRANK
Well, yes. I come here every night
after my wife finishes dinner. I
just came here to have some peace
and quiet. I'd heard about the
vultures being dangerous, but I
thought it was some crazy talk.

LOUIGI
Not so crazy.

Suddenly, a vulture slams into the window. It cracks all the
way across the center.

Louigi notices the fireplace. He runs to make sure the
chimney shoot is closed... It is.

One of the vultures breaks in through the window. Frank
grabs his fishing pole and begins to swat the bird as hard
as he can.

FRANK
(hitting the bird)
Take that!

The vulture becomes motionless on the floor. Louigi pats
Frank on the back.

LOUIGI
Great job, I think it's dead.

FRANK
(looking at his destroyed
fishing pole)
But my pole didn't make it.

LOUIGI
How about when we get out of here I
buy you a new pole?

FRANK

Oh, you don't have to do that.

LOUIGI

It's the least I can do.

More vultures fly in through the window, smashing what's left of the glass. Their wings flapping and their claws outstretched.

Louigi tries to strike the birds out. Frank screams as they claw at his face and belly. He hits many with the fishing pole. He quickly opens the door and takes a step out onto the front porch and.

Louigi drops to the ground and goes under a sofa.

LOUIGI (CONT'D)

Hide, Frank!

Frank lets out a horrible cry and falls back onto a chair. The vultures begin to feast on him.

Louigi sees more vultures coming down on Frank. He quickly hides under the sofa and yanks down the cushions to protect himself. Slowly, he closes his eyes as the vultures tear Frank apart.

INT. LAURA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Doofus is half asleep on his doggie foam next to the recliner. One of his ears pops up as the sound of a door creak is heard in the background.

Doofus jumps up and runs toward the kitchen door.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Doofus dashes in. He is shocked to see a giant vulture climbing in through the dog's opening on the door.

Doofus begins to bark at the invader. The bird opens its wings and hisses loudly. Doofus freaks into a barking frenzy.

The vulture hops towards Doofus -- He turns and runs.

INT. LAURA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Doofus runs in, and underneath the bed. He whimpers and crawls into the back corner.

Soon, the vulture comes in and sticks its head underneath the bed. It tries to peck at Doofus, but its neck is short by inches.

Doofus barks loudly and growls. He runs out the other side and darts into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Doofus runs in. He quickly pushes the door to close with his nose.

Suddenly, a horrible hissing is heard above Doofus. He looks up and sees the vulture sitting on top of the wall ridge. The vulture knocks down a plant. The plant crashes down a foot away from Doofus.

The vulture starts tapping its claws against the ledge, making horrible scrapping sounds as it raises its wings.

LUCINDA (O.C)
Get out of here!

INTERCUT: BATHROOM / BEDROOM

Lucinda stands at the bathroom door with a large broom in her hand. She blow-knocks the vulture to the ground. The bathroom door opens, and Lucinda pounds the bird over and over until it becomes a bloody mess.

Lucinda bends over and picks Doofus up. He is delighted to see her. He licks all over her face.

LUCINDA (CONT'D)
How did that nasty thing get in here?

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

...Lucinda enters carrying Doofus in her arms. She sees the small crack in the doggie door.

Lucinda quickly puts Doofus down and latches the doggie door. She opens her purse, takes out a doggie pee pad, and puts it on the floor.

LUCINDA
Gotta stay inside for a while,
Doofus. Like when you were a puppy.

Lucinda grabs a pair of gloves from under the kitchen sink and a garbage bag. She heads for the bedroom.

INT. LAURA'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

The television is displaying a random program.

Lucinda sits on the couch sleeping. Doofus is curled up in her lap. A half-empty bottle of whiskey and a cup sit on the stool beside the couch.

The door bell rings. Doofus jumps down and runs toward the door barking.

Lucinda stands up and walks up to the door.

LUCINDA
Who is it?

Lucinda looks through the pinhole opening. She is shocked.

On the other side of the door stands an older Derrek (Laura's father).

DERREK (O.C)
It's Derrek.

LUCINDA
Go away, asshole.

DERREK
I'm looking for Laura. I keep calling her phone, and she's not answering. I just want to make sure she's okay with all these vulture attacks. Is Laura there?

LUCINDA
(opening the door)
That asshole, son of a bitch.

Lucinda whips the door open and heaves a sigh.

LUCINDA (CONT'D)
Get in here. We just had one try to get Doofus.

Derrek's eyes widen. He pats Doofus.

DERREK
(shaky tone)
Are okay, boy?

LUCINDA
He's fine. Don't you see?

Lucinda shuts the door.

DERREK
Laura! Laura!

LUCINDA
(pissed)
She's not here. The JDC is under lockdown until further notice, and Louigi is with her. I think. He was on his way there when he asked me to come feed Doofus in the morning if he couldn't get back.

DERREK
So why are you here now?

LUCINDA
I thought I'd spend the night. Doofus isn't used to being alone for very long, and I worried about him going outside to pee. He would have been a goner had I not come when I did.

DERREK
Where's the bird?

LUCINDA
It's in the trash. I killed it with a broom, which is what I will do to you if you don't leave immediately.

DERREK
Oh stop.

Derrek flashes a brilliant smile. Lucinda melts a little.

DERREK (CONT'D)
Don't you think it would be nice for us to sit down and talk. We haven't talked for more than two minutes since our divorce, and for the most part, that's been mostly you calling me names.

Lucinda plops down on the couch. Doofus curls up on her laps again.

LUCINDA

I don't like your company. But I guess a few minutes wouldn't hurt. I am very worried about Laura and Louigi. I haven't heard from either of them, and neither are answering their phones, which isn't like them.

Derrek sits beside Lucinda on the couch.

DERREK

I know.

LUCINDA

She calls you on break?

DERREK

And sometimes my father too.

LUCINDA

(smiles)

Our daughter. She turned out good. Even with all she has been through and what you put her through.

DERREK

She's a good person, Lucinda.

LUCINDA

A good wife. She's loyal to Louigi. I've never seen a couple more in love.

DERREK

Sometimes they remind me of us. The way we used to be, Lucinda, before I cheated on you. The good years, those ten.

LUCINDA

They weren't all that good. You snored so loud some nights. I could barely sleep, especially when you were drunk.

DERREK

You were hardly a drinker then.

LUCINDA

I got my high out of life then. I was happy for the most part.

DERREK

You know, Lucinda, Laura is worried about all your drinking and that you have no interest in dating anyone either.

LUCINDA

Who'd want me?

DERREK

How can you say that?

Derrek leans in. Doofus cocks his head up.

DERREK (CONT'D)

You are still the most beautiful woman I have ever known, Lucinda. You have a soul like no other. It's golden.

Derrek kisses her on the cheek.

LUCINDA

(whispers)

Asshole.

DERREK

Please find in your heart to forgive me. Those ten years were the only years in my whole life I was ever loyal to a woman. That's because you were the only woman tough enough to keep me in line.

Lucinda is speechless, staring him in the eyes.

DERREK (CONT'D)

I have never felt the same about a woman since. I made a mess of my life, Lucinda. None of what happened was your fault. It was mine. I am so sorry. I am sorry for cheating and messing our marriage up. I shouldn't have, and I shouldn't have broken Laura's heart when she was a little girl. I'm sorry.

Tears fill Lucinda's eyes.

LUCINDA
You really mean that?

DERREK
With my whole heart, Lucinda.

Derrek kisses her again.

LUCINDA
You're still an asshole.

DERREK
Forgive me?

LUCINDA
No. But I could use a friend now, I suppose.

DERREK
Good, then we'll wait this thing out. One of them is bound to call one of us soon.

They both sit silent and watch news of vulture attacks on TV.

INT. JDC/MASTER CONTROL - NIGHT

The room is filled with officers. Captain McBride stands next to a Wildlife and Game Officer near the surveillance screens. His name is DONALD.

DONALD
My name is Donald, and I am the supervising general manager at the Wildlife Commission Office. I want you all to be aware that the bird that was captured is now on it's way to our veterinary laboratory in St. John's to be studied. We will find out what is the cause of this strange behavior.

Cap. McBride listens in desperation. Laura and Officer Dirk sneak in.

DONALD (CONT'D)
Most of the birds have returned to the dead pine trees outside the facility. Only a few other reports of people being attacked in parking lots have been reported. So, in
(MORE)

DONALD (CONT'D) (cont'd)
 some respects, we are lucky to have
 most of these birds in one area. It
 could be a lot worse.

CAP. MCBRIDE
 (to the officers)
 That is why none of you are allowed
 outside other than in the garage to
 get into vans. So far they haven't
 attempted to enter the garage.

DONALD
 Possibly because of the strong
 lights.

Donald frowns.

DONALD (CONT'D)
 (through gritted teeth)
 But don't go into the garage unless
 you absolutely have to.

OFFICER DIRK
 Don't need to tell me twice.

CAP. MCBRIDE
 The police department has
 quarantined about five miles in
 every direction. They've stationed
 a few police cars to enforce that.

Cap. McBride spots Laura.

CAP. MCBRIDE
 We do have to worry about your
 husband, Camp.

LAURA
 My husband?

CAP. MCBRIDE
 Louigi has been calling ever since
 the news hit the internet. He's,
 how can I put this mildly, freaking
 out, and insisting on coming to the
 facility to talk to you.

LAURA
 Oh no.

CAP. MCBRIDE

I took one call and tried to explain that you were fine. I even warned him of the road blocks, and he said...and I quote...'Nobody is going to stop me from checking on my wife.'

LAURA

I will call him.

CAP. MCBRIDE

I wish I didn't have to tell you that I believe it's too late for that. I already got a call from the police. Your husband drove through roadblock in a red pick-up truck and headed down the dirt path past Sarnino Extension.

LAURA

That's a mile of dirt road. He'll be here any minute.

CAP. MCBRIDE

It was nearly a half hour ago that I got that call. The truck hasn't been seen since. I'm now very concerned that something happened to your husband.

Laura's hands clutch her hips in fear.

INT. JDC VAN - NIGHT

Laura sits in the driver's seat. Officer Dirk in the passenger seat. The van stops in front of Louigi's pick-up truck.

Laura is shocked.

OFFICER DIRK

They got to him.

INTERCUT WITH: EXTERIOR OF THE VAN

Laura's eyes desperately scans the trees.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)

Do you see your husband?

Laura's hand comes on the horn.

HONK! HONK! HONK!

Several vultures begin to fly out of the bushes, perching on trees around the van.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)
The noise is attracting them. Stop it.

Laura releases the horn.

LAURA
I want Louigi to know I'm here.

OFFICER DIRK
We should drive around. He's probably hiding.

Suddenly, a fat gray cat dashes out from underneath a bush. The vulture on a nearby oak tree flies down and snatches the cat by its tail. The cat hisses, whirls around at the vulture, and tries to claw its beak.

The vulture flies up, breaking the cat's tail, making it crooked. The cat cries in pain and runs underneath the JDC van.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)
Wow, Jerry finally got Tom.

LAURA
(frowns)
This isn't funny. My husband is still missing.

OFFICER DIRK
At least we know he's not dead, or his body would be here.

Laura moves the van slowly forward. The cat underneath darts out from underneath the van, and towards the bush. The vulture swoops at it again, the cat runs between branches.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)
Lucky cat.

LAURA
Now he's got a broken tail.

OFFICER DIRK
Better broken than a dead cat.

LAURA

I'm praying for a whole husband.

Laura sighs. Officer Dirk pats her shoulder.

OFFICER DIRK

We'll find him. Don't worry. He's somewhere close by. Isn't there a park just around the bend?

LAURA

(gasps)

Yes. Louigi and I had been there a few times. Louigi might have gone there to hide.

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

Laura and Officer Dirk is walking toward the cabin.

Laura becomes frightened as she sees Frank lying dead on the ground. Ripped and shredded by the birds. The fishing pole in his hand is stabbed through the belly of a dead vulture. A few dead birds lay at his feet.

Laura covers her nose with her hand as they near the door. Her eyes anxiously search the proximity.

LAURA

Louigi!

OFFICER DIRK

Maybe I should go back and keep honking the horn.

LAURA

Let's check this place out.

INTERCUT: INTERIOR / EXTERIOR OF THE CABIN

Laura walks into the cabin. She stands studying the space. Officer Dirk stands behind her.

OFFICER DIRK

Don't think he caught more than the vulture.

Officer Dirk clears his throat. A hint of fear flashes across his face.

LAURA

I used to fish that river as a child. My dad and I would take a canoe and go down the creek for hours. We caught mostly trout, but that was before my parents' divorce.

OFFICER DIRK

Not me. I used to come here as a teenager with my older brother. Just catfish, but one time my brother saw a water moccasin.

LAURA

Those are plenty around here.

OFFICER DIRK

Let's get out of here. Your husband isn't here. We're better off driving around and honking. Maybe he will hear it and come out of the brush.

Suddenly, Laura quivers in fear. She takes out her gun and quickly points it downward... A hand coming out from the lower bunk closest to the door is holding her leg.

LAURA

Come out with your hands up.

LOUIGI (O.C)

It's me.

Louigi rolls out from underneath the bed.

LOUIGI (CONT'D)

Shhh, they keep coming back to make sure no one else is here.

OFFICER DIRK

(frowns)

The birds?

LOUIGI

Yeah, every fifteen minutes one would fly to the window and then fly off.

Laura studies the frightened expression on her husband's face. She swallows hard.

LAURA

Are you okay?

LOUIGI

(faintly)

I'm fine. Better than Frank the fisherman. It looks like they got him before he could get inside.

OFFICER DIRK

What happened to your pick-up truck?

LOUIGI

They attacked it. I've never seen anything like that since Hitchcock's movie The Birds. It was like they didn't care if they died or not, whatever it took to stop the truck. I saw some hibiscus bushes, so I lowered the speed to nearly nothing, opened the truck door and jumped out. I crawled in between the bushes as the truck continued down the path. They were all over the truck, so I ran as fast as I could here. I thought I'd be safe, but they got the fisherman by breaking the window.

OFFICER DIRK

Maybe the odor of the dead fisherman is masking your scent.

Louigi wraps his hands around Laura and kisses her.

LOUIGI

What's going on at the center?

LAURA

A wildlife officer was killed.

Louigi is shocked.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Another one did capture a specimen, and the vulture is being tested for disease.

LOUIGI

It could be a virus.

LAURA

I suppose.

OFFICER DIRK

We're not sure of anything other than the vultures' behavior is dangerous enough to kill several people now.

Laura smiles at Louigi.

LAURA

We should go back to the facility and report the fisherman's body to the police.

LOUIGI

I love you.

LAURA

Now and forever.

The trio head out of the cabin, toward the van. As they pass Frank's corpse, Officer Dirk leans down and begins touching the body.

LAURA (CONT'D)

(disgusted)

That's evidence you're messing with.

OFFICER DIRK

Even though I think you'd make a great crime scene investigator someday, now is not the time, Camp.

Louigi shoots a quick glance at Officer Dirk:

LOUIGI

You looking for something?

OFFICER DIRK

A phone... I want to make sure Cap knows we found you and that we are still alive.

LOUIGI

It might be in his coat pocket... Right above the lung that is half hanging out of the ribs.

OFFICER DIRK
 (following Louigi's
 suggestion)
 You had to point that out.

LOUIGI
 Well, if I had a coat like that,
 that's where I'd keep it.

Laura sees a vulture in the window staring at them.

LAURA
 Hurry up.
 (pointing to the bird)
 It's looking right at us like we're
 next.

The vulture lets out a horrible cry. More vultures begin to drop from the sky and surround the van.

Officer Dirk takes out the phone from Frank's coat.

OFFICER DIRK
 Got it. Let's go.

The trio runs for the van: Louigi runs for the back, slides the door open, and jumps into a seat.

Laura jumps into the driver's seat, and Officer Dirk quickly gets into the passenger's side.

Laura quickly locks the doors, starts the engine, and drives off.

Officer Dirk dials Captain McBride's number.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)
 Cap, it's Dirk. We found Camp's
 husband, and we are headed back.

CAP. MCBRIDE (V.O)
 Any injuries?

OFFICER DIRK
 No, I am happy to report the three
 of use are fine, but the vultures
 did kill a fisherman at the park.
 We don't know his identity.

CAP. MCBRIDE (V.O)
 I'll call it in. The cops had to
 leave the blockades because the
 birds kept trying to break into
 (MORE)

CAP. MCBRIDE (V.O) (cont'd)
 their windows. So we need you two
 back here. It's only a matter of
 time before reporters and parents
 start coming.

Officer Dirk drops the call.

LAURA
 Oh, mom!

Laura looks at Louigi and tucks her hair behind an ear.

LOUIGI
 I spoke to Lucinda about going to
 the house in the morning and
 feeding Doofus.

Laura looks at Officer Dirk and outstretches her hand.

Outside the van: The vultures follow the van. They land a
 few trees in front and then move as the van did.

OFFICER DIRK
 Hitchcock, anyone?

Officer Dirk hands the phone over to Laura.

LAURA
 (passing the phone to Louigi)
 Can't call. I'm driving.

LOUIGI
 Yes, let's not forget about the
 phone laws while driving.

Louigi collects the phone and dials Lucinda's line.

LUCINDA (V.O)
 Hello.

LOUIGI
 It's Louigi. I am wit Laura, and we
 are headed to the facility which is
 still on lockdown until further
 notice. She is right next to me,
 and I'm putting the phone on
 speaker phone.

DERREK (V.O)
 Is she alright? Put yours on
 speaker phone too.

Louigi's eyes widen in surprise.

LOUIGI

Wait a minute... Are your parents together?

LAURA

Oh, that's not good.

INTERCUT: PHONE CONVERSATION

LUCINDA

Yes.

Lucinda puts her phone on speaker phone.

LUCINDA (CONT'D)

We are at your house. It's a good thing I came over because the doggie door was open, and a vulture tried to eat Doofus.

Louigi and Laura's faces curl in horror.

LOUIGI

Is he alright?

LUCINDA

Yes.

DERREK

(proudly)

She killed the vulture with a broom.

LOUIGI

So Doofus is good?

Doofus barks as he hears Louigi's voice.

LUCINDA

Now you have got him all excited. I put down some pee pads, too, so Doofus wouldn't have to go outside.

DERREK

We'll stay here until you get back. So don't worry about Doofus. We'll take good care of him.

LAURA

What about you two, my parents, being together, in the same house, without killing each other or my dog?

DERREK

We're fine. Don't worry about us.
We are so happy you two are okay.
We've done nothing but worry.

INT. JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER / GARAGE - NIGHT

Laura drives the van to a stop. The trio alights and walks over to the giant metal door.

Laura presses the control button -- The door rolls up.

Cap. McBride stands in the doorway.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Good, you're back.

LOUIGI

I'm going to stay here with my wife.

CAP. MCBRIDE

You can stay in the employees' lounge. There is a sofa in there, a television, and I'll bring you food trays.

Cap. McBride walks over to the van. She looks perturbed as she notices blood stains on the side. She turns to the trio.

CAP. MCBRIDE (CONT'D)

It has blood on the side.

LAURA

(through trembling lips)
Not sure I hit one.

Laura pauses for a second.

LAURA (CONT'D)

...But there is a dead fisherman in the cabin down the road. His family needs to be notified.

CAP. MCBRIDE

It's already been reported. We got another problem as well. The boxer's uncle just showed up here, and he is refusing to go without talking to his nephew, Jack.

OFFICER DIRK
You need our help?

CAP. MCBRIDE
Camp and Dirk, head down to Jack's cell. I still need to fill out the paperwork about your finding a dead man at the park cabin.

LAURA
Louigi, can you go to employees' lounge? I got to get back to work.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Our casa is su casa.

Cap. McBride rubs her chin.

CAP. MCBRIDE (CONT'D)
I'll show Louigi where it is.

LOUGI
(resigned tone)
Thank you.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Camp can see you on break.

INT. CELL HALLWAY - NIGHT

The inmates are in a line heading to the cafeteria. They all look scared.

Jack is in the center of the line. Michael knees on the floor beside the fighter, with tears streaming down his face.

OFFICER GILMAN stands beside Michael with a strict look on his face. His hands on his belt as if ready to pounce on Michael if he makes any move.

Officer Dirk and Laura walk into the scene, maneuvering their way through the lined-up inmates, toward where Michael is kneeling.

OFFICER DIRK
Wasn't he going with Jack's father to Mexico?

OFFICE GILMAM
Cap already gave Michael five minutes to check and make sure Jack
(MORE)

OFFICE GILMAM (cont'd)
was fine with all the television
news reports about the vultures.
The problem is now Michael is
refusing to leave without talking
to him again.

MICHAEL
(to Dirk and Laura)
I won't leave my nephew.

Laura moves to the side to face Michael, noticing the tears
streaming down his face.

LAURA
He's safe inside these big cement
walls... Is Jack's father gone?

MICHAEL
He's on his way to Mexico. I
couldn't leave Jack here in America
without protection from the Crowns
or the vultures.

Jack puts his hand on his uncle's shoulder.

JACK
(choked voice)
Don't you see this is embarrassing
me?

Jack points to the Crown gang members on the line.

JACK (CONT'D)
I am fine.

MICHAEL
Please, Jack, listen to me. You
need to hear my words and
understand what I am trying to say
to you.

OFFICER DIRK
Listen to Jack. Whatever your
personal reasons are, they'll have
to wait. We've got a serious
situation here, and the facility is
on lockdown. If you want to stay
here, you'll have to get permission
to stay in the lounge. Otherwise,
the police will escort you back
home.

An inmate with a Union tattoo on his neck goes:

BOY #1

It's the end of the world. We're all going to die. Just let 'em talk to Jack.

LAURA

Quiet. No talking until you get your food and sit down.

BOY #2

I heard the birds can get in through the windows above the cafeteria.

OFFICER DIRK

All the glass is bulletproof. The windows are all locked. Our walls are thick. Nothing, unless we let it, gets in here.

Officer Dirk places a hand on Micael's shoulder.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)

You need to get up and come with us to talk to Captain McBride. Perhaps she'll let you stay in the employees' lounge if you are worried about Jack's safety.

MICHAEL

I promised his father that I wouldn't let Jack out of my sight.

LAURA

Didn't he leave his son the second he heard he wanted to be a cop?

MICHAEL

His father wouldn't be able to live with the worry that comes with being the father of an officer. It would put a mark on him. No one would trust either one of us.

Luara and Michael's eyes meet. The latter nods, then turns his attention to Jack.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I'm on my knees. I am begging you. Do the right thing. Don't be like us. Don't ruin everything that's going on for you. Stay in school. Get a scholarship and make

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D) (cont'd)
 something of your life. I love you.
 I stayed away for a reason. I
 didn't want you to wind up selling
 drugs like us for the Union. I kept
 my life away from you for a reason.

JACK
 I ain't nothin' like you or Pops. I
 ain't nothin' like you. But I don't
 want either of you to die because
 I'm go back to school to become a
 cop either.

INT. EMPLOYEES' LOUNGE - NIGHT

There are a few recliners and a sofa. A television hanging
 on the wall is showing the news. Two snack machines, a
 microwave and a refrigerator sit in a corner.

A boy of seven sits on the sofa playing with a Yoda-stuffed
 animal. This is Cap. McBride's son, DOUGLAS. He wears a blue
 jumpsuit with a train on it, and his head is bald.

Captain McBride escorts Louigi in.

CAP. MCBRIDE
 It ain't much, but it's home for
 now.

Cap. McBride turns to her son.

CAP. MCBRIDE (CONT'D)
 This is my son, Douglas. I had the
 hospital bring him here so I could
 keep a good eye on him. He finished
 his set of chemo for now, and I
 couldn't leave him alone.

Louigi moves over to Douglas.

LOUGI
 Hi, Douglas. You like Yoda?

DOUGLAS
 (softly)
 Chewy is my favorite.

Douglas looks away.

Louigi gets down on the floor and crosses his legs.

LOUIGI
I like Chewy, too. I've seen Star Wars over fifty times.

Douglas's eyes widen, and he wrinkles his nose.

DOUGLAS
That's a lot of times.

LOUIGI
(smiles)
It sure is. I love your train.

Douglas sees the blood stain on Louigi's shirt.

DOUGLAS
You have blood on your shirt.

Louigi is surprised as he sees the blood.

LOUIGI
I'm sorry. It's not mine. Don't worry. I am not hurt.

CAP. MCBRIDE
(to Douglas)
Will you be okay in here with my friend Louigi?

Douglas nods...Yes.

DOUGLAS
How long will you be working? I want to go home.

CAP. MCBRIDE
I'm sorry, Sugar.

Cap. McBride wipes her face.

CAP. MCBRIDE (CONT'D)
We're on lockdown, but you will be just fine here.

DOUGLAS
Can't I go home?

Douglas's stomach rumbles.

Officer Dirk walks in. He is surprised to see Douglas. Immediately, he reaches down and gives him a hug.

OFFICER DIRK
Hello, Douglas.

Douglas is joyous to see Officer Dirk.

DOUGLAS
Dirk. Can you play Star Wars with me?

OFFICER DIRK
(in yoda's voice)
Can I, not. I have to get back to the cafeteria.

Cap. McBride bites her lip as:

CAP. MCBRIDE
Now what?

OFFICER DIRK
Jack's uncle doesn't want to leave. Apparently, he promised his father to look after him.

CAP. MCBRIDE
(shrugs)
We're not a hotel.

LOUIGI
We've got room.

Cap. McBride grimaces and closes her eyes for a moment.

CAP. MCBRIDE
I suppose we do now, but it won't be the Waldorf Astoria for any of you. I do understand people wanting to be with their loved ones.

LOUIGI
This is like a hurricane. Except with birds instead of wind and floods.

CAP. MCBRIDE
I suppose we can make room.

OFFICER DIRK
Jack and his uncle did make sure we weren't killed by the Union. I think he can be trusted, and Jack doesn't want to go AWOL. He wants his freedom.

Cap. McBride pats her son's head.

CAP. MCBRIDE

(softly)

I don't like this. But we are in dire times. Normally, I'd keep my son away from criminals, but I don't want him at home with just my mother either. We don't really have a choice other than to call the cops and have Michael removed.

Officer Dirk shoots Cap. McBride a quick glance.

OFFICER DIRK

That will just make things worse. We'll keep an eye on him, too. Apparently, the reason the father didn't want Jack to become a cop was that it could put a price on his head.

CAP. MCBRIDE

They'd never trust any of them again. If he joins, it marks them with the Union.

OFFICER DIRK

We need to keep Jack on the right side of the law.

Officer Dirk winks at her.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)

I think his uncle wants that, too, even though there will be serious consequences.

Cap. McBride suddenly reaches out and hugs Officer Dirk and Douglas. Officer Dirk is surprised by the open affection.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)

You okay?

CAP. MCBRIDE

I am just very thankful that we are all alive. If we all get out of this, I'll buy you a beer, Dirk.

Officer Dirk nods his head.

OFFICER DIRK

That would be my pleasure. I enjoy spending time with you and your son.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Thank you.

Louigi appears uncomfortable as he looks away.

Douglas leaves Officer Dirk's side and moves back and sits next to Louigi. He smiles up at him.

DOUGLAS

(whispering)

My momma likes Dirk. But, shhh, don't tell, because they work together.

Louigi glances up at Cap. McBride and Officer Dirk, still wrapped in an embrace.

LOUIGI

(to Douglas)

I won't say a word to nobody.

TIME CUT:

EMPLOYEES' LOUNGE - LATER

Douglas and Louigi are playing with the Yoda stuffed animal. Officer Gilman escorts Michael in.

Michael stands for a moment surveying the room. He spots the sofa, then moves over and lies on it.

LOUIGI

Hello.

MICHAEL

Do you know what time it is?

LOUIGI

It's one. You must be Jack's uncle, Michael.

MICHAEL

Yes...

Michael reaches out to shake Louigi's hand.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

And you are?

LOUIGI

I am Louigi. I am the husband of
Officer Camp.

Louigi shakes his hand.

MICHAEL

You are the one that disappeared
and they brought back. So, it is
true? About the vultures killing
another man in the park?

Louigi closes his eyes for a moment.

LOUIGI

It was quite awful.

MICHAEL

You saw it?

LOUIGI

Yes, it happened very fast. They
tore him apart with their claws in
a matter of a few seconds.

MICHAEL

That must have been horrible. Did
you know him?

LOUIGI

No, he was just going fishing and
minding his own business. One
minute alive, the next dying as he
fought them off.

MICHAEL

He died an honorable man.

Louigi pauses for a moment, posing a stony expression as he
collects his thoughts.

LOUIGI

Yeah, I suppose that is one way to
look at it. I ran under the sofa
and pulled down the cushion so they
wouldn't get me.

MICHAEL

You did what you had to do to
survive.

LOUIGI

It happened very quickly.

Michael smiles warmly. Louigi relaxes his stony expression.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry. You have to let go of things like that. There was nothing that you could have done. These things are out of our hands. Something is making these birds go crazy, and we'll all be lucky to get out of this alive.

LOUIGI

(shrugs)

We're safe in the facility more than if we were out there.

MICHAEL

Safety is an illusion, my friend. Never forget that.

Douglas hands Louigi the Yoda stuffed animal.

DOUGLAS

Yoda like you.

LOUIGI

I'm not much of a Jedi.

DOUGLAS

You could be. Jedi, you will be.

Michael crinkles his nose.

MICHAEL

I hate that Yoda guy. Not all of us want to be Jedis or listen to his incorrect English. You shouldn't talk like him, boy. He speaks jangly and wrong. You shouldn't admire something that's short, green, and with such ugly big ears.

Douglas snips, jerking his head around.

DOUGLAS

He is not ugly.

Louigi is surprised by Douglas's reaction.

LOUIGI
It's okay, Douglas. I like Yoda.

DOUGLAS
Yoda may be short, but he's one of the most powerful things in the universe. He'll protect us from those birds and so will my mommy.

MICHAEL
(to Louigi)
Who are Douglas's parents? Is he yours and Laura's?

LOUIGI
No, Douglas is Captain McBride's.

MICHAEL
What's he got?

DOUGLAS
I got cancer.

Douglas's face wrinkles with sadness.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
But I am going to be fine. That's what they told me at St. Jude's. I just got my cancer treatment last week, and it is going to be my last because my tumor is almost gone.

MICHAEL
(enthusiatically)
You are brave, little one.

INT. PUBLIC GARAGE - NIGHT

It is quiet. No cars going out or coming in. Four teenagers stand around a black truck: One is tall, with tattoos all over his arm, including a big crown on his forearm. He wears a plain white baseball cap. This is JOHNNY.

The second wears tight jeans and a polo that shows his enormous arms or the tattoo of a crown on the back of his hand. This is GARRET.

The third has dark brown dreadlocks. He is JAKE.

The fourth is SAL. He is short, bald, and dressed in a blue jean jacket. A crown tattoo is on his neck.

Jake enters the driver's seat. Johnny enters in the passenger seat. Garret climbs into the back seat.

INSIDE THE CAR

Jake pulls out a gun from behind his belt and drops it on the dash.

GARRET
That's all you're bringing?

Johnny holds a larger gun.

JAKE
You're a Crown now, Garret. You've got to know how to roll.

Johnny glances at Jake.

JOHNNY
Got weed on you, Jake?

Sal opens the back-passenger door and sits down.

SAL
Jake ain't got no dope, but I do.

Sal opens his jacket, takes out a sachet and hands it to Johnny.

JOHNNY
Thanks, I want to get high before we get to Juvie.

GARRET
They won't know what hit them. Look what I got.

Garret pulls out an AK-47 machine rifle with a warning expression.

SAL
What do you need a military rifle for?

Johnny rolls up his weed, lights it up and begins to smoke.

GARRET
Shut up, Sal. This thing will get us through that door. It will take down anything, even bulletproof glass.

Sal swallows a lump, nodding in agreement.

SAL

We got to do what we got to do to save our friends.

GARRET

(authoritatively)

None of them can go to court. The Blue are cracking down on the Crowns now that Jack is their golden boy.

SAL

Jack will get off because he raised money for that children's hospital. The cops are taking down the Crowns when they should know the Union are the frauds trying to kill us off.

JAKE

We got Jack with Marla. He had no idea she was one of us.

Jake grins, lighting up the mood.

JAKE (CONT'D)

All she needed to do was talk him into leaving the country.

GARRET

(sternly)

It should have been Canada. I bet they could have talked him into going to Canada instead of Mexico.

JAKE

At least his father left.

Jake flips his dreadlocks over his shoulders, tightening his bulging muscles.

Sal rubs his head with a sense of worry as:

SAL

We know that for sure?

JAKE

Yeah, he left for Mexico and left Jack unprotected from the Crowns.

SAL

So, we take Jack out and we get the run of the whole city? That will

(MORE)

SAL (cont'd)
make things easier when we get the
next shipment.

GARRET
We can take over the girls too.
They are working too hard for way
too little profit. We will take
over the streets entirely, and the
Union will eventually fall apart or
join us.

Jake turns to Garret.

JAKE
So, what's the plan?

GARRET
We just show up and start hitting
the door with the AK.

JAKE
The doors can't withstand that many
bullets. Then we go to the left,
and that's where the cells are. We
get them to release all the Crowns,
and then we will get Jack before we
go. That's how we'll take over the
city. The Union won't expect that.
Jack won't be able to fight back if
we get him inside the cell.

EXT. JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER / ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The black truck speeds to a stop at the entrance. Johnny,
Jake, Garret and Sal alight.

Garret begins to shoot at the front doors, bringing it down
piece by piece.

INT. CAFETERIA - NIGHT

The inmates sit at the tables eating their dinner. Officer
Dirk, Officer Gilman, and Laura keep guard.

Suddenly, everyone is thrown into a frenzy as they hear the
gunshots.

Alarm begins to blare in the background. The emergency
lights flicker on.

LAURA
CELLS NOW!

OFFICER DIRK
NOW!

The inmates begin to run for their cells.

CAP. MCBRIDE (V.O)
(through intercom)
All officers secure your position.
We are under attack by four
assailants outside the front
entrance. The police have been
alerted and are on their way.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The gunshots continue in the background. The inmates run rowdily down the hall and into their different cells.

Officer Dirk and Laura hastily walk toward the front of the facility. Laura's eyes meet Jack's in his cell as she walks pass.

Michael rushes out of the employees lounge. Louigi can be seen standing at the lounge door while Michael runs toward Jack's cell.

MICHAEL
What's going on?

LAURA
(impatiently)
Get back to the lounge and lock the door.

Louigi steps back in and closes the door.

MICHAEL
I stay with my nephew.

Michael pauses and wipes his eyebrow.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Open his cell, and I will wait in there.

Laura walks back to Jack's cell to unlock it.

Jack shoots his hand from the food tray opening, holding Laura's hand as she tries to put the key in the lock.

JACK
(confidently)
I'm here if you need me.

Laura flashes a half-smile.

LAURA
Are these assailants here for you?

Jack gives her a rude look and releases her hand, then he shrugs.

ENTRANCE

Johnny, Jake, Sal and Garret continue to shoot at the front door. Finally, the door splits in three places and falls to the ground.

The quartet begins to shoot at Cap. McBride and two other officers in the control room. The bullets didn't penetrate the bulletproof glass. They stop to shoot.

CAP. MCBRIDE (V.O)
(through intercom)
The Police have been called. Leave now, and you might have a chance to escape.

JAKE
Open the cell of Mark Knight and Jack the Mack.

INTERCUT: ENTRANCE / HALLWAY

Officer Dirk and Laura are now at a corner, watching the invaders.

OFFICER DIRK
We should go outside and take them from the back.

Officer Dirk hands Laura a taser gun. Slowly, she grasps the taser gun with both hands. She glances toward the door of the employees lounge, looking worried.

LAURA
We don't have time.

Laura moves closer to the corner of the hall, inches away from where the invaders could see her.

Jake glowers at Cap. McBride as:

JAKE
Free Crowns now!

Laura looks at the cells the Crown members are in. They are all smiling.

LAURA
You're not getting out of here.

CROWN MEMBER #1
(smirks)
You better let us out.

LAURA
We don't release prisoners here.

A second Crown member points at his tattoo as:

CROWN MEMBER #2
You're gonna regret that.

Crown member #2 leans down and screams through the food tray slit:

CROWN MEMBER #2 (CONT'D)
Here, all the Crowns are down here.

Johnny, Jake, Sal and Garret turn and head closer toward the cell hallway. They see Officer Dirk and Laura and point their guns in their direction.

Johnny moves back to keep an eye on the control center.

JACK
(to Michael)
The Union has to do something, or they're dead.

MICHAEL
Let the Union out of their cages.

JACK
You're crazy to face four! That's Sal, Jake, Johnny, and Garret. They're all killers.

Laura shakes her...No.

MICHAEL
That gangster ain't worth your life.

OFFICER DIRK

Justice is worth my life. If I
didn't believe that, I wouldn't
wear a badge.

Suddenly, Jake lowers his gun and walks around the corner,
some distance away from Laura and Officer Dirk, staring at
them eye to eye.

Laura holds out her taser gun, pointing it at him.

LAURA

I'll shoot you.

The look in her eyes shows she is not bluffing.

Jake laughs.

JAKE

We come in peace.

(mutters)

And we'll leave everyone in pieces.

Laura sees Louigi opening the lounge's door. His eyes bulge
as he sees the assailants.

Douglas crawls out through Louigi's legs. He makes his way
to Officer Dirk and Laura, standing fearlessly in front of
them.

LAURA

(to Douglas)

Go back inside the lounge!

DOUGLAS

I'm your only chance.

Douglas looks up at Jake.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

What do you want?

JAKE

We want all of the Crown members
released, and we're taking Jack the
Mack with us.

LAURA

That's not going to happen.

Suddenly, the doors to the control center open. Cap. McBride
runs out, rushing over to Douglas and carries him, right in
front of the gun men.

SAL
Is he yours?

Tears fill Cap. McBride's eyes.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Take the Crowns, all of them. I'll
let them out. Just don't hurt my
baby boy or any officer here.

OFFICER DIRK
Cap, you can't do that.

CAP. MCBRIDE
I most certainly can, and I will.
Now me and my child are going back
into the command center, and we'll
let your crew go but not Jack. He
stays with us. Got it? You got
plans of killing him, you'll have
to do that somewhere else, but not
here and not on my watch.

A hint of respect flashes across Jake's face as:

JAKE
This bitch got balls.

OFFICER DIRK
Watch your mouth. She's my lady.

Cap. McBride smiles at Officer Dirk.

JAKE
What does the boy got? Why does he
got no hair?

CAP. MCBRIDE
Cancer. Douglas just had his last
round of chemo at St. Jude's, and I
had him brought here to protect him
from vultures but worse came
through the door.

Jake steps closer to Cap. McBride.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Stay away.

Jake swoops Douglas from Cap. McBride's arms.

LAURA
(angrily)
Let him go.

LOUIGI
He isn't part of this.

Jake quickly turns to see Louigi standing by the lounge door.

LOUIGI (CONT'D)
Now, you have your gang members
with no trouble from us. Give us
Douglas back and walk out of here
right now.

Johnny, Sal, and Garret look at Jake for a command.

JAKE
As long as I got the boy, looks
like we can get everything we want.
(glancing Douglas in the eye)
What's your name?

DOUGLAS
It's Douglas.

Douglas gives him a kick in the belly. Jake drops him, and he lands square on his bottom.

JAKE
That little...

All the Crown gang members start to laugh.

SAL
You just got your ass kicked by a
boy.

JAKE
Shut up.

Jake reaches out to grab Douglas again, but he runs to Cap. McBride and hides behind her legs.

DOUGLAS
Now just go.

JAKE
(rubbing his belly)
Not without our gang.

DOUGLAS
You want another kick?

The Crown members laugh again.

A Crown gang member in his cell goes.

CROWN MEMBER #3
He's a tough little bugger.

Jack continues to watch from his cell. Michael approaches the assailants without fear. Suddenly, he begins to throw punches at them. Jake, Sal, and Garret pounce on him, kicking him and punching his face.

Johnny continues to watch the front door.

JACK
Let me out!

CAP. MCBRIDE
I can't do that.

Cap. McBride watches on as the three gang members beat Michael until he becomes motionless on the floor.

CAP. MCBRIDE (CONT'D)
Are you satisfied now?

Jake turns to Cap. McBride.

JAKE
Let out our gang members, and we'll only kill Jack's uncle today.

CAP. MCBRIDE
I said I would let all your gang go. There's not need to kill anybody or threaten my little boy or Michael.

Douglas rushes over to Michael and lies on top of him, protecting him.

DOUGLAS
Stop hurting, Michael.

Michael pushes him back.

MICHAEL
Stay away, Douglas. They'll hurt you, too.

Cap. McBride watches in fear and pride as Douglas stretches out on top of Michael, holding him tightly.

Jake turns back to Michael, making a fist. Cap. McBride trembles in fear.

Garret holds Jake's hand.

JAKE
(low tone)
I am not going to hit a kid.

GARRET
You looked like you were going to.
He's got cancer.

Jake turns to Cap. McBride, glaring at her.

JAKE
Today's your lucky day.

CAP. MCBRIDE
It sure doesn't feel like a lucky day. But I will agree to let out your Crown members if you leave and don't anybody else. We just all want to go home in one piece.

Jake turns to Jack's cell, their eyes meet.

JAKE
Protected by a baby. Guess your uncle's gonna live another day... Only to die another.

Jake turns to Laura and smiles.

JAKE (CONT'D)
So why don't you make things easy on us and you might leave.

Jake's smile dims.

Suddenly, another young man enters the hall. He stands next to the four assailants. This is DILLON HENRY.

CROWN MEMBER #2
Dilly Willy. Good to see you.

Laura glances at the posters down the hallway. On the posters are faces of the FBI most wanted list of juveniles. Dillon is one of the faces there.

Dillon follows Laura's gaze and sees his face on the poster. He moves closer to get a better view of himself on the poster.

OFFICER DIRK
I had thought you looked familiar
at the farm.

Dillon is unfazed by Officer Dirk and Laura pointing their taser guns at his chest.

DILLON
(to Jake)
You'd think they would have gotten
a better angle.

Dillon moves a finger over his chin, pointing to a scar under his eye.

DILLON (CONT'D)
I prefer my left side over my right
because of the knife scar.

With the gang members distracted, Officer Dirk takes a step toward Dillon and signals Laura to get on the other side. Officer Dirk jumps at him, and Laura swings him around and puts him in a very tight headlock. Immediately, she pushes his body to face the other three.

Jake, Sal, and Garret are agitated seeing Dillon captured. They quickly point their weapons at the officers.

SAL
Let him go, man.

Officer Dirk raises his gun to Dillon's head. He swallows a lump as:

OFFICER DIRK
I suggest you leave, or your leader
is dead.

Cap. McBride glances around the room.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Drop your weapons.

The door to Jack's cell swings open. He steps out and walks toward Officer Dirk and Laura.

MICHAEL
Get back here.

The two officers look at Jack in surprise.

OFFICER DIRK
(to Laura)
Did you forget to lock his cell?

LAURA
Did he just break that?

Jake, Garret, Sal, Johnny and Dillon laugh at Jack.

JAKE
You're dead, Jack.

Jack looks Laura in the eye and frowns.

JACK
I'm gonna do you a favor.

Jack grabs Laura's key from her belt and starts walking toward the cell of the Crowns.

JACK (CONT'D)
Dilly Willy isn't their leader.
Jake Marshall killed about twelve
kids in my neighborhood over drugs.

JAKE
Sixteen.

JACK
The punk you have is only a newbie,
and they would kill him for their
Crown brothers who are their
dealers.

Jack unlocks the first cell. The inmate sniffs and takes a step out of the cell. He stares at Laura, Officer Dirk, and Cap. McBride.

CROWN MEMBER #4
You cops never learn.

Jack walks down the hall, unlocking four other cells. The inmates come and join their gang members.

CAP. MCBRIDE
You leave here, all of you will be
hunted down like dogs.

The ten gang members head toward the front door. As they pass Cap. McBride Jake stares at her and smirks.

JAKE

Woof.

The ten gang members reach the door and stop, staring at shock and fear at a wall of red-eyed vultures hovering above.

Jake looks at the birds in rage mixed with fear.

JAKE (CONT'D)

They are just birds.

SAL

I've got your back, M.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

The ten gang members walk out in the center, heading to a van that is running in the parking lot.

Marla is the driver of the van.

INTERCUT: HALLWAY / PARKING LOT

Laura sees Marla in the van and recognizes her.

A vulture flies over and lands on top of the front passenger's window. Marla screams, but the bird just sits there staring down at her.

Quickly, Marla rolls up the window.

Sal frowns, turns to Jake.

SAL

Did you see that?

Laura walks into the parking lot behind the gang members.

More vultures fly up and perch on top of the van.

LAURA

Looks like I'm not your biggest problem at the moment.

Cap. McBride moves toward Laura.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Stay back.

Cap. McBride pulls her by the shoulder.

CAP. MCBRIDE (CONT'D)
Stay back.

Laura gives the gang members a poisonous glare.

LAURA
That would be the easy way.

CAP. MCBRIDE
(through gritted teeth)
They ain't worth risking your life.

LAURA
That's not for me to judge.

Laura takes another step and clicks her taser gun.

GARRET
She won't shoot us.

JAKE
(to Marla)
Open the van door, Marla. Then
we'll all run for it.

Sal clears his throat.

SAL
I say we go real slow.

GARRET
They are sizing us up.
(points to a vulture glaring
at them)
Look at that one.

Jake glances over to where Garret is pointing. It's a vulture to the right sitting on a light pole that has blood pouring from it's beak.

GARRET
That could be from its last meal.

JAKE
Alright, on the count of three, we
all run for the van. Everyone
loaded?

Laura's face flushes with fear.

LAURA
I wouldn't do that. They are
attracted to action. You best take
Sal's advice and go slow.

JAKE
 (in desperation)
 Shut up, pig.

Laura smirks.

LAURA
 Okay.
 (raises her taser)
 You're right. I am not going to
 kill any of you, but I will kill
 those vultures.

JAKE
 One...

All the vultures turn their heads in unison, staring at
 Jake.

GARRET
 Holy...crap. Did you see that?
 They're gonna kill us. They'll bite
 our peckers off.

JAKE
 Shut up.
 (to Marla)
 You ready, sister?

Jack walks to the door.

JACK
 Don't, Marla.

Marla moves to the door and opens just a crack. A vulture
 leaps from the passenger-side window to directly above the
 van's door.

Marla screams. Tears begin to roll down her cheeks.

JAKE
 Don't be scared.
 (shakes his head)
 Two...

The gang members get closer together, leaning forward as if
 to run.

JAKE (CONT'D)
 Three.

The vultures fly toward the Crown members, attacking them.
 They start to scream.

Garret tries to shoot at the birds, but his gun is out of bullets.

The van's back door slides open, a vulture flies in and begins to attack Marla as she sits in the driver's seat.

Laura starts to shoot at the vultures. She gets one and it falls to the ground.

More vultures fly down from the trees, toward the Crown members, ripping and tearing them with their claws.

Seeing the multitude of vultures, Cap. McBride grabs Laura's hand and pulls her back toward the facility down.

CAP. MCBRIDE

We can't let them get in.

LAURA

They'll all die out there.

CAP. MCBRIDE

It's too late.

Cap. McBride forces Laura back into facility.

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

Douglas still lays atop Michael. Jack and Officer Dirk stand watching in horror as the vultures attack the gang members.

...Cap. McBride drags Laura in. Laura stares out of the window, watching the vultures feast on Crown gang members. They are ripped into scattered pieces by the birds.

CAP. MCBRIDE

They did this to themselves. We warned them. They were just too cocky to realize that you can't beat Mother Nature.

LAURA

(gasps)

This isn't Mother Nature. It's unnatural.

Cap. McBride grabs Laura's shoulders tightly.

CAP. MCBRIDE

You did what you could for them. Now I need to call Donald, that general manager of the Wildlife

(MORE)

CAP. MCBRIDE (cont'd)
Commission. We need to find out
what we are dealing with and what
the hell has gotten into these
vultures.

Officer Dirk steps to Laura's side.

OFFICER DIRK
Looks like they do know how to
clean up after all.

Cap. McBride glares at him.

CAP. MCBRIDE
We had a duty to protect them,
criminals or not. Camp was right,
but there was nothing any of us
could do. They decided to try a
prison break in the middle of some
kind of end-of-the-world stuff.

OFFICER DIRK
I might have agreed if they hadn't
threatened Douglas.

Laura runs toward the employees' lounge, where Louigi still
stands motionless.

LOUIGI
They killed them all?

Laura swallows hard.

LAURA
Yes. But we are no longer under
attack.

Jack picks Michael up from the floor and carries him toward
the employees' lounge.

CAP. MCBRIDE
(to Laura)
Get the fire doors in front of the
cell wing. Everyone else, go into
the employees' lounge. We've still
got a job to do.

Laura rushes to the fire doors.

The inmates in their cells are all frightened.

LAURA

You are all safe here. So remain calm, and we'll be back as soon as we can.

INMATE #1

Don't leave us.

INMATE #2

Did the birds get them?

LAURA

Yes, but so far they are staying outside. We are going to lock these doors, and you will be safe. We're calling the police for backup. Just remain calm.

INMATE #3

Remain calm? There are killer birds out there strong enough to take down Jake and the Crown gang.

Cap. McBride walks up beside Laura.

CAP. MCBRIDE

(to the inmates)

You all are to stay here until reinforcements arrive. We will be transporting you to another facility as soon as we know it is safe.

Cap. McBride slams the fire door, and Laura locks it.

LAURA

They shouldn't be in there without an officer.

Cap. McBride shakes her head.

CAP. MCBRIDE

I know, but we need to stay safe, too.

Cap. McBride heads down the hall. Laura follows her behind. They both walk toward the employees' lounge.

Laura sees the vultures are starting to enter through the collapsed door.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Hurry!

Cap. McBride opens the door to the employees lounge.

INT. EMPLOYEES' LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

Michael lays on the sofa. His face is filled with bloody bruises. Jack squats beside him. Louigi and Douglas stand nearby. Officer Dirk, Officer Gilman and the rest of the officers are all standing. Most of the officers look terrified.

...Laura hurries in. Cap. McBride comes in and closes the door.

Michael rolls over on the sofa.

MICHAEL

Are they dead?

CAP. MCBRIDE

Yes.

JACK

They took out the Crown gang members who were all armed.

Cap. McBride turns to Jack.

CAP. MCBRIDE

You should be back in your cell.

LAURA

Did you see what he did to his cell? One kick, and the door flew off its hinges.

JACK

My dad taught me what to do to get out of a cell. For the record, I could have done that anytime I was here. I only did it to free the Crowns so no one would be killed but them.

MICHAEL

(smiles)

You saved us all.

JACK

But not them. I have to live with the fact, though, that I let them out knowing that they might be killed by what was waiting outside.

LOUIGI

They are attracted to noise. I noticed that when I was in the cabin. The gunshots attracted them. It's not your fault.

CAP. MCBRIDE

We didn't ask for this. Now we're the ones who will have to explain how about five of our inmates escaped and were killed by a bunch of vultures.

LAURA

I think the public will understand.

Cap. McBride shakes her head.

CAP. MCBRIDE

No, they won't. No explanation is going to satisfy their parents. All these people died on our watch, vultures or not.

OFFICER DIRK

This is just the thing that will get this facility closed.

CAP. MCBRIDE

And all of us might lose our jobs. If it comes to that, I will take the fall for the whole thing.

JACK

You most certainly will not. I broke down the door and let them out while you all were held at gunpoint. No one is to blame for what happened but those damn birds. None of us.

Officer Dirk points down at Douglas.

OFFICER DIRK

We need to stop talking about what happened in front of Douglas.

Cap. McBride notices Michael's face is starting to swell.

CAP. MCBRIDE

We got a medic kit in here. It's in the cabinet right above the vending machine.

Officer Dirk hurries to the cabinet, retrieves the kit and opens it, revealing antibiotic ointment and bandages.

Officer Dirk dumps the contents of the kit above Michael.

OFFICER DIRK

We'll do what we can. The Cokes are cold so we can use those as ice.

JACK

(to Officer Dirk)

Thank you for helping my uncle.

Laura turns to Jack.

LAURA

Thank you. If it wasn't for you, we'd all still be facing guns.

OFFICER DIRK

You saved us. All of us.

Officer Dirk starts to tend to Michael's bruises. Douglas reaches up and holds Michael's hand.

MICHAEL

You are so precious.

Michael turns to Cap. McBride.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

He is like an angel.

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

Marla runs toward the employees' lounge. She is covered in cuts and scratches. Blood streams down her face from the cuts. Several vultures chase her behind.

She reaches the lounge's door and begins to bang on it.

MARLA

Open up!

INT. EMPLOYEES' LOUNGE

Everyone shoots a stare at the door. Jack immediately rushes to the door and opens it.

INTERCUT: EMPLOYEES' LOUNGE / HALLWAY

Several vultures swoop down on Marla. She falls backwards onto the floor.

Jack quickly steps into the hallway and begins to fight off the birds. He punches the vultures off her as others fly at him.

Jack punches a few vultures off, before managing to grab one of Marla's legs and pulls her into the employees' lounge and shuts the door.

Marla sits up and grabs Jack.

MARLA
(gratefully)
Thank you, Jack. You saved my life.

Officer Dirk is finishing up with bandaging up Michael.

JACK
Let's get you bandaged up.

Jack turns to Officer Dirk.

JACK (CONT'D)
You think we've got enough?

OFFICER DIRK
There's another kit in the cabinet.

Officer Dirk gives Cap. McBride a withering glance.

Cap. McBride turns to Laura.

CAP. MCBRIDE
You better lend them a hand.

OFFICER DIRK
I've got this.

Officer Dirk rushes over to the cabinet and grabs another kit. He returns to Marla and begins to bandage her up.

CAP. MCBRIDE
This is madness. We aren't trained to fight off flying monsters.

Laura walks over to the door. She opens the door lightly and peeks out into the hallway. She sees the hall is covered by vultures. She shoots one down with her taser.

CAP. MCBRIDE (CONT'D)
You are putting us all at risk.
(sternly)
Close and lock that door up.

Laura hears the swooshing of giant wings. She is shocked to see a giant vulture two feet behind the one she shot.

The giant vulture is flying toward the fire doors, where the inmates are.

Fear flares in her eyes.

LAURA
They are going for the cells. Dirk,
we've got to protect the kids.

OFFICER DIRK
They are behind bars. Close the
door.

CAP. MCBRIDE
They won't be able to get through
that door. Now shut the door before
one gets in here.

Reluctantly, Laura shuts the door.

Officer Dirk finishes bandaging Marla up. She turns to Jack.

MARLA
(whispers)
I'm so sorry, Jack.

Jack removes bloody hair from her face.

JACK
We don't need to talk about this
now.

MARLA
I love you. That wasn't a lie. I
always did. I couldn't tell you I
was a Crown. I knew you would
reject me.

JACK
You probably tried to get me to
Mexico for the Crowns.

Jack looks her in the eyes.

JACK (CONT'D)

It all was a lie to get me to leave
so they could take over.

MARLA

That's not true.

Marla holds his hand.

MARLA (CONT'D)

You're right. I did want us to go
with your father but not for that
reason. I wanted us to be together,
forever, and I knew that was the
only way we could be. The Crowns
and the Union would never let our
relationship continue.

JACK

Is it a trap?

Marla and Jack stare at each other in silence.

JACK (CONT'D)

Is my father in danger in Mexico?

MARLA

No. They just wanted him gone to
run the city. He could start a new
life without the Union or living in
a cell. I wanted what was best for
you and him. I love you. If you
don't believe anything else,
believe that.

Suddenly, a loud crashing sound is heard outside the lounge.
Everyone shoots a look at the door.

Laura opens the door, peeking out the hall. She is terrified
by a pile of vultures next to the safety door. Her eyes
widen in shock as she sees a split in the door.

The inmates can be heard screaming.

Louigi grabs a NAIL GUN from a cabinet close to him. He
hands it to Laura. He tosses another one to Officer Dirk.

OFFICER DIRK

(smiles)

This will do. You ready, Camp?

Officer Dirk moves to the door.

Louigi grabs the last nail gun off the cabinet. He turns to Laura.

LOUIGI
This is the last one.

LAURA
You stay here. Protect everyone here with that.

Louigi steps forward.

LOUIGI
I am going with you. I can help.

OFFICER DIRK
He can take the back.

LAURA
Okay, I got the front, and you hold up above. We go together.

JACK
I will help, too.

Jack now holds a nail gun. A smile teases the corners of his mouth.

LOUIGI
Don't rush. Jack, they hold about twenty nails each.

Laura slowly opens the door.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Blood and feathers litter the hallway. No vultures in sight. The split on the fire doors are wider now.

The inmates' screams resound in the background.

Laura, Officer Dirk, Louigi and Jack walk out into the hallway.

Cap. McBride shows up at the door.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Be careful and watch your backs.

The quartet makes an X with their bodies. They move toward the fire door. Their guns aimed to shoot at any bird that shows up.

Cap. McBride closes the door.

INT. CELL HALLWAY

The vultures fill the hallway pecking at inmates through the bars.

Some vultures squeeze themselves into several cells. The inmates push themselves against the walls. Some hold their pillows to beat the vultures back.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FIRE DOOR

Officer Dirk pulls the latch and then yanks the door open. They all walk into the hallway.

INTERCUT: HALLWAY / CELLS

INMATE #4
(panicking)
Can you let us out now?

Officer Dirk moves to the emergency latch on the wall and punches in a code. All the cell doors open at once.

Officer Dirk, Laura, Jack, and Louigi aim their nail guns at the birds.

LAURA
All of you get out of your cells,
run down the hall to the employees'
lounge and wait there. Got it?

An inmate trembling in his cell goes.

INMATE #5
I'm not moving. They're gonna eat
me.

OFFICER DIRK
Stay calm. They're attracted to
movement.

Another inmate clutching his pillow in his cell goes:

INMATE #6
And you want us to run?

A vulture slowly approaches inmate #6 in his cell.

INMATE #6 (CONT'D)
It's coming for me!

A vulture is now standing inches away from inmate #5 in his cell.

INMATE #5
Should I kick it?

LAURA
Okay, I want you all to run when I say go. Race down the hall to the employees' lounge and wait for us... Ready?

Laura glances back down the hall. Then she glances into the cells, noticing the fear on the faces of the inmates.

LAURA (CONT'D)
You can do this. We've got weapons, so if they come after you, we'll kill them.

Officer Dirk puts a hand on Louigi's shoulder. He hesitates, then nods.

OFFICER DIRK
Get ready.

JACK
We got this.

LAURA
GO!

The inmates run their doors like an army and down the hall beside their protectors. A few of the vultures snap their beaks at them, but none is harmed.

The birds begin to hiss and spread their wings.

Laura, Officer Dirk, Louigi, and Jack are all terrified, but they stand their ground.

AT THE EMPLOYEES LOUNGE

Cap. McBride opens the employees' lounge door.

CAP. MCBRIDE
(to the inmates)
Everyone stand in line.

The inmates follow her order into the lounge. Cap. McBride closes the door.

BACK TO THE CELL HALLWAY

LAURA

Okay. We're going backwards very slowly. Got it?

Laura takes a step back, her nail gun pointed outward. Jack and Louigi are behind Laura. Officer Dirk covers the back. They continue toward the employees' lounge.

Laura looks out for the giant vulture as it is not among the ones in the hall.

Officer Dirk stops and glares at Laura wearily.

OFFICER DIRK

The kids are safe. Where is the giant one?

LAURA

He's the least of my worries.

Laura turns to Jack.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Did you see where the big one went?

Jack points his finger up to an enormous hole in the ceiling, where the giant vulture knocked one of the ceiling tiles loose. At the end of the hole are claw marks.

OFFICER DIRK

All of a sudden it must have gone upward. Let's keep moving.

A scratching sound emanates above the quartet.

The vultures are forming a line in the center of the cells. Slowly, they come together as Laura, Officer Dirk, Jack and Louigi continue to back away.

Laura exhales, she glances up.

OFFICER DIRK

We have a vulture in the ceiling. Can it get to the employees' lounge through the vents?

LAURA

Yes.

The quartet continues to back up as the vultures grow and move toward them. They flap their wings and continue to hiss.

One vulture hops forward intermittently, and the group of four points their at it.

Another scratching noise comes directly above the quartet.

JACK

It's up there. Right above us.

Jack points his nail gun upward.

Another bang is heard down the hall.

LAURA

That sounded farther away.

Suddenly, a loud, masculine scream is heard around the corner.

Officer Dirk, Laura, Louigi, and Jack rush down the hallway.

INT. ENTRANCE

A police officer is on the floor by the command center. He is bleeding profusely. He has a claw scratch across his face. This is DILLON RAY.

Officer Dirk, Laura, Jack, and Louigi run to the scene.

Laura quickly grabs her handset.

LAURA

(into phone)

Officer down.

Officer Ray moves and rolls over.

OFFICER RAY

It was so fast.

A man's voice is heard from Laura's handset.

MAN (V.O)

An ambulance is on the way.

OFFICER DIRK

You're going to be fine, officer.

OFFICER RAY

(shaky tone)

It's Officer Dillon Ray. I got a wife and two kids, and I never thought if I'd go it would be because of a stupid bird.

OFFICER DIRK

Come with us to the employees'
lounge.

OFFICER RAY

I don't think so. It got me really
good.

Slowly, Officer Ray shows the quartet his back. His flesh is
torn by the vultures' claws, and ribs can be seen.

Officer Dirk's eyes begin to well.

OFFICER DIRK

Oh that... That's just a flesh
wound.

OFFICER RAY

Tell my kids I love them.

LAURA

You're not going anywhere. Now,
Louigi and Jack, you help him up.
We are going to go to the
employees' lounge.

Laura looks toward the employees' lounge and sees Cap.
McBride holding the door slightly open.

OFFICER RAY

I am a rookie. I just started six
months ago when I moved from
California. I thought that this
would be an easy job, with all the
elderly living here. Boy, I was
wrong. I got the call that the
facility was under attack and came
as fast as I could. There's more
coming.

Laura glances over at Officer Dirk, who can barely look at
the injured Officer Ray. Quickly, Officer Dirk bends down
and begins to cover the hole in the back of Officer Ray with
his shirt.

Louigi doesn't flinch at the wounds as he helps out.

LOUIGI

Let's keep his head up.

LAURA

(to Louigi)

You are doing good.

LOUIGI

This is nothing compared to seeing
cow parts. But let's get to the
employees' lounge now.

Laura nods in acknowledgment.

LAURA

Jack and Louigi, you two lift him
up and carry him if need be. Then
we'll head straight to the lounge.

OFFICER DILLON

Do I look like something a butcher
cut up?

LOUIGI

I'm sorry, Officer. I didn't mean
it like that.

Sirens blaring are heard in the background. The sirens get
louder by the second.

Suddenly, a very loud squawk is heard from the ceiling above
them. Laura, Officer Dirk, Louigi, and Jack become alert,
firming their grips on their nail guns.

OFFICER RAY

It's coming back to finish the job.

LOUIGI

We won't let him.

LAURA

No, we have your...

LOUIGI

...Were you going to say your back?

Louigi gives Laura a look.

Suddenly, the ceiling comes crashing down. The giant vulture
lunges at the quintet with his claws out. Louigi fires
immediately fires his nail gun, and a nail shoots from the
gun into the vulture's heart. It falls the rest of the way
to the floor, between the quintet, dead and motionless.

JACK

You got him.

Louigi and Jack help Officer Ray to his feet. The injured
officer grows paler by the moment.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Three police cars drive into the parking lot. Six police officers alight from the cars. They all draw their guns and head for the entrance.

They pass the dead Crown members as they proceed.

INT. ENTRANCE

The long row of vultures is now closing in on Officer Dirk, Laura, Jack, Louigi and Officer Ray.

Jack and Louigi help Officer Ray get to his feet.

The six police officers walk in. They see the approaching birds slowly. They point their guns at them.

LAURA

The safest place is in the employees' lounge.

Cap. McBride waves to the police officers from the employees' lounge's door.

CAP. MCBRIDE

The rest of us are here.

OFFICER BERNIE recognizes Officer Ray.

OFFICER BERNIE

You okay, Ray?

OFFICER RAY

Not good. That's you, Bernie?

OFFICER BERNIE

Yes, it's me, Ray. The hell of a day you're having. An ambulance is on the way.

LAURA

We need to get Ray inside the lounge.

OFFICER BERNIE

(to Jack and Louigi)

You two got Ray?

LOUIGI

We are going to run for it.

OFFICER BERNIE
Those nail guns work?

JACK
I got one.

LAURA
Okay, all of us need to go toward
that room.

Laura points in the direction of the employees' lounge,
where Cap. McBride waits at the door.

LAURA (CONT'D)
You're ready, Cap?

CAP. MCBRIDE
Ready.

LAURA
NOW!

Jack and Louigi carry Officer Ray and run for the employees'
lounge. Laura and Officer Dirk run behind them. The six
police officers with them.

Suddenly, the vultures fly in fast pursuit. Laura, Officer
Dirk, and the police officers shoot at them as they run,
killing a few.

INT. EMPLOYEES' LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

Cap. McBride throws the lounge door open. Jack and Louigi
carry Officer Ray in. Laura, Officer Dirk, and the police
officers rush in.

Jack and Louigi carry Officer Ray to the sofa.

As Cap. McBride quickly tries to close the door, a vulture
tries to get in. She closes on the vulture's head and wing.

The vulture attempts to snap at Cap. McBride's finger. Cap.
McBride shoves its head back and manages to close the door.

LAURA
(to Cap. McBride)
We got towels? Officer Ray is
losing a lot of blood.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Yes.

Cap. McBride hurries to a bottom cabinet next to a water fountain. She takes out two towels from the cabinet and hands them to Laura.

Laura uses the towels to put pressure on Officer Ray's cuts.

Officer Bernie shakes Cap. McBride's hand.

OFFICER BERNIE

You managed to keep all these kids safe.

CAP. MCBRIDE

All but the ones by the van.

OFFICER BERNIE

Great job, Captain.

Officer Bernie and Cap. McBride let go of each other's hand.

OFFICER BERNIE (CONT'D)

Ambulance is on his way.

(points to Michael)

Looks like that one could use a ride to the hospital, too. Is he the only one injured?

CAP. MCBRIDE

That's still alive.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Two ambulances speedily drive to a halt beside in the parking lot. Four male emergency responders alight from the vans. They wheel their stretchers as they run into the facility.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The loud sirens seem to scare the vultures as the last one quickly hops down the hallway and out of sight.

The emergency responders run toward the employees' lounge.

Cap. McBride throws the open. The emergency responders rush inside.

The first two carry Officer Ray out, put him on the stretcher and run for the exit. Soon, the other two Michael out, put him on the stretcher and rolls him away.

Jack stands in the doorway watching them go. Cap. McBride pulls him inside and closes the door.

INT. EMPLOYEES' LOUNGE

Some of the inmates and officers sit on recliners and the sofa. The others remain standing.

Scratching noise can be heard coming from the ceilings. Every look up at the ceiling. They all look tense.

OFFICER BERNIE

(to Cap. McBride)

The EMTs called ahead. Let's hope they have Officer Ray's blood type at the hospital. The skin was deeply cut, but it should be stitched back in place. From what I saw, the organs were intact. So, he'll probably live.

CAP. MCBRIDE

That's good to hear. That doesn't solve the problem that now we have a vulture in the ceiling. I do have an idea, though.

OFFICER BERNIE

What's that?

Cap. McBride kicks in the glass of the vending machine, shattering it.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Let's get the food and throw it in the center of the hall. When they all go it, we'll...

Cap. McBride turns to Officer Dirk.

CAP. MCBRIDE (CONT'D)

...Remember last week when we went fishing, Dirk?

Laura gives Officer Dirk a surprised glance. Officer Dirk leans over to her.

OFFICER DIRK

I just happened to run into her at the bridge.

Cap. McBride fix her eyes on Officer Dirk.

OFFICER DIRK (CONT'D)
I saw her fishing and stopped to see if she caught anything.

CAP. MCBRIDE
You had a net.

OFFICER DIRK
Yes, I toss a net off my boat occasionally.

CAP. MCBRIDE
It was in the back of your truck. I remember you offered it to me in case I wanted to toss it into the river since I hadn't caught anything all afternoon. We could bait him with food and then toss the net on these birds.

Louigi's eyes widen in amazement.

LOUIGI
That's perfect.

OFFICER BERNIE
(to Officer Dirk)
Where is the net?

OFFICER DIRK
It's in my car.

More scratches are heard from the ceiling.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Then let's not waste any time in getting it and trapping all these birds.

LAURA
We can't let the one in the ceiling get in here.

Officer Dirk leans toward Laura again.

OFFICER DIRK
Do you think it hears us? It almost seems to be listening.

OFFICER BERNIE
(querulous tone)
I like your plan, Captain. But I don't see how we can make that happen without more weapons.

Cap. McBride slightly opens the door, pointing to where Officer Dirk's truck is parked.

We can see that the vultures have reassembled in the hallway.

JACK

I can get it. I can run faster than any of you. I'll do it.

LAURA

No...

Suddenly, Jack bolts of the lounge.

INT. CELL HALLWAY

Jack runs through the vultures. His nail gun in his hand. He runs out of the facility.

Shortly after, he sprints back holding a large fishing net in one hand. Two vultures attempt to claw him. He shoots them with the nail gun, killing both.

He darts back into...

INT. EMPLOYEES' LOUNGE

Everyone is shocked as Jack enters with the net.

CAP. MCBRIDE

(smiling)

Oh, like that, is it?

Jack holds the net up.

JACK

I got it.

LAURA

Are you crazy?

JACK

Just fast.

OFFICER BERNIE

No shit.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Okay. So we'll toss out this food, wait until they are all in the

(MORE)

CAP. MCBRIDE (cont'd)
middle, and then toss this net on
them. That should keep them in one
place and stop them from flying.

LOUIGI
Sounds like a plan.

Everyone joins in opening the bags of nachos, chips and
candy bars. They toss them into the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY

The vultures start to eat the foods. Soon, they are all
gathered in one place eating the snacks.

INTERCUT: LOUNGE / HALLWAY

Officer Dirk picks up the net. He steps out in the hallway
and begins to whirl it.

The vultures are all distracted eating the snacks.

Officer Dirk lets the net go in one big swoop. The net falls
on the vultures, covering them all. The weight holds them
down.

OFFICER DIRK
Got them.

He quickly rushes over and begins to tie the net to the
furniture in the room.

The birds are all trapped inside the net.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Alright. I want all inmates to go
to the garage and load in the vans.
we're taking you all upstate. Dirk
and Camp will drive you. The rest
of us are getting in our cars and
going home.

LOUIGI
I'm going with my wife.

CAP. MCBRIDE
Fine, this once.

OFFICER BERNIE
We'll give the van a police escort.

The inmates get up to walk out the door. The vultures snap at them, but the net holds them down.

INT. JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER / GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

The inmates hastily enter the biggest van in the garage. Officer Dirk sits behind the wheel, while Laura sits in the passenger seat.

Louigi sits behind Laura.

Officer Dirk readjusts the mirror, glancing at the inmates as they sit. He can't find Jack.

OFFICER DIRK
Where's Jack?

We see Jack helping Marla into the bus. He has his arm around her. They both look happy.

Jack helps Marla up the bus stairs and down to an empty seat.

Laura turns to the inmates.

LAURA
(to Marla)
Glad you could join us. However,
you are not one of our inmates,
Marla. You don't have to come with
us.

OFFICER DIRK
She should go to the hospital and
have her face stitched up.

MARLA
I am going for a ride, and then
I'll go to the hospital. I am
making sure that Jack is fine.

Laura laughs.

LAURA
You don't have to worry about him.
That's one thing I am sure of. Jack
can take care of himself.

Jack hands Laura the nail gun.

JACK

Here, I won't be needing this any longer.

Laura takes the nail gun and puts it in the glove box.

LAURA

You really mind, Marla, going with us for a ride?

Jack and Marla smile at each other.

LAURA (CONT'D)

It's the least we can do after all you did to help us.

JACK

I just want to be with my lady a little longer.

Marla blushes as Jack sits beside her.

Cap. McBride walks out into the garage, holding Douglas's hand. The other officers follow her behind.

MARLA

So you decided to forgive me?

JACK

We got lots to work on, and I got to get freed of my charges.

Cap. McBride sticks her head into the bus.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Don't worry about that. I'll take care of that stealing the car. You raised money for my boy's hospital, killed the biggest vulture, and helped us trap the rest. I think your stealing a car can be forgiven.

JACK

That's funny. I didn't even steal that car. The owner told me to take it for a ride. He wasn't even the one who reported it.

Everyone is surprised.

MARLA

It's true. The Crown set up the whole thing so he would miss the boxing match. Jack is innocent.

Officer Dirk glances over at Laura, still surprised. Then he looks at Jack through the rear-view mirror.

OFFICER DIRK

So, you're here because of a gang war, not because of a missing car.

JACK

It wasn't missing at all. I'm sure now that the Crowns are mostly dead, the owners will come forward with the truth.

LAURA

Then all charges should be dropped. If the car wasn't stolen, you'll be set free as soon as the judge hears all this.

JACK

I hope so.

Jack turns to Marla.

JACK (CONT'D)

That way I can spend time with my baby.

MARLA

I'm still your baby?

Marla's eyes fill with tears.

MARLA (CONT'D)

After all that I did?

JACK

Did you mean what you said? Do you really love me, Marla?

MARLA

(smiles)

I do. But can you love me now that I will probably be all scarred up?

JACK

What's scars?

Jack kisses her lips.

CAP. MCBRIDE

Well, I'll be darn. Looks like things are looking up after all. These two are really in love.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

The JDC van barrels down the highway. The three police cars drive behind them.

INT. JDC VAN - MOVING

Officer Dirk is driving. Laura is in the passenger seat. Louigi, Jack, Marla and the inmates are comfortable in their seats. They all look relaxed.

Suddenly, a loud thud is heard from the roof of the bus. Everyone shoots up their face in fright.

Another loud thud is heard.

JACK

What is that?

LAURA

I don't know.

Laura peers through the window looking up. She sees a vulture flying beside the bus a hundred yards away. She is frightened.

A hint of fear flashes across of Officer Dirk's face.

OFFICER DIRK

How many of them are out there?

LAURA

I can see only one.

Another thump hit the roof of the bus. This time, a vulture rolls down the windshield and falls under the tire.

OFFICER DIRK

It's dead.

Laura turns her focus to the one flying beside the bus. The vulture drops to the ground.

LAURA

That one just died, too.

Jack looks through a window and sees another vulture as it drops out of the sky.

JACK
What's happening to them.

Another vulture hits the roof, and Officer Dirk slows the van down, stopping in the middle of the road.

LAURA
Why did you stop?

Officer Dirk's eyes widen as he points ahead.

OFFICER DIRK
Look ahead.

Laura leans forward staring through the windshield. She is shocked to see several vultures lying motionless on the highway.

JACK
(through gritted teeth)
They are all dying.

Officer Dirk smiles.

OFFICER DIRK
It sure looks that way.

Officer Dirk pushes the gear and sets the bus in motion again. The bus rolls over dead vultures as it continues down the highway.

EXT. JDC UPSTATE PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Several vultures lay scattered across the floor. The JDC van pulls to a stop. Several corrections officers come out of the facility to welcome the bus.

INSIDE THE BUS

Officer Dirk pushes a button and opens the back door. Laura stands on the isle of the bus.

LAURA
Alright. We are going to line up
into the facility where you will be
checked in and assigned a new cell.

Laura leans over to Marla.

LAURA (CONT'D)
 You're free to stay, and we'll give
 you a ride back home.

MARLA
 Thank you.

Marla swallows hard.

MARLA (CONT'D)
 Office Camp.

LAURA
 (smiles)
 My name is Laura. You can call me
 Laura.

One by one, the inmates alight from the van, forming a line
 in front of the upstate officers.

Jack gives Marla one last kiss before standing up from his
 seat and heading out.

MARLA
 I love you, Jack.

Officer Dirk turns to Laura.

OFFICER DIRK
 You know, we're going to be written
 up for not having them in cuffs.

The inmates are escorted into the facility.

Officer Dirk and Laura alight from the bus. An officer
 approaches them.

OFFICER #4
 You Camp and Dirk?

OFFICER DIRK
 I'm Dirk.

LAURA
 I'm Camp.

The office salutes the duo.

OFFICER #4
 Good job. We'll take it from here.

Officer Dirk and Laura salute back.

LAURA

Thanks.

Tears well up Laura's eyes.

OFFICER #4

By the way, we got word from animal control that the disease was actually some form of weird parasite. It only attacks the vultures through their nostrils. This parasite enters their brains and makes them go crazy. It attacks their frontal lobe, the part that tells them that they are full, so they don't have any control of their hunger. The parasite continues to eat their brain until they die.

LAURA

So that's why they all are dying?

Laura glances up as more dead vultures fall from the sky.

INT. JDC VAN - CONTINUOUS

The sun is beginning to set. Officer returns to the driver's seat. Laura sits in the passenger seat. Louigi and Marla are in the back.

LOUIGI

Maybe we should all take a nap.

Louigi closes his eyes.

Officer Dirk starts the engine, and turns the car toward the highway, bumping over dead vultures.

OFFICER DIRK

Sorry, this won't be a smooth ride, Louigi.

LOUIGI

That's okay. Tonight, I am going to sleep in my bed.

LAURA

Oh, I think that sounds like a very good idea.

Laura reaches out to him. Louigi holds her hand. He laughs.

LOUIGI

I hope your parents didn't kill
each other.

OFFICER DIRK

(to Laura)

They really don't get along. Your
house may have turned into a
warzone.

They all laugh.

EXT. LAURA'S HOUSE / BACK YARD - DAY

We are at a wedding. The DJ switches from classical music to
the wedding march, from a PA system.

Laura, dazzling in a long gown, marches beside Douglas, who
is dressed in a little tuxedo with a rose in his lapel.

The patio doors open, Cap. McBride walks out, in a long
white wedding gown. Her hair is covered in white pearls. She
is glowing. She walks slowly behind Douglas.

Officer Dirk stands in a gazebo, watching as his bride
approaches.

Derrek and Lucinda sit in the front row beaming with smiles.
Jack and Marla are in the second row. Marla wears a large
engagement ring on her fourth finger.

Laura's colleagues fill up the remainder of the seats.

TIME CUT:

A pastor stands between Cap. McBride and Officer Dirk as:

PASTOR

I now pronounce you husband and
wife. You may now kiss the bride.

The couple kiss.

Everyone begins to clap. Doofus is seen barking.

LATER.

Laura and Officer Dirk are standing around the wedding cake.
The bride and the attendees are socializing.

The design on the top of the cake is a handcuffed bride
being dragged away by a groom with a badge.

OFFICER DIRK
That's some cake Louigi made.

LAURA
My husband has a sense of humor.

OFFICER DIRK
I love it.

Douglas rushes over to Officer Dirk.

DOUGLAS
Daddy, how much longer?

LAURA
(gladly)
He's calling you daddy now?

Officer Dirk grins.

OFFICER DIRK
He does. I told him after the
wedding we'd go back to his new
playground for a while if he did a
good job as the ringbearer.

DOUGLAS
And I did a great job.

Officer Dirk picks him up.

OFFICER DIRK
Yes, you sure did.

Jack and Marla walk up to Officer Dirk and Laura.

JACK
This is quite a set up.

Jack shakes Officer Dirk's hand.

OFFICER DIRK
Thanks again for helping us build
the playground for Douglas.

JACK
No problem, thanks for getting me
into the police academy.

LAURA
How's that going?

JACK

Got A's on all tests so far. I had no idea how much studying goes in to learning all the codes and regulations.

LAURA

You'll do just fine. We know you'll have a job once you graduate.

OFFICER DIRK

We couldn't have one finer. With you, I know you are willing to risk everything to save someone else and have our backs.

MARLA

He'll be one fine officer.

LAURA

That's good that Jack has support. And how are you?

MARLA

I am going to beauty school to become a cosmetologist. I've always been into hair, make up, and nails. So, I thought I'd enjoy that. You also hear the best gossip as a hairdresser.

LAURA

I wish you both all the best in school. It's hard work, but it pays off, and a degree or certificate is something no one can take away from you.

JACK

We're gonna be just fine.

The DJ begins to play *Frank Sinatra's "My Way"*.

Laura glances over and sees Michael asking Lucinda for a dance.

Lucinda reaches out to take Michael's hand. Derrek quickly grabs her hand mid-air.

DERREK

(to Michael)

You have the next one.

Michael smiles. Derrek and Lucinda hit the dance floor.

Louigi comes out of the house carrying a cage with two doves in it.

OFFICER DIRK
I thought you said no birds?

LOUIGI
May your love last forever.

Officer Dirk wraps his arm around Cap. McBride with Douglas in his arm.

OFFICER DIRK
Amen to that.

Louigi opens the cage. They all watch the doves fly out of it, and into the sky.

SCREEN TO BLACK.

ROLE CREDITS.