



# The Phoenix - 90-Minute Pilot

By Jay A. Swendris (Final, Polished Version)

## ACT ONE - "THE AWAKENING"

### EXT. ANDES MOUNTAINS - DEEP RUINS - NIGHT

Wind whips through a high-altitude dig perched on a razorback ridge. Flood lamps slice through the darkness.

Archaeologists shout over the wind as a massive **BRONZE SARCOPHAGUS** - impossibly light for bronze - is hauled from a collapsed chamber. Natives refuse to approach it.

DR. HENRY KELLER (63), lead archaeologist, studies the sarcophagus with awe and caution.

A fourth wall of the chamber reveals a Sumerian cuneiform tablet, impossibly old for this hemisphere.

DR. ALEJANDRO RAMÍREZ (40s), field leader, cinematic and precise, kneels over the tablet.

DR. RAMÍREZ (reading in awe) This... shouldn't exist. It predates everything here.

DR. KELLER The government insists it stays. Peru's call.

DR. RAMÍREZ I get that... but we can't open it safely in the field. Only UCLA has the equipment.

A tremor shakes dust from the ceiling. Workers scramble. Dr. Ramírez's eyes lock on the sarcophagus-untouched by age.

DR. RAMÍREZ (to his team) Seal it. **Crate** it. We're not losing it tonight.

Lightning flickers. The mountain rumbles. They rush the crate to the convoy.

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## BRIDGE SEQUENCE - "THE OPENING"

### INT. UCLA LAB - NIGHT

The **BRONZE SARCOPHAGUS** rests on a reinforced platform under bright lab lights. Monitors hum. Graduate assistants hover nervously.

DR. JEFF REYNOLDS and DR. KELLER move around the artifact, examining faint seams along its face.

JEREME WATES, the tech specialist, points at a pattern etched into the bronze.

JEREME It's not a weld. It's... resonant. Like it's meant to vibrate.

DR. KELLER A sound lock?

Jereme runs a sonic spectrograph. Peaks and valleys form a distinct musical scale.

JEREME These aren't scratches. They're notes.

DR. REYNOLDS Play it.

Jereme hits a digital keyboard. Tones echo-ancient, metallic G... A... B... C... D... E... F-sharp... G... A... C... D.

The sarcophagus responds-THRUMMM-a low vibration rattles glassware.

DR. KELLER Again.

Jereme plays the sequence perfectly.

The seams glow faintly gold. A central lock turns-click... click... click-THUNK.

Steam rises as the lid hisses open.

Inside lies a 6-foot **BLOND HUMAN MAN**, pristine, ageless, faintly luminescent.

DR. REYNOLDS My God... he looks human.

Suddenly-**LOCKDOWN KLAXONS BLARE.**

AUTOMATED VOICE

Containment breach. Sector Seven sealed.

Steel blast doors slam shut. Lights flicker, failing one by one.

DR. KELLER Nobody move.

Sparks rain from ceiling fixtures. The man's chest rises... falls...

His eyes **SNAP OPEN**-bright gold.

A crackling shockwave bursts outward-lights pop, screens explode. The lab plunges into strobing chaos.

He sits up, calm. He steps out.

Every light he passes dies.

Dr. Reynolds, Dr. Keller, Jereme freeze-unable to see him in the strobing dark.

Silence.

Then- the lights return. Intact. Calm.

The sarcophagus is open. The floor was scorched. Equipment destroyed.

The man is gone.

DR. REYNOLDS (soft) He walked out... in the dark.

JEREME How? The doors sealed-

DR. REYNOLDS Dragnet. Quiet. No police.

The team scrambles.

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## ACT TWO - "AWAKENING"

### INT. UCLA LAB - NIGHT

The bronze sarcophagus stands **open** under bright lights. Residual liquid hums faintly-Bennu is already gone.

DR. KELLER Run tests on that liquid.

Machines attach; sensors spike. The hum grows. The air tingles with static.

DR. REYNOLDS Call it what you want... alien or not, this is beyond comprehension.

JEREME (To Dr. Reynolds, holding a printout) The bronze alloy is typical: copper, gold, zinc. But there's a **100% pure aluminum** vein running through it. That's chemically impossible. Then there's the **15% unknowns**.

DR. REYNOLDS Your ancient alien is alive... sightseeing in Los Angeles. Probably racking up Uber charges.

MAT (slams phone, to Keller) Get the Dragnet rolling. **NOW. No police.**

DR. RAMÍREZ (icy, to Mat) I told you. This is our heritage. The U.S. can't just-  
Papers fly. Peruvian officials seethe. Americans and Peruvians nearly collide.

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## **ACT THREE - "THE OCEAN PATH"**

### **EXT. SWEETWATER DISPENSARY - NIGHT**

NICOLE SIMONS exits the dispensary. CAROLYN HAYES heads inside.

CAROLYN Don't forget to call me if anything weird happens.

Bennu walking barefoot towards Nicole.

NICOLE Weird just walked barefoot out of UCLA.

**(Beat)**

I'll text.

Nicole walks toward her battered '93 Mitsubishi 3000GT. Neon lights reflect off its faded paint.

Bennu waits barefoot, in hospital scrubs.

BENNU If you don't take me to the ocean... I will die.

NICOLE The ocean? We live ten minutes from it. I was going there anyway... to catch the sunrise.

Bennu's gaze meets hers-calm, piercing.

BENNU Then you were going anyway.

Nicole hesitates, stunned.

NICOLE Fine. Get in.

Bennu moves with fluid, unnatural grace into the car. Nicole starts the engine-it growls.

NICOLE I swear... this thing's a miracle sometimes.

### **INT. MITSUBISHI - MOVING - NIGHT**

Desert highway. Nicole drives. Bennu sits, silent, otherworldly. A faint gold shimmer pulses in the dark.

NICOLE You're really... something else.

He only nods.

**EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - COASTLINE PULL-OFF - PRE-DAWN**

Nicole parks on a sandy turnout. The ocean roars in moonlight.

**(A beat. The sky begins to lighten.)**

Bennu steps onto the sand, shimmer growing. Nicole jumps out with her camera.

NICOLE Hold still! The lighting is insane!

He enters the surf. The water glows faintly gold around him.

On the hill above, a black SUV watches. Two MEN IN BLACK take photos.

Nicole stands at the shoreline, soaked, holding Bennu's scrubs. Her camera screen shows the gold shimmer frozen in frames.

NICOLE (whispering) Holy... what the hell am I dealing with?

The ocean hums quietly.

FADE OUT.

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## **ACT FOUR - "RECOVERY"**

**EXT. NICOLE & CAROLYN'S PLACE - MORNING**

Nicole steps onto the deck; flowers sway in a gentle breeze. BENNU sits cross-legged, radiant in the sunlight.

NICOLE (softly) This... this is impossible.

BENNU The plants... they help me breathe.

Nicole trembles, stepping closer.

She exhales, steadying herself.

NICOLE Come inside. Please.

Bennu flinches at the threshold.

NICOLE (startled) You okay?

**INT. NICOLE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY**

The air feels charged. Bennu's gaze drifts to her bookshelf.

BENNU You keep interesting books.

NICOLE Anthropology, conspiracy... too many self-help titles.

Bennu flips a leather-bound book to a phoenix illustration. His eyes meet hers.

BENNU Stories hide truths.

NICOLE You mean... real?

BENNU You know.

BENNU The white clothes-still have them?

NICOLE Yes.

BENNU I'll tell you everything. But first... bring me the person on the tag.

Nicole stiffens, touching the scrubs: Dr. Keller.

NICOLE I already looked him up. Will you be okay here... alone?

BENNU Yes. Thank you.

Nicole grabs her keys. Bennu kneels by the garden window, golden glow flickering faintly.

NICOLE Okay, Doc... UCLA Medical Center. That's where you'll be.

**INT. DR. KELLER'S OFFICE - DAY**

Dr. Keller stuffs papers into a satchel, freezes as Nicole slips inside.

DR. KELLER Who are you? How did you get in here? Did you lose a six-foot blond...?

He hushes her.

DR. KELLER Keep your voice down. Do you have a car? I think mine's bugged.

NICOLE Yeah. Come on. Bennu wants to talk.

Dr. Keller whispers to himself:

DR. KELLER Bennu... I am the Bennu of the Golden Light.

Nicole and Dr. Keller climb into her car.

DR. KELLER I can't tell you much. I was there when he woke up.

NICOLE Spit it out, Doc. What happened?

**INT. NICOLE'S HOUSE - DAY**

Nicole opens the door; Dr. Keller follows. Bennu steps out from the garden, calm.

BENNU I read all your books.

NICOLE (laughing) All of them?

Bennu nods; Dr. Keller freezes.

BENNU Henry please-sit. You look unwell.

Dr. Keller sinks into a chair, trembling.

DR. KELLER How... How did you know my name?

NICOLE Mind reader. Maybe even alien.

BENNU I'm human-just like you.

DR. KELLER Not the same. After... everything...

Bennu rises, voice rolling like thunder.

BENNU I did not ask to be woken! You woke me. Now take responsibility. I woke up at the wrong time. I need your help to survive.

Dr. Keller whispers:

DR. KELLER Of course. I... I can trust you.

Bennu softens. One hand over the Phoenix amulet, the other on Dr. Keller's forehead. A soft gold glow pulses.

**VISION BEATS - BROKEN UP:**

- Symbols flare and fade.
- Equations appear, then dissolve.
- Unknown languages drift past like whispers.

NICOLE (whispers) Holy...

DR. KELLER Wh-what was that?

BENNU Your mind is strong. Give it a second.

DR. KELLER This is... science and alchemy...

**BENNU Atlantis was My home . The last Atlantis outpost was built five hundred thousand years ago.**

DR. KELLER (aghast) Four... hundred...?

BENNU Can you get the materials?

DR. KELLER Yes, but... it'll take clearances Time

BENNU time I don't have .

#### **ACT FOUR - CONTINUED**

#### **INT. NICOLE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Dr. Keller sits forward, hands shaking slightly. Bennu stands calm, almost shimmering with quiet power.

DR. KELLER I've got... back-door connections. But it'll cost you.

A beat.

NICOLE How much?

DR. KELLER No less than seven-hundred fifty thousand. **For the iridium and the housing alone. It's not for me.**

Bennu doesn't flinch.

BENNU You'll have it in two days.

Dr. Keller freezes-thrown by the certainty in Bennu's voice. He grabs his satchel and backs toward the door.

DR. KELLER I'll... I'll be in touch.

He leaves, still shaky.

Nicole stares at him, heart hammering.

**INT. NICOLE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Nicole stands over Bennu with her arms crossed, pacing a few steps.

NICOLE **Where** are you going to get three-quarters of a million dollars?

Bennu sits calmly on the edge of her couch.

BENNU How much do you have?

NICOLE Cold hard cash? ... Fifteen hundred.

Nicole stops pacing, running a hand through her hair, exasperated.

BENNU I saw the likeness of you and your friend in a **sanctuary of calculated chance**.

Nicole blinks.

NICOLE A sanctuary of... (realizing) Oh. You mean that resort I did a story on. Just outside Vegas.

BENNU Yes. Green Valley Ranch Resort Casino & Spa. Much money there.

Nicole narrows her eyes, pacing again for a beat.

NICOLE Dammit. Stop reading my mind!

Bennu tilts his head, faintly smiling.

BENNU Will you take me there?

Nicole stops, stunned.

NICOLE You? At a casino? (beat) This I've got to see.

Bennu rises slightly, glowing amber, eyes fixed on hers.

Nicole groans, half-laughing, half-terrified.

NICOLE God help Las Vegas.

FADE OUT.

**EXT. NICOLE'S DRIVEWAY - DAY**

Two cars sit in the driveway: Nicole's hatchback and a dead Tesla.

BENNU This transport yours?

NICOLE Yeah. Tesla's electric. Won't last a block.

Bennu touches the Tesla's hood, closing his eyes briefly. The car hums faintly, but stays dead.

He moves to the hatchback.

NICOLE What was that?

Bennu only smiles faintly, amber eyes glowing.

BENNU I talked to your friend's transport. No problems now.

Nicole shakes her head, smiling.

NICOLE You're impossible.

#### **INT. NICOLE'S CAR - HIGHWAY - DAY**

Nicole drives, hands firm on the wheel. Bennu sits beside her, the Phoenix amulet glowing faintly.

NICOLE (hands-free, into phone) Hey Carolyn-big favor.

#### **INT. DISPENSARY - SAME**

Carolyn Hayes stocks jars, smirking.

CAROLYN Mmm-hmm. Anything to do with that stone-cold stud I saw in your car today? Ok girl see you in a couple .

The two pull away.

#### **EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY**

Nicole's battered 3000GT speeds across the desert. The sun glints off the worn paint.

#### **INT. NICOLE'S CAR - DAY**

Nicole drives, keeping an eye on Bennu in the passenger seat. His Phoenix amulet pulses faintly under his shirt.

NICOLE You sure you're okay?

BENNU (smiles weakly) Yes. Just... over-stretched. Thirty minutes of rest. That's all.

He closes his eyes. The radio crackles,

NICOLE Okay... so electronics just tap out around you. Good to know.

He doesn't respond-already drifting. Nicole's eyes flick to the horizon.

NICOLE (V.O.) Carolyn's gonna lose her mind when she hears this. Atlantis... Poseidia... What the hell did I just pick up on the side of the road?

Nicole's breathing steadies. She drives on.

### **WIDE SHOT - DESERT HIGHWAY - SUNSET**

The 3000GT carves through the endless desert. In the distance, the first shimmering glow of Las Vegas rises like a mirage.

### **EXT. GREEN VALLEY RANCH RESORT & SPA - NIGHT**

Nicole pulls under the glowing entrance. A valet rushes up. Nicole steps out confidently; Bennu follows,

VALET Welcome.

### **INT. RESORT LOBBY - NIGHT**

Golden chandeliers hang above the soft rattle of slot machines. Nicole approaches the counter with forced confidence.

NICOLE Room for two. Simmons. Nicole Simons.

DESK CLERK Yes, ma'am. Room 248.

Nicole exhales. Bennu looks around with an ancient, timeless stillness.

### **INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT**

Room service trays sit steaming on the desk. Nicole sits on one bed, Bennu on the other. For the first time-quiet. Safety. Space.

NICOLE Okay. We're here. Start talking. Atlantis. Poseidia. What were those?

Nicole's recorder app is already running.

NICOLE Us who?

BENNU People who lived here long before your recorded history. Before the floods. Before the wars.

## **INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT**

Nicole leans in, voice barely a whisper.

NICOLE And humans? What were they to the Anunnaki?

BENNU Cattle. **The Anunnaki saw us** as a genetic signature of ownership.

Nicole recoils.

NICOLE Jesus...

BENNU We wanted progress. They wanted worship. Atlantis was real, Nicole. A city of harmony - not chains.

Nicole's breath catches.

NICOLE: Show me.

BENNU Sleep. I'll carry you safely.

Nicole collapses onto the bed, mid-gummy. Out like a light.

BENNU (softly) Pleasant dreams.

## **EXT. ATLANTIS - DREAM SEQUENCE - SUNRISE**

Nicole stands on a marble balcony overlooking a radiant city. Golden domes, crystal towers, copper-lined bridges, alive with energy.

Benu stands beside her, glowing and rejuvenated.

BENNU Welcome to Atlantis, Nicole. Walk it as if awake.

## **INT. ATLANTIS - DREAM SEQUENCE - SUNRISE**

Nicole wanders through the city, awe-struck. Golden light reflects off crystal towers.

Copper-lined bridges hum with life. Gardens glow faintly blue as students meditate above water.

She reaches out, mesmerized.

## **INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAWN**

Nicole jolts awake, breath sharp.

NICOLE How many times have you done that?

BENNU Never. Not in thirteen hundred years awake. It was... too personal.

Nicole swallows, deeply moved.

BENNU The sun. Excuse me .

Without hesitation-

NICOLE Yeah. Go.

### **EXT. HOTEL BALCONY - DAWN**

Bennu steps into the rising sun. A golden pulse spreads from his amulet, washing over his body like a slow sunrise.

BENNU I'm not a god, Nicole. I'm human - like you. So if I am a god... then so are you.

Nicole stands frozen, shaken to her core.

### **INT./EXT. VEGAS CASINO - MID DAY - MONTAGE**

FAST, HIGH-ENERGY MONTAGE:

- Bennu sits at blackjack: wins instantly.
- He predicts roulette spins without touching chips.
- Slot machines glitch, then hit jackpots as he walks by.
- Nicole stacks chips, eyes wide.
- Waitresses stare. Dealers whisper.
- Surveillance cameras pan toward Bennu.

SUPER: 3 HOURS LATER - \$1.2 MILLION

Security finally takes notice.

### **INT./EXT. VEGAS CASINO - NIGHT**

BENNU We should go. Now.

Lights flicker around them - slot machines hiccup, digital displays stutter.

### **EXT. CASINO VALET - NIGHT**

Nicole drags Bennu toward the car. A guard lunges, grabbing Bennu's arm.

CRACK!

A blue arc of electricity leaps from Bennu's skin. The guard drops, stunned, **a thin line of smoke curling from his uniform.**

Bennu shrugs, casual.

Nicole shoves him into the 3000GT and slams the gas. The car roars onto the street - Vegas lights fading behind them.

#### **EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - NIGHT**

Nicole's battered Mitsubishi hums along the empty road. The neon city lights are swallowed by desert darkness.

Nicole grips the wheel, glancing at Bennu. He sits quietly, amulet faintly pulsing.

#### **EXT. LOLA'S KITCHEN - BARSTOW - NIGHT**

A lonely diner glows warmly in the middle of nowhere. Nicole's Mitsubishi sits dusty in the lot.

#### **INT. LOLA'S KITCHEN - BOOTH - NIGHT**

Nicole and Bennu sit across from each other. Steam rises from their coffee cups.

NICOLE What happens if it stops working?

Bennu stares at it, calm.

BENNU Then I stop working.

Nicole blinks, frozen mid-french fry, processing the weight of that.

#### **INT. LOLA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Nicole leans back, exhausted.

NICOLE Okay... absolutely no pressure.

They share a thin, exhausted laugh. Nicole's eyes catch movement outside: cops and surveillance agents circling her Mitsubishi. Flashlights sweep the seats, the trunk, her camera bag.

NICOLE (whispers) Time to go.

They slide out of the booth fast-drop a \$20

#### **EXT. DESERT BEHIND LOLA'S - NIGHT**

Nicole and Bennu sprint across sand, keeping low. Cops shout behind them, lights flashing.

BENNU There-shelter.

A rotting, half-collapsed shack leans in the moonlight. They run for it.

### **INT. ABANDONED SHACK - NIGHT**

Nicole lights a match. A weak campfire flickers to life.

Bennu collapses on a torn mattress, eyes half-shut, breathing ragged. The amulet barely glows.

NICOLE Bennu-hey, stay with me.

BENNU (struggling) Too weak... bring Dr. Keller.

NICOLE I'll get him. Don't move. Don't... die.

Hours pass. Dawn filters through broken boards. The amulet flickers faintly.

### **EXT. SHACK PORCH - MORNING**

Bennu slumps in a splintered chair, barely conscious. Nicole shoulders her bag.

NICOLE Point me toward Barstow.

Bennu gestures weakly. Nicole adjusts the direction.

NICOLE Yeah. Still wrong. I got it.

She forces a shaky laugh, gives him one last look, and heads into the desert.

### **EXT. DESERT - DAY**

Nicole treks for miles under brutal heat. Barstow rises on the horizon. Her Mitsubishi sits alone in the lot - cops gone.

NICOLE Perfect.

She slips in, fires it up, and tears out.

### **INT. MITSUBISHI - HIGHWAY - DAY**

Nicole's phone powers on; she taps a message.

NICOLE Google-text Dr. K...

On-screen text appears: "ON MY WAY. BE READY IN 45 MIN AT MY HOUSE."

Nicole floors it. Speedometer climbs: 100... 120... 130 MPH.

## **INT. DR. KELLER'S OFFICE - MORNING**

Dr. Keller reviews notes. His phone buzzes: Nicole's message. His eyes widen. He stands abruptly.

DR. KELLER Ted, I'll be out the rest of the day.

TED Got it, Dr. K.

Dr. Keller strides out. Ted stays seated, **staring intensely at his PHONE**. His **BANKING APP** is open, showing a recent deposit of **\$150,000** from a foreign account.

TED (whispering to the phone) Okay... I earned this.

Nicole arrives home. Dr. Keller and Nicole drive toward the shack, shadowed at a distance by two black SUVs. They pull in and unload the van while Bennu assembles the device inside.

## **INT. SHACK - WORK TABLE - DAY**

Bennu lowers the amulet into the crystal basin. Nothing.

Then-a single pulse, then another, each faster than the last. The basin erupts in blinding white-gold light.

Nicole shields her eyes. Dr. Keller steps back, stunned.

Bennu lifts the glowing amulet and plunges it into a bowl of purified water. Steam swirls upward, curling around his arms like smoke. He slips the amulet over his neck.

CLOSE ON BENNU - veins glow softly beneath his skin. He gasps, breath sharp, ragged - then steadies. He collapses into the chair, but his eyes blaze awake.

BENNU Every cell... soaking up the energy.

Nicole exhales, relief washing over her.

## **EXT. RIDGE OVERLOOKING THE SHACK - LATE MORNING**

Bubba and Roy, two grizzled local cops, crouch behind a bush. Below: the shack, a canyon, and distant desert all in frame.

ROY Remember that meth RV raid?

BUBBA Yeah. (beat) This is... bigger.

## **EXT. SHACK - FRONT - CONTINUOUS**

Bennu steps onto the porch, steadier now, eyes scanning the desert. A distant dust cloud rises-the NSA strike team is closing in.

Bennu turns to Dr. Keller.

BENNU You were followed.

Before Dr. Keller can respond - **BOOM!** Bennu flicks a hand. The shack's doors slam, windows seal, shutters SNAP shut like steel jaws. Nicole jumps back. Dr. Keller stumbles.

NICOLE What-what are you doing?

BENNU Protecting you.

Outside, SUVs skid into position. Soldiers fan out, weapons raised. A loudspeaker crackles.

#### **EXT. SHACK - FRONT - DAY**

TED'S VOICE (O.S.) (over PA) Bennu! Step out now! No one has to get hurt!

Nicole's eyes widen - recognizing the voice. Bennu's V.O. overlays like memory and warning:

BENNU (V.O.) You woke me. I am nobody's god. I am a man - A free man.

Radios explode in soldiers' hands - sparks fly, static screams. Soldiers stagger back, shouting. They launch tear gas canisters - but mid-air, they detonate into harmless white dust.

The NSA LEADER steps forward, lowering his visor.

NSA LEADER Let's see if you can stop a bullet.

Nicole gasps. Bennu turns to her and Dr. Keller - calm, resolute.

BENNU (out the back - now) Both of you. Run. Do not look back.

Nicole hesitates - but Bennu's eyes leave no room for argument. They slip out the back, vanishing into the desert brush.

#### **EXT. SHACK - FRONT - CONTINUOUS**

Bennu steps outside, hands lowered in peace.

A single soldier - eyes glassy with green neuro-serum - twitches. He is faster than the others.

He **FIRES**. A green-tinged tranquilizer round slams into Bennu's chest.

Bennu jerks - stumbles - still standing, but barely. His amulet sputters. The desert holds its breath.

FADE OUT.

**EXT. SHACK - FRONT - CONTINUOUS**

The amulet erupts in a blinding blast, a shockwave of gold and white. Agents stagger back, shielding their eyes.

A final pulse - pure, searing brilliance - and then - the amulet is gone.

**EXT. SHACK - BACK - CONTINUOUS**

Nicole dives under the dash of an NSA SUV, ripping panels, twisting wires. She glances down - stops.

**A low, golden thrumming begins.** The amulet now hangs around her neck, glowing softly, warm against her skin.

Nicole snaps her eyes open. She rips a final pair of wires and connects them. The SUV's engine **CATCHES, LOUDLY.**

NICOLE (**Quiet, resolute**) I know where they're going.

**INT. BLACK SUV - HIGHWAY - DAY**

Dr. Keller scrambles into the passenger seat as Nicole slams the shifter.

DR. KELLER You're wearing Bennu's amulet?

NICOLE Yes. For safekeeping.

Dr. Keller reaches toward it - **ZAP!** A snap of energy arcs through his fingers. He jerks back.

DR. KELLER Damn! What was that?!

Nicole grips the wheel, eyes burning forward.

**EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS**

The SUV tears across the flats at 125 MPH, dust exploding behind them. Nicole keeps one hand on the wheel - the other on the amulet, like she's listening to it.

NICOLE (soft, to herself) You've got forty-five minutes. You ask... I'll try to answer.  
**This is why I started my blog, Doc. This is the story. I'm all in.**

**MONTAGE - RACING TO UCLA**

- The SUV weaving through winding desert roads.
- Nicole's knuckles bone-white on the wheel.

- Dr. Keller scribbling furious notes, eyes darting to the amulet's glow.
- Nicole followed an unseen pull, calm, steady, almost guided.

**EXT. UCLA - DAY**

The SUV skids into an empty lot - ahead of everyone. Nicole kills the engine.

DR. KELLER How do you know what to do?

Nicole rests her hand on the amulet.

NICOLE It's... a feeling.

**INT. DR. KELLER'S OFFICE - DAY**

Dr. Keller locks the door. Nicole dials.

NICOLE (into phone) Carolyn?

CAROLYN (V.O.) Hey girl! Big surprise for you-

NICOLE Hold that thought. I need your help. I'm taking my blog on the road... with Bennu on his search.

CAROLYN (V.O.) How long?

NICOLE Don't know yet. Pack my camping gear, outdoor clothes, and the leather book with the bird. Bring it to work.

She hangs up.

KNOCK KNOCK.

TED (O.S.) It's me.

Dr. Keller yanks the door open. Ted steps in - haunted.

DR. KELLER Get the fuck in here.

TED I know... I'm here to help. Maybe fix what I broke.

Nicole touches his shoulder gently.

NICOLE Okay, Ted. Do you mean it?

TED Yes.

He hands her folded scrubs.

TED Mat said he needs you. You? Student nurse.

Nicole takes them.

NICOLE Can we see him? Alone?

TED Working on it.

The amulet flickers under her shirt.

### **INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY**

Ted, Dr. Keller, and Nicole stride toward the O.R. Every step tighter. Heavier. Higher stakes.

MAT (O.S.) Keller! Get in here. You too, girly.

### **INT. MAT'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS**

MATHEW DONOVAN shuts the door behind them - sharp, focused.

MAT Ted can handle the O.R. Don't let our friends take him.

NICOLE Our friends?

MAT The ones circling like vultures. Bennu is our **subject**. The U.S. government will kill him if they get their hands on him.

Nicole studies him.

NICOLE You can't stand the idea of locking him up. Am I right?

Mat freezes - caught - then smirks.

They suit up. Scrubs. Masks. Gloves.

### **INT. RECOVERY ROOM - LATER**

DR. RAMÍREZ Bennu... I understand your anger. Your disappointment. But their cruelty comes from ignorance. They cannot grasp what stands before them.

BENNU (quiet) What do you think I am?

Dr. Ramírez trembles with awe.

DR. RAMÍREZ The deity - Bennu. The symbol. By right of history... you belong to my country. To our traditions. We still venerate you.

Bennu studies him - tired but patient.

BENNU Traditions as if they are me. They are not. They are stories. I am flesh and breath. I have none of the claims you place upon me.

Dr. Ramírez swallows - faith cracking.

Bennu lies resting, breath steady. Nicole sits beside him, clutching the amulet. Dr. Keller leans close; Mat and Ted guard the door.

Silence. The amulet pulses faintly in Nicole's hand.

DR. RAMÍREZ (soft) I did not come here to lose hope.

BENNU Then spend it on people who don't try to own the world.

Dr. Ramírez nods - wounded but respectful - and leaves.

Nicole exhales. Bennu sinks back, exhausted.

#### **INT. RECOVERY ROOM - NIGHT**

Dr. Ramírez gone. Mat, Dr. Keller, and Ted gather close.

NICOLE So... what now?

BENNU I will not live in a cage.

MAT You won't. We work together. You stay free - we keep the wolves off your back. Deal?

BENNU I'm listening.

Bennu's eyes flutter. Mat nods to Nicole.

BENNU Nicole... may I have it back?

She hesitates... then nods. The amulet melts out of her skin - painless - and reforms on Bennu's chest.

A soft golden glow fills the room.

BENNU I am proud of you.

Mat tosses two wallets onto the bed.

MAT Covers. Cards. IDs - clean.

NICOLE And when this goes public-

MAT / KELLER / TED (overlapping) Yes, Nicole.

### **INT. BENNU'S ROOM - DAY**

Mat closes the door.

MAT Before you disappear - the tracker's gotta go.

Bennu raises his arm. Mat slices - the chip pops out. Skin seals instantly.

MAT Still wild to watch.

He checks his watch.

MAT Three minutes. Move.

He hands Bennu fresh scrubs. Nicole grabs her phone. Mat taps his device.

MAT We're synced. Weekly check-ins. You're free.

BENNU For now. Because of her.

NICOLE Bennu... you scared the hell out of me.

He touches his chest - no wound.

BENNU The amulet... chose well.

Nicole blushes and hides it beneath her collar. Bennu smiles - gentle.

BENNU Thank you.

### **ACT 4 - RECOVERY ROOM - NIGHT**

#### **MONTAGE - ESCAPE ROUTE**

- Security feeds glitch.
- Ted leads them through staff corridors.
- Mat's encrypted signal scrambles NSA trackers.
- Agents miss them by seconds.
- Back door slams open into bright sunlight.

### **INT. TED'S SUV - DAY**

Ted floors it.

TED Where am I going?!

NICOLE No tails. Head for Sweetwater.

TED The dispensary?

NICOLE (grins) Yep.

**EXT. SWEETWATER DISPENSARY - DAY**

They pull in. Nicole freezes - staring at her car. Gleaming. Restored. New wrap: bark blue.

NICOLE Is that...?

CAROLYN (jogging out) We all chipped in. New wrap, fixed bodywork, seats, radio.

**INT. DISPENSARY - CONTINUOUS**

Warm lighting. Incense drifting. Bennu moves among shelves - calm, curious.

A worried mother pleads with a budtender. Her son, CONNOR (15), sits with swollen, inflamed hands. Bennu kneels.

BENNU I'm Bennu.

CONNOR Connor.

BENNU Your hands hurt.

CONNOR Every day.

Bennu cups Connor's hands. A soft hum - swelling melts away. Connor gasps.

CONNOR Oh my god-

BENNU No gods. Just healing.

**EXT. DISPENSARY - PARKING LOT - DAY**

Nicole runs her hand over her restored car.

NICOLE My baby got new clothes.

BENNU Your... car. It suits you.

Carolyn tosses her the keys. Nicole slips behind the wheel. Bennu sits beside her.

NICOLE So - where to?

BENNU East-central Arizona. Apache-Sitgreaves Forest.

NICOLE Then let's roll.

They pull out, sun glinting off the amulet.

### **INT. NSA CONTROL ROOM - UNKNOWN LOCATION**

Dark. Cold. Monitors play Bennu's hospital footage. A hand taps a screen.

VOICE (O.S.) We found him.

Another monitor light - DR. RAMÍREZ on a secure line.

DR. RAMÍREZ He belongs to us. I'm not done.

### **EXT. HIGHWAY - SUNSET**

Nicole's restored car speeds across a desert horizon burning gold. Bennu watches the fading sun - alive, uncertain, hopeful.

NICOLE First lesson?

Bennu smiles - a soft smile with galaxies inside.

BENNU In time.

They disappear into the glowing horizon.

FADE OUT.

### **THE SEARCH FOR MIRA**