

## **CONSPIRACY TO OMIT MURDER**

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CAMPFIRE CIRCLE - NIGHT

Handsome but unconscious ADRIEL LONG (30) rests in one of two Adirondack chairs around the fire pit at a vintage 1960s RV Park. He has a slight grin on his unshaven face and wears a tight-fitting down jacket with his hands in his pockets, designer jeans, and Vans tennis shoes. He has a man bun hairstyle. A near-empty bottle of tequila rests in his crotch. A small fire burns in the pit. We HEAR the voice of Adriel's wife, BIRDIE (32).

BIRDIE (V.O.)

Everyone knows my husband needed an attitude adjustment after years of womanizing and drinking. We didn't want him murdered, but we needed to find out where he spotted that damn rare bird to increase business at our RV park.

(beat, innocently)

Oh. Our health insurance expired last month and his life insurance premium is due next month and we don't have the money. What's a woman to do?

JUDY JENKINS (20s), a sexy woman in a short pink bathrobe and flip flops struts in front of Adriel on the way to the restroom. She carries a bath bag and smartphone,

JUDY

Hi, Adriel. The rumor around camp is that you saw the crossbill today. I'll be back to get the details. I'm sure you'll tell me, and only me, where you saw it.

(whispers to him)

As you know from last night, I prefer the ladies' shower to the tiny one in Betsy's RV. Wanna watch?

Judy struts off to the restroom whispering into her phone.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Hey, Siri, can a drunk man still get an erection? Asking for a friend.

CHERYL MANN (35) swoops in behind Adriel. She wears flannel PJs and carries a BRAND tablet computer. She rubs a hand across Adriel's shoulders in a seductive way and whispers.

CHERYL

Hi, honey. It's me, Cheryl. You'll give your crossbill sighting report to me instead of that trisexual tramp, Judy.

(shakes her head)

She'll try anything.

We HEAR the wimpy voice of LARRY MANN (35) from the open door of an RV on the far side of the park.

LARRY (O.S.)

Cheryl, dear. The baby wants to be fed to sleep and Arvin wants go out and light off more firecrackers!

Cheryl turns and yells across the park.

CHERYL

Jesus, Larry, can't you do anything?

She pats Adriel's shoulder and shakes her head in disgust.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

It's his fault the baby won't take a bottle from him. I'll be back before that exhibitionist sister of mine finishes doing God knows what she does in the shower!

Cheryl storms off.

We HEAR the soft female voice of TALIA SMITH (24) who strums a guitar inside a deluxe Sprinter on the other side of the camp. [The song is "Ba Ba Ba Ba Ba Bakersfield" by the Gasbreakers]. She has a beautiful voice, but her new Country-Western song is comically awful.

TALIA (O.S.)

Ba Ba Ba Ba Ba Bakersfield, a goldless empire in a cotton field, it's a mirage you'll see, sagebrush forming a tasteless city, you lead the nation in perspiration, you're like a canker sore that won't heal...

We HEAR Talia's husband, ZACH SMITH (30s), yells.

ZACH (O.S.)  
Not now, Talia! I'm on a zoom  
conference! Take it to the fire  
pit!

TALIA (O.S.)  
Screw you, Zach! You've never  
supported my music career!

We HEAR the door of Sprinter swing open and slam shut. Talia  
stomps toward the fire pit with a guitar in her hand.

ZACH (O.S.)  
It's not a career unless you get  
paid, and no one's gonna pay to  
hear that!

Talia grumbles as she reaches the fire pit and collapses into  
the second Adirondack chair, ignoring Adriel.

TALIA  
That asshole! Stay focused. Stay  
Shania Twain focused!

Talia has a notebook with scribbled song lyrics on it. The  
title reads, "Ba Ba Ba Ba Ba Bakersfield."

She begins to strum and make up lyrics as Judy saunters in  
front of them returning from the shower with wet hair.

TALIA (CONT'D)  
Ba Ba Ba Ba Ba Bakersfield, a  
goldless empire in a cotton field.

Talia writes down the lyrics, then strums and sings more.

TALIA (CONT'D)  
It's a mirage you'll see, sagebrush  
forming a tasteless city.

Talia writes down the lyrics, then the word, "Chorus," below  
which are four scribbled lines impossible to read.

She pauses to think.

She smiles and sings loudly.

TALIA (CONT'D)  
You lead the nation in  
perspiration, you're like a canker  
sore that won't heal.  
(MORE)

TALIA (CONT'D)

A desert-like wasteland called  
California's playground, you're an  
ocean-less beach with an oil spill.  
Ba ba ba ba Bakersfield...

Judy claps mockingly to stop the song.

JUDY

(interrupts)

Love your music, Talia, but I've  
got to get a bird sighting from  
Adriel. If you'll excuse us.

Cheryl returns yelling and adjusting her breast in a feeding  
bra inside her flannel PJs.

CHERYL

I have a meeting scheduled with  
Adriel. Damnit, Judy, go back to  
that freak of nature sugar mama of  
yours...

BETSY JENKINS (30s), sneaks up behind Cheryl in a Japanese  
kimono. She's a masculine-looking woman with a disarmingly  
sweet disposition.

BETSY

That's not very kind, Cheryl.  
Please don't torment your sister  
like you do your poor husband.

Cheryl turns on Betsy in anger and yells.

CHERYL

Stay out of this, Betsy. Adriel  
knows something about that rare One-  
Eyed Yellow-Breasted Crossbill and  
he's gonna tell us where he saw it  
or we'll all kill him!

Birdie stomps up to the fire pit wearing a vintage 1960s  
housecoat and an angry expression at Adriel. She points a  
FLASHLIGHT at his face.

BIRDIE

I thought I'd find you here!

TALIA

Hey, Birdie.

JUDY

Hi, Birdie.

CHERYL  
Sorry about all the noise.

BETSY  
(to Cheryl)  
She's not sorry.

Birdie slaps Adriel lightly on the back of his head as she glares at the bottle of near-empty tequila in his lap.

BIRDIE  
Been drinking, I see.

The women see Adriel's head swing to the side without expression.

TALIA  
He looks dead.

JUDY  
He's just asleep. Cheryl, what do you think? You're used to sleeping husbands.

Betsy tries to pull Judy away.

BETSY  
Come on, Judy. You won't get the bird-sighting information from him tonight!

Birdie is compassionate.

BIRDIE  
Poor Adriel's drunk! Help me get him up!

Talia stands and puts her guitar in the chair, as Judy puts her phone in her bathrobe pocket and tosses her bath bag down.

Birdie rips the near-empty tequila bottle from Adriel's crotch, and sets the bottle down.

The ladies pull Adriel up from the chair and stand him up.

Adriel MOANS.

Birdie is the first to see a big blood stain on his stomach.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
He's been shot! Call 9-1-1!

Judy whips out her phone to make the call as Birdie and Talia lay Adriel on the ground. Accidentally, the back of Adriel's head hits the ground with a thud as it lands on a fist-sized boulder.

TALIA  
I'll get Zach.

Talia races off as Adriel MOANS again and Birdie pushes aside the boulder under Adriel's head.

They HEAR a DISPATCH OFFICER (30s, female).

DISPATCH OFFICER (O.S.)  
Emergency Services. Who's calling?

Judy panics and hands her phone to Birdie, then Judy moves away to hug Betsy.

BIRDIE  
This is Birdie Long. My husband's been shot!

DISPATCH OFFICER (O.S.)  
Where...?

BIRDIE  
In the stomach.

JUDY  
Betsy, you're almost a doctor. Do something!

Adriel MOANS.

DISPATCH OFFICER (O.S.)  
No, where are you located?

BIRDIE  
At the Days of Views RV Park outside of town. We need the Sheriff.

DISPATCH OFFICER (O.S.)  
I'll send the ambulance...

BIRDIE  
No, he'll be fine. Just send the Sheriff.

BETSY  
He doesn't look fine to me.

Birdie stares into Adriel's eyes with love and concern.

DISPATCH OFFICER (O.S.)  
I'll send both.

Adriel MOANS.

BIRDIE  
Okay! Please hurry. It looks like  
we're losing him.

Birdie ends the call, pulls Adriel's head up by his man bun, angrily grabs the boulder his head landed on, and glares at it in the dark.

Birdie is alone at Adriel's side as Cheryl, Betsy, and Judy huddle several feet away and whisper angrily.

JUDY  
If he dies, we'll never know where  
he saw the crossbill.

BETSY  
We'll just have to find it  
ourselves.

CHERYL  
I'm going to find it first.

Judy, Betsy, and Cheryl fake sad expressions as they look back to Adriel.

Birdie tosses the rock into the fire pit and begins CPR as Judy races back to the fire pit pulling Betsy behind by her Japanese kimono.

Birdie ceases the CPR.

BIRDIE  
It's no use. I think he's gone.

Betsy bends over Adriel and checks for his pulse in a few places around the neck.

Birdie and Judy look on perplexed as Talia races back to the fire pit pulling Zach against his will. Zach wears a short smoking jacket, long PJs, and flip-flops. He carries a glass of Scotch.

One of Zach's PJ legs is hiked up and shows an ankle monitor.

Talia secretly tips Zach off to adjust his PJs to hide the monitor and he does before anyone else notices.

ZACH  
Poor Birdie. She'll never be able  
to manage the park without Adriel.

Zach looks unconcerned as he toasts his drink.

ZACH (CONT'D)  
Rest in peace.

Everyone stares at Zach, then at Adriel.

SILENCE

Adriel MOANS.

Everyone's eyes open wide as they hear SIRENS.

EXT. CAMPFIRE CIRCLE - LATER

Adriel is on a gurney with two EMTs (various ages, types)  
about to load him into the ambulance.

Handsome Deputy Sheriff ALEJANDRO SANTOS (40) takes a  
statement from Birdie off to the side of the fire pit, which  
is now a roaring fire surrounded by the campers.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
(looking at his notebook)  
So, several campers passed by your  
husband not knowing he was shot,  
and...

Deputy Santos looks up into Birdie's sad eyes and he is  
smitten. They share a moment until Betsy yells.

BETSY  
His head's bleeding pretty bad!

BIRDIE  
It must have happened when Judy,  
Talía, and I lowered him down to  
the ground so all that blood  
wouldn't leak out of his stomach.

BETSY  
She brought him back to life. C-P-R  
or whatever. I saw the whole thing!

Deputy Santos glances at Betsy.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Who are you again?

BETSY  
Former child television personality  
now Chiropractor to the Stars, Dr.  
Betsy Jenkins.

The Deputy looks back to Birdie when Judy yells.

JUDY  
I saw him first on the way to the  
bathroom.

Birdie glares at Judy and Betsy.

BIRDIE  
The Deputy is obviously well-  
trained in the big city and he  
knows what he's doing. Let him do  
his job!

The Deputy spins his head back to Judy.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Mr. Long was heading to the  
bathroom?

JUDY  
No, I was. Betsy won't let me...

TALIA  
I was sitting right next to him...

DEPUTY SANTOS  
And you are?

TALIA  
Singer songwriter Talia Smith  
from...

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Did you realize Mr. Long was  
injured?

TALIA  
Not until Birdie joined us...

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Look, it's late. I'll be back in  
the morning to get more complete  
statements from all of you. Right  
now, I need you all to return to  
your RVs.

The campers disperse and the EMTs finish loading Adriel into  
the ambulance.

Birdie softly grabs the Deputy's arm.

BIRDIE  
I can't leave the camp. I'm  
responsible for all my campers  
and...

The Deputy moves in kissing close.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
It's okay. I'll follow the  
ambulance to the hospital and call  
you for details if I need them.

Birdie hugs the Deputy briefly.

BIRDIE  
Thank you, Deputy Santos.

He turns to walk away, but Birdie pulls him back by the arm.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
Remember, he let our health  
insurance lapse so...

DEPUTY SANTOS  
(looks in her eyes)  
Remove the bullet for my  
investigation and stabilize the  
patient so you can nurse him back  
to health at home.

BIRDIE  
Thank you, Deputy! You're a life  
saver.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
From what I hear, you're the life  
saver with CPR. And don't worry,  
Ma'am, I'll find out who shot your  
husband!

BIRDIE  
Thank you, Deputy. I surprised  
myself with the CPR. No one knows  
what they're capable of until an  
emergency.  
(beat)  
Call me, Birdie. Everybody does.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
It's my pleasure, Birdie. Call me,  
Alejandro.

BIRDIE

Alejandro. Defender of the people.

The Deputy smiles.

DEPUTY SANTOS

That's right. You're a smart one.  
See you in the morning when I come  
back for statements.

He begins to walk away.

BIRDIE

I'll have hot coffee ready.

The Deputy waves without turning around. He has a worried look as he drives away and eyes Birdie in the mirror.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES - MORNING

Betsy, Cheryl, and Talia are sitting, and Judy stands at the head of the table. They are all dressed in bird-watcher field clothes with utility vests. Each has binoculars and a smartphone. Behind Cheryl is a banner on the fence that reads, "Save the One-eyed Yellow-breasted Crossbill" with a rudimentary sketch of the awkward-looking bird. They glare at each other like suspects.

CHERYL

(sarcastic)

What a surprise! My sister, Judy,  
is stealing the spotlight again!

Judy glares at Cheryl.

JUDY

(friendly)

I've called this emergency meeting  
of the Friends of the O-E-Y-B  
Crossbill Committee for obvious  
reasons.

(deadly serious)

One of you tried to kill Adriel so  
he couldn't, and you could, report  
the next Crossbill sighting and  
become famous!

The group grunts and grumbles.

BETSY

I agree. It's no coincidence that the last person to see the threatened and endangered bird was shot dead!

Judy protests.

JUDY

We all wished him dead!

TALIA

He'll be dead anyway without health insurance.

Judy and Cheryl look puzzled at Betsy.

BETSY

The rumors are all around the camp!

Cheryl leans in closer to whisper angrily.

CHERYL

Everyone knows that Birdie won't be able to run the camp without Adriel!

TALIA

Zach told me really rich people want to buy this land for a mini-mall or a rest home. Those real estate developers may be the assassins!

Everyone nods in agreement.

JUDY

Birdie's life might be in danger too.

TALIA

If this land gets purchased, it's game over for the crossbill.

CHERYL

(angry to Talia)  
Your husband should know!

JUDY

Yes, but one verified report of a One-eyed Yellow-breasted Crossbill will be an economic boom to this RV park.

TALIA

Birders would come from all over  
the country.

BETSY

But who's going to believe a simple  
RV camp owner like Adriel?! I hear  
he's half out of his mind with that  
bump on the head. No one's gonna  
take his word for the crossbill  
sighting!

CHERYL

Betsy's right! We have to  
photograph that bird ourselves to  
save the camp for Birdie, even if  
she doesn't share her gorgeous hunk  
of a husband!

Judy stands in defiance as everyone glares at each other.

JUDY

Sure, It will be dangerous if one  
of us or one of those real estate  
developers is still out hunting,  
but I say we owe it to ourselves.  
To hell with Birdie, too!

Everyone nods in agreement.

CHERYL

Let's go find ourselves a rare  
bird!

The group marches off in different directions, just as Deputy  
Santos arrives with Adriel in the backseat. Adriel is  
obviously on heavy pain medication. He's drooling and smiling  
at nothing in particular.

EXT. LONG'S RV - CONTINUOUS

Birdie sees her husband in the Deputy's car and races out to  
meet him. She's in her housecoat, but the top two buttons are  
purposely undone. Adriel wears the same outfit he left in.

BIRDIE

Adriel, you're okay!

She swings open the door to see that Adriel is heavily  
bandaged around his skull and jaw, and around his stomach. He  
is heavily drugged.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
He'll need time to recover.

The Deputy pops his trunk and lifts out a wheelchair that he unfolds and rolls around to Adriel who looks unfamiliar with his house and location.

BIRDIE  
Can he hear us or speak?

Birdie can't establish eye contact with Adriel. She wipes away his drool.

The Deputy and Birdie look sadly into each other's eyes, ignoring Adriel who looks at them suspiciously.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Doubt it. He's pretty much a vegetable.

Adriel glares at the Deputy.

BIRDIE  
Poor thing. What did the doctor tell you?

The Deputy hands her a bottle of pills.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
She said the purple painkillers will make him comfortable. He's due for another one any time now.

BIRDIE  
But he can't have coffee or stimulants, which will make him bleed. She told me the same thing on the phone. She also told me to get him out and about so he can remember more.

Adriel looks suspicious at Birdie, who looks away.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
He always liked watching the children at the archery range.

Birdie keeps eyeing the Deputy and she spins the wheelchair away from the RV along a walking path.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
Better lock your car. The kids around here can be devious, especially Arvin. He's ten.  
(MORE)

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

Cheryl's son from a previous marriage to Adriel's younger brother.

The Deputy looks perplexed at Birdie.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

Family trees are complicated in these parts, but we all get along.

The Deputy heads to lock his car and doesn't see Birdie pull out TWO PILLS from the bottle and tosses them into Adriel's mouth. Adriel's eyes open wide while Birdie holds his mouth shut so he swallows the pills.

Birdie looks more closely at the pill bottle and sees the dosage instructions, "Take ONE pill orally every 4 hours."

She quickly puts the pill bottle in her housecoat pocket.

The Deputy locks his car and then follows Birdie like a bird dog.

DEPUTY SANTOS

They took a small caliber slug out of your husband's gut. I sent it to ballistics. Do you know anyone around here with a .22?

BIRDIE

About everyone. For squirrels, quail, snakes, baby invasive pigs...

DEPUTY SANTOS

(interrupts)

That's what's odd. A .22 is not often a murder weapon.

Adriel's eyes open wide on the word, "murder."

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)

I'll have to examine the fire pit site again.

BIRDIE

Why?

DEPUTY SANTOS

To see where his head hit the ground. Maybe a rock or something. I don't know.

Birdie looks away.

EXT. ARCHERY RANGE - DAY

They reach the archery range where three children Archers (8-10) have arrows flying everywhere but near the target bails of hay. ARVIN MANN (10), a Huckleberry Finn-type boy, is one of the archers. We see a filthy-looking PIT TOILET in the b.g.

Adriel sees the kids and is nervous on the inside, but drooling on the outside. Birdie and the Deputy don't notice.

Birdie sets Adriel's wheelchair facing the archers and near the targets.

Adriel looks frightened and looks away from the archers.

BIRDIE

Adriel always loved kids. I'll meet  
you at the fire pit after I change  
out of this old housecoat.

Birdie flirts with the Deputy by posing in her housecoat with the top buttons undone.

DEPUTY SANTOS

Are you certain Adriel will be okay  
here?

BIRDIE

He's out here every day with them.  
He'll be fine. I really enjoy your  
company. I'll join you at the fire  
pit in a minute.

They smile as Birdie walks toward her RV and the Deputy walks toward the fire pit.

A practice arrow lands a few feet from Adriel's wheelchair.

Arvin LAUGHS hysterically as Adriel drools and smiles at nothing in particular.

EXT. CAMPFIRE CIRCLE - DAY

The Deputy investigates the ground, as Birdie shows up and tries to keep his attention away from the fire pit. Birdie wears a sexy tank top and jogging shorts, and red lipstick.

DEPUTY SANTOS

And no motive for your husband's  
shooting yet, which is puzzling. It  
could have been an accident, I  
guess.

BIRDIE  
Adriel was well-loved by everyone.  
(looks away)  
Especially other women.

The Deputy admires Birdie's cute outfit.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
You don't seem the jealous type.

BIRDIE  
Jealous? Me? Heaven's no.

The Deputy goes back to searching the area.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Mind if I ask if your RV Park is  
solvent?

BIRDIE  
Financially, we're barely holding  
our own, and Adriel does all the  
bookings and the books. I was his  
maintenance worker.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
And now that he's incapacitated?

BIRDIE  
I'll have to do the bookings and  
the books, and hire a new  
maintenance worker, I guess. Maybe  
Adriel's brother, Buck. But I don't  
think we have the money.

Birdie flirts to distract the Deputy.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
The doctor thinks your husband was  
hit on the head. I think he could  
have landed hard when he was set on  
the ground, and I don't see a  
bloody rock around. That's  
puzzling.

They HEAR SCREAMING from the kids at the archery range.

The Deputy and Birdie RACE off!

EXT. ARCHERY RANGE - DAY

By the time the Deputy and Birdie arrive, Adriel is surrounded by two of the archers, and Cheryl, Talia, Betsy, and Judy who are fawning over Adriel.

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| BIRDIE                | DEPUTY SANTOS        |
| Adriel, are you okay? | Back away, everyone! |

The crowd backs away and we see Adriel has an arrow sticking out his left tennis shoe which is covered with blood.

Adriel is noticeably agitated. His hands twitch. His head jerks from side to side and up and down.

LARRY MANN (35), a wimpy man with thick eyeglasses and a one-year-old boy in a covered baby carrier on his back yanks his troubled stepson, Arvin, by the arm across the archery range. Arvin carries a bow and a quiver of practice arrows.

Birdie turns away from Larry, Arvin, and the baby to focus on Adriel.

|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| BIRDIE (CONT'D)                    |
| He needs another painkiller, stat! |

|  |
|--|
| LARRY  |
| Arvin did it! He says he didn't but<br>he lies all the time. |

Birdie fumbles for the pill bottle in her pocket, as the Deputy points to the arrow in Adriel's foot.

|  |
|--|
| CHERYL   |
| Larry, take Arvin back to the RV<br>and give him a time-out. |

Larry weakens and looks away.

|   |
|---|
| LARRY   |
| He's your son. Not mine. He's a bad<br>seed. The Devil's spawn. He put<br>detergent in the hot tub and threw<br>the cherry bombs in the swimming<br>pool. Now, he shot poor Mr. Long<br>with an arrow. He doesn't need a<br>time out, he needs hard time! |

Arvin smiles like a brat.

|   |
|---|
| CHERYL                                      |
| Can't you see I'm busy, Larry?! Go<br>away! |

DEPUTY SANTOS

We need a doctor to get that arrow out of his foot.

BETSY

I'm almost an MD with my Doctor of Chiropractic degree.

BIRDIE

Can you remove the arrow from my husband's foot?

BETSY

No, but I can see if his back needs realignment.

DEPUTY SANTOS

That's not as high a priority as removing the arrow and calming him down.

The women move in to rub his body as Birdie shoves ONE purple pill in Adriel's mouth and closes his jaw to force a swallow.

BAM! They all HEAR a gunshot and duck.

JUDY

Gunshot! Call 9-1-1.

The Deputy stands to see a macho hunter, BUCK LONG (30), a younger version of Adriel, stroll across the archery range with a dead red crossbill in one hand (proudly held by the talons) and a .22-rifle with a scope in his other hand. A hunter's bow is across his back. He wears thick eyeglasses.

Cheryl stands and SCREAMS and points at Buck.

CHERYL

My ex-husband shot Adriel! Get 'em, girls!

Betsy, Judy, Talia, and Cheryl leap at Buck, knocking the songbird and rifle from his hands. They kick and beat him until the Deputy races over to stop the fight.

BUCK

I don't hunt people, only varmints and songbirds. Besides, Adriel's my favorite and only older brother.

The women return to kicking and Beating him as the Deputy pulls him to his feet.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Hold off, ladies!

The women stop punching and Arvin sees Buck clearly.

ARVIN  
Hi, Dad!

BUCK  
Hi, son! They treating you good?

DEPUTY SANTOS  
You hunt songbirds?

BUCK  
No!

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Do you carry arrows for that bow?  
Did you shoot, Mr. Long?

BUCK  
No!

DEPUTY SANTOS  
There's no season or reason to  
shoot songbirds!  
(to Birdie)  
This is your brother-in-law?

Birdie is embarrassed but nods 'yes.'

JUDY  
He's after the rare crossbill! But  
the idiot killed the common red  
crossbill by mistake.

The women punch Buck more.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Stop it, ladies.  
(to Buck)  
What's your full name and when did  
you get to the area?

BUCK  
The name's Buck Long, my roving  
ranch, by that I mean, my RV, is  
parked at a pullout just up the  
road. I couldn't afford the  
exorbitant prices my sister-in-law  
charges to park here.

Birdie gets in Buck's face.

BIRDIE

They're very reasonable prices  
considering the amenities. What are  
you doing here? Did you shoot your  
brother?

Judy gets in his face too.

BETSY

And that red crossbill?

Buck picks up the red crossbill by his talons. He turns sad.

BUCK

Truth is, I found him. Dead. Not my  
brother. The bird! I think it had a  
heart attack. I was shootin' in the  
other direction at a yellow and  
black bird.

BETSY

That's the One-Eyed Yellow-Breasted  
Crossbill!

The ladies pound on Buck again.

Cheryl glares at Larry who holds Arvin's arm.

CHERYL

You're no help. And Arvin, I'm  
taking away your bow.

BUCK

No! I gave him that bow for Ground  
Hog Day!

DEPUTY SANTOS

Arvin, I'll speak with you later.  
I'm sure shooting Mr. Long was an  
accident.

Arvin, Larry, and Buck look away.

Talia kicks Buck in the groin.

TALIA

You no-good songbird hunter!

BIRDIE

(mumbles)

And idiot-pervert brother-in-law.

Deputy Santos rescues Buck from the ladies as he examines the  
dead bird.

CHERYL

If deadbeat Buck paid his back  
child support, we could send Arvin  
to a boarding school!

DEPUTY SANTOS

The bird wasn't shot, but Buck  
Long, you're coming with me for the  
unsafe discharge of a weapon. I'll  
have ballistics check your weapon  
against the slug we found in Mr.  
Long. And I'll check the arrow for  
your fingerprints.

They all turn to see Adriel alone behind them with the arrow  
in his foot. Adriel is drooling, smiling, and looking at  
nothing in particular.

BIRDIE

Those pills must be very strong.

DEPUTY SANTOS

Birdie, I mean, Ms. Long, help me  
get your husband to my car.

Judy gives Buck one more punch in the gut.

JUDY

We'll teach you to be mean to  
animals!

BUCK

I'm a law-abiding citizen! I know  
my rights.

DEPUTY SANTOS

(to Buck)

You'll have to ride with your  
brother on the way to the hospital  
first. Our one ambulance was sent  
to the next town this morning to  
evacuate a rest home with perpetual  
septic tank overflow problems. I'll  
deal with you when we get back to  
the station.

BETSY

You're lucky you only killed a  
common red crossbill.

Adriel is drooling and looking nowhere in particular as he's  
wheeled to the Deputy's car.

EXT. LONG'S RV - LATER

The Deputy pushes Adriel in the wheelchair. Birdie clings to his arm. Buck walks sadly behind them. Everyone else is a dozen steps behind them.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
(to Birdie)  
I'll take him back to the hospital.

BIRDIE  
Remember, he has no health insurance. I'm afraid we have to do the bare minimum and send him home, where I can care for him.

Birdie kisses the Deputy on the cheek. Everyone stops to see this and they're stunned.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
It must be difficult not to have health insurance.  
(beat)  
I'll have him back soon.

The ladies yell as the Deputy loads Adriel and Buck into his patrol car.

JUDY  
Throw the book at the songbird hunter!

CHERYL  
Rare and threatened birds are protected in this country!

TALIA  
Hang him by his...

The Deputy drives off.

Birdie waves goodbye.

EXT. LONG'S RV - MORNING

Birdie is in another sexy outfit as the Deputy drives up with Adriel in the back seat, stretched out with his leg up.

The Deputy gets out and pops the trunk to remove a complicated wheelchair with one leg stirrup outstretched for Adriel.

Birdie flirts with the Deputy and she helps get Adriel into the wheelchair. He is heavily drugged and looking around aimlessly. His head, stomach, and foot are heavily bandaged.

BIRDIE

Thanks for picking him up,  
Alejandro. I couldn't have done  
this myself.

DEPUTY SANTOS

I had to come this way anyway. I  
have a few more questions if you  
don't mind, Ms. Long. And, I'm  
concerned about Mr. Long's brother.

BIRDIE

Call me Birdie, remember? Come in!  
Have some coffee!

The Deputy looks away worried.

DEPUTY SANTOS

I'd better not.

The Deputy hands Birdie another bottle of purple pills.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)

The Doc says his stomach started  
bleeding again when something  
aggravated him.

BIRDIE

The practice arrow in his foot?

DEPUTY SANTOS

It wasn't a practice arrow.

The Deputy returns to the trunk and pulls out a harmless  
practice arrow.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)

This is a practice arrow used by  
all the kids yesterday.

He takes out a dangerous-looking hunting arrow from his  
trunk. It's in a clear evidence bag.

Birdie gasps.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)

This is the arrow the Doc pulled  
out of Mr. Long's foot.

Birdie is shocked.

BIRDIE  
I've never seen anything...

DEPUTY SANTOS  
(interrupts)  
And the ballistics from the .22-  
bullets shot from Buck Long's rifle  
didn't match the bullet pulled from  
your husband's stomach or his  
brother's rifle. And there we no  
fingerprints on the hunting arrow.

Buck exits Birdie's RV holding a cup of coffee. He wears a  
blue jumpsuit like a maintenance man.

BUCK  
I could have told you that, Deputy!

The Deputy is stunned.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
What's he doing here. I just  
released him last night!

BIRDIE  
I know, I picked him up and took  
him to his RV. I hired him to help  
out until Adriel recovers.

BUCK  
She said I could park my RV for  
free behind the bathhouse if I  
helped run the place!

BIRDIE  
(glares at Buck)  
Clean the restrooms.

Adriel's eyes regain focus and glare at the Deputy, Buck, and  
then Birdie, who shakes the pill container.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
Looks like someone needs a bit more  
medication.

Adriel's eyes open wide as Birdie approaches him with another  
pill.

The Deputy holds up the hunting arrow as Birdie administers  
two purple pills to Adriel.

The Deputy glares at Buck.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Someone is concealing there  
actions!  
(beat)  
We may have attempted murderer in  
the area.

Birdie holds Adriel's jaw shut as he swallows the pills.

BIRDIE  
Nonsense, Alejandro. I'm sure  
there's a perfectly reasonable  
explanation behind my husband's  
unfortunate accidents.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Unfortunate accidents?

BIRDIE  
He wasn't exactly a moving target  
when he got shot. He was passed out  
in the chair by the fire pit.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
You're saying, if someone wanted  
him dead...

BIRDIE  
Why not shoot him in the head. The  
bullet would roll around and turn  
his brain to mush.

The Deputy turns to see Adriel drooling.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
And the arrow?

Birdie points to Adriel's heart as he looks around aimlessly.

BIRDIE  
He was in a locked wheelchair. A  
killer would have put the arrow in  
his heart.  
(she hugs Adriel)  
If someone wanted him dead, he'd be  
dead! These were accidents!

The Deputy shakes his head in disbelief.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
I don't know...

They all turn to see Talia, Judy, Cheryl, and Betsy running  
toward Adriel from different directions.

CHERYL  
Adriel, are you okay?

JUDY  
Can you tell us where you saw the  
Crossbill?

TALIA  
Was it by the swimming pool?

BETSY  
Or...

Cheryl sees Buck and is shocked.

CHERYL  
What's he doing here? He's a  
deadbeat dad and a songbird hunter!

BIRDIE  
I've asked Buck to help out around  
the place until Adriel is back on  
his feet.  
(looks at Adriel)  
or foot.

JUDY  
He's a murderer!

BIRDIE  
The Deputy here took his rifle  
away, and then gave it back to him!

The ladies growl at the Deputy.

Birdie sounds authoritative to Buck.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
I want those toilet seats in the  
restrooms clean enough to eat off.

Buck salutes.

BUCK  
Yes, Ma'am.

He grabs a bucket and scrub brush and races off.

The Deputy faces everyone with a stern voice.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
I'll be conducting interviews today  
with everyone in camp.

CHERYL  
We'll all be birdwatching.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
I'll find you.  
(glares at Birdie)  
I'm seeking a search warrant for  
Ms. Long's RV first.  
(to the group)  
If I don't find what I'm looking  
for, or I'm unsatisfied with the  
interviews, I'll be searching each  
of your RVs. Is that clear?

Cheryl, Talia, Judy, and Betsy have already begun to wander  
off in different directions.

TALIA (O.C.)  
Boy, who died and left him in  
charge?

The Deputy looks perplexed.

BIRDIE  
You don't need a warrant for my  
place. Come on in.

The Deputy looks sadly at Adriel.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
What about your husband?

BIRDIE  
I'll wheel him over to the pool for  
an hour. He loves to watch the kids  
swim.

Birdie starts wheeling Adriel to the pool area.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
I'll get my body-cam and latex  
gloves from the car.

Birdie freezes and glares at the Deputy in anger.

BIRDIE  
You have no sense of family,  
Alejandro!

The Deputy turns his head, puzzled.

INT. LONG'S RV - DAY

The Deputy follows Birdie into the RV with his body-cam and latex gloves on.

We SEE a neat and vintage RV and home decorations, cute and disarming to the Deputy as he steps into a tiny kitchen area.

Birdie is polite and flirtatious, with just a hint of sarcasm.

BIRDIE

So, Big City Detective, I  
understand most murders are  
attempted by spouses and family  
members.

The Deputy looks around suspiciously.

DEPUTY SANTOS

Yes, they are.

Birdie opens her arms and smiles.

BIRDIE

And you think I wanted to rub out  
my husband so I could inherit this  
enchanted palace of everyone's  
dreams all by myself?

The Deputy freezes and looks back at Birdie.

DEPUTY SANTOS

I want to do a thorough  
investigation to find who shot your  
husband first with a rifle and  
second with a dangerous hunting  
arrow.

Birdie steps kissing close to the Deputy.

BIRDIE

I confess...

The Deputy's eyes open widely.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

That my husband and I haven't been  
getting along, making me more of a  
suspect, but also more of a woman.

DEPUTY SANTOS

What do you mean? And remember...  
(points to his body-cam)  
(MORE)

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
I have my body-cam on, which you  
agreed to...

Birdie rests a hand on the Deputy's shoulder.

BIRDIE  
I mean, when my husband drinks, and  
he drinks all the time, he doesn't  
get physically abusive, but he acts  
as if I'm not there: invisible,  
unimportant, disconnected.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Unmarried?

BIRDIE  
Especially, unmarried. He hits on  
every woman in the camp.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
(sadly)  
That's awful. Right in front of  
you?

She paws and strokes the Deputy and his eyes open wide.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
Birdie, I mean, Ms. Long, we're  
recording here.

She puts her arms around his neck and turns sad and serious.

BIRDIE  
I would never do anything to hurt  
my husband.

The Deputy looks side to side like he's trapped.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
I never wanted to have an affair  
with another man until I met you!

The Deputy sneaks under her arms to get away while speaking  
loudly and strongly for the camera.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
No sign of a .22 rifle or bow in  
the place.

He heads to the door, still speaking in an authoritative  
voice, but she steps in front of him to cut him off.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
I'll continue to interview other  
possible suspects in hopes of  
finding hard evidence.

Birdie looks to his crotch.

BIRDIE  
Wait, I think I found something.

The Deputy turns off his body-cam and escapes in a huff.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
You just made a fool of me.

Birdie follows him out the door.

EXT. LONG'S RV - CONTINUOUS

The Deputy stomps away as Birdie scolds him like a third-grade teacher.

BIRDIE  
Hold it right there, Alejandro!

He turns back to Birdie, as Birdie puts on a cute sun hat and models it for him with a big smile.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
My little experiment proved you  
know nothing about rural women!

The Deputy protests weakly.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
I... I...

BIRDIE  
How many accidentally injured  
citizens cases have you been  
involved in?

The Deputy looks away but turns back defensively.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
I've dealt with hardened criminals  
in big cities.

Birdie puts an arm around the Deputy and leads him away.

BIRDIE  
I'm taking over your investigation.  
We're after a woman.

DEPUTY SANTOS

But men commit ninety percent of murders.

BIRDIE

You said that was an attempted murder. A failed murder. And these vicious rural women will eat you alive!

DEPUTY SANTOS

Vicious rural women?

BIRDIE

That's right! An evil, deceptive, scumbag of a woman is behind this. Rural women can be treacherous. You're an interloper on their territory. They don't take kindly to strangers!

DEPUTY SANTOS

So, we're after a woman?

BIRDIE

No, we're after a worthless, incompetent man who takes orders from a woman, and that describes every man in the county! So, we're after a woman who will lead us to the man, who will rat out the woman who is trying to steal my husband.

The Deputy is stunned. He turns to think.

DEPUTY SANTOS

Would she be trying to kill him if she wanted to steal him?

BIRDIE

You just don't understand women. I'll conduct your interviews. You take notes!

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - SAME

Adriel sits in the wheelchair under a patio umbrella, a few feet from the edge of the pool. He's heavily drugged, looking around at nowhere in particular.

Cheryl strolls by the far side of the pool trying to tease Adriel by wearing a red bikini top and blue denim shorts. She carries a small backpack.

Adriel looks from side to side and up and down but doesn't acknowledge her.

Cheryl struts back around the pool in a failed second attempt before stomping over to Adriel, grabbing a pool chair, and sitting directly in front of him, taunting him.

CHERYL

I know you're in a lot of pain,  
Adriel, but if you could tell me  
where you saw the crossbill, I'd be  
less likely to harm you.

Adriel looks to the side, so Cheryl puts a hand on his thigh and rubs it. Her voice is stern.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Look this way and speak to me,  
Adriel! I know you like it rough!

Adriel turns his head the other way, infuriating Cheryl.

She grabs his chin with her other hand and forces his face to her top.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

I don't think you understand the  
gravity of the situation, dear. The  
person who reports the first  
sighting of the One-Eyed, Yellow-  
Breasted Crossbill in 24 years will  
be more famous than those stupid  
scientists in 2019 who spotted  
Wallace's Giant Bee in Indonesia  
for the first time in almost forty  
years! Everyone thought it was  
extinct!

Adriel shows no reaction.

Cheryl's fingers show a two-inch spread. She's excited.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

That Giant Bee is almost two inches  
long!

Cheryl watches a mosquito land on Adriel's forehead.

Adriel's eyes looks up but he can't see it or defend himself.

Cheryl swats his forehead and he GROANS in pain.

CHERYL (CONT'D)  
So if you could just tell me where  
you spotted the crossbill...  
(rubs his thighs)  
I'd make it worth your while.

Cheryl removes a mosquito head-net from her backpack, shows it to Adriel, then puts it back in her backpack

CHERYL (CONT'D)  
Nobody can satisfy you like I can,  
Adriel.  
(whispers angrily)  
Tell me where the freakin' bird is,  
damn it, or I'll let the mosquitoes  
eat you alive and give you West  
Nile Virus.  
(suspiciously)  
Huh? A death by natural causes.

Adriel looks away.

Cheryl shrugs and takes out a can of spray-on bug spray and sprays her arms.

She slowly returns the can to her backpack.

Cheryl fills her cupped hands with pool water and tosses it in Adriel's face.

CHERYL (CONT'D)  
Talk to me, Adriel, or who knows  
what will happen next!

EXT. WOODS - SAME

Birdie leads the Deputy to an opening in the woods where Judy is looking into the trees with binoculars. She wears a sexy "birder's outfit" with a vest, smartphone, notebook, pen, and water bottle.

Birdie and the Deputy sneak up behind Judy who hears footsteps and turns on them with a pistol.

The Deputy throws his hands up.

BIRDIE  
Jesus, Judy, you'll scare him half  
to death.

JUDY  
This is my territory! I'm not  
sharing any credit for the find!

Judy holsters the pistol inside her vest as the Deputy puts down his arms and calmly takes out his notebook.

BIRDIE  
We don't want your credit.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
I'll need to examine that pistol.

Judy hands over the .22 pistol and smirks.

JUDY  
Everybody wants the credit for the  
bird sighting!  
(glares at Birdie)  
Like those now famous idiots who  
found Jackson's Climbing Salamander  
in Guatemala that was thought to be  
extinct for 42 years!

DEPUTY SANTOS  
(snickers)  
Those salamanders can't be too  
famous. I've never heard of them,  
and I watch a lot of Jeopardy.

Birdie and Judy glare at the Deputy, then Judy gets in Birdie's face.

JUDY  
This is all your fault!

Judy pushes Birdie to the ground and they wrestle.

BIRDIE  
What? Get off me!

JUDY  
If you weren't keeping your  
cheating husband so drugged up,  
he'd be able to tell us where he  
saw the crossbill! You want the  
credit yourself!

They wrestle but the Deputy is afraid to step in.

Birdie pins Judy down and acts calm but firm.

BIRDIE  
That's a lot to unpack, Judy.  
You're accusing me of over-  
medicating my husband who's been  
shot with a bullet in the gut and  
an arrow in the foot...

JUDY

(interrupts)

You might not have shot him with a bullet or arrow, but I think you knocked him in the back of the head with a rock that night to finish him off so you would get this beautiful resort all for yourself!

The Deputy's eyes open widely as Birdie gets angrier.

BIRDIE

What makes you think Adriel is over-medicated?

JUDY

Because you're not the only women he ignores these days.

Birdie slaps Judy.

BIRDIE

And how do you know my husband's cheating on me?

Judy laughs.

JUDY

Let's just say it's common knowledge he doesn't use the ladies' shower because cleanliness is next to godliness.

Birdie slaps Judy again.

BIRDIE

Your overly loving wife, Betsy, fed you all these rumors, didn't she?!

JUDY

You only wish you had a partner who satisfied you! You're the laughing stock of the camp, you greedy, uncaring bitch!

Birdie raises her hand but doesn't slap Judy.

BIRDIE

I've heard enough from this suspect. She'd do anything to spot that rare bird first, including harm my husband! Let's go, Deputy!

Birdie pulls the Deputy away as he looks suspiciously at the two women.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

Talia plays her guitar and sings in a seat in the shade next to Adriel whose seat is in the merciless sun. Talia has a guitar case at her feet with more lyrics on the page.

Adriel is still drugged and looking everywhere except at Talia who looks sadly at him.

TALIA

If you don't tell me where you  
spotted the rare crossbill, I'll  
force you to listen to my song.

No response from Adriel.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Have it your way!  
(she strums and sings)  
Ba Ba Ba Ba Ba Bakersfield, halfway  
between L.A. and here. It's a  
social disease, Festering in the  
heart of the San Joaquin. The fast  
food and gas stop is the number one  
cash crop, you're a trailer park  
without the frills. Dusty and dry  
with a big brown sky. You're like a  
giant cat box on wheels.

Talia stops and turns to Adriel who remains incoherent.

We see the chorus printed more legibly in the notebook, as Talia continues to sing.

TALIA (CONT'D)

You lead the nation in  
perspiration, you're like a canker  
sore that won't heal. A desert-like  
wasteland called California's  
playground, you're an ocean-less  
beach with an oil spill. Ba ba ba  
ba ba Bakersfield...

We HEAR Talia's husband, Zach, yell from their RV.

ZACH (O.S.)

Not now, Talia! I'm on a Zoom  
conference! Take it to the woods!

Talia stops singing and yells back to Zach in their RV.

TALIA

Damn it, Zack! I'm perfecting my  
new hit song here!

Talia puts her guitar and notebook in the case, pulls out a bundle of cash, waves it under Adriel's nose, and whispers to him.

TALIA (CONT'D)

I know you need the money! My sugar  
daddy, tells me you're up to your  
eyeballs in debt!

Talia has difficulty establishing eye contact with Adriel.

She sees Adriel's face getting sunburned.

She puts the bundle of cash in her guitar case, stands, and purposely moves Adriel's wheelchair into direct sunlight.

She massages his neck in a sexy way.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Ya know, unconfirmed reports of the  
ivory-billed woodpecker, which was  
thought to be extinct, led to a  
frenzy of crazy birders searching  
the swamps of Arkansas, Louisiana,  
Mississippi, and Florida. Think of  
the the boost to my music career if  
I confirmed your crossbill sighting  
with a photograph!

Adriel unintentionally looks away.

Talia shrugs and takes out a can of spray-on sun lotion and sprays her exposed arms.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Rumors around the camp say we'd all  
be better off without you. You'd  
better be careful of sun stroke in  
your condition.

As Talia wanders off, Zach appears and moves Adriel's wheelchair inches from the pool. Zach laughs.

ZACH

Don't slip and fall in, creep!

EXT. MEADOW - DAY

Birdie and the Deputy slowly walk to Betsy in the middle of the meadow. Betsy now wears a T-shirt with a drawing of the bird and a slogan that reads, "Save the One-Eyed, Yellow-Breasted Crossbill." She also wears a fully equipped "birder's vest" and her field clothes. She looks through binoculars at trees in the distance. Her backpack is next to her.

They all HEAR a gunshot from a rifle. BAM

Betsy is furious and yells at Birdie.

BETSY

Rumor has it that you hired that idiot songbird hunter on the one condition that he didn't fire his rifle.

Birdie looks around disappointed.

BIRDIE

I did. I'll talk to him when I see him.

Betsy puts her binoculars in her backpack.

BETSY

Why don't you fire him when you see him?! If the rare crossbill was around, it's sure to be gone now with all your racket!

BIRDIE

Does being a washed-up child TV star turned chiropractor to the stars make you an expert on the rare bird?

The Deputy steps between them, glaring at Birdie.

DEPUTY SANTOS

There's no reason to be mean, Ms. Long.

Betsy smiles.

BETSY

I know plenty about the crossbill!

BIRDIE

Really? Who reported the last confirmed sighting?

Betsy gets defensive.

BETSY

I don't know. Somebody near here, I know that much.

BIRDIE

It was Adriel's father, 24 years ago. Right by the swimming pool, the day after they finished construction and filled it with water.

Betsy stares at her T-shirt and responds meekly.

BETSY

Then he drew the beautiful painting of the bird?

BIRDIE

Yes, he did. Sadly the national societies refused to accept his painting as...

(use finger quotes)  
"photographic evidence."

DEPUTY SANTOS

(snickers)

Because it looks like a five-year-old drew it with crayons?

Betsy smiles warmly at the Deputy.

BETSY

Why don't you show up to Judy's slide presentation on the natural history of the One-Eyed, Yellow-Breasted Crossbill tonight in the Rec Hall and learn a little something, Deputy?

DEPUTY SANTOS

I'm rather busy hunting down a deranged attempted murderer.

Birdie has an epiphany and gets excited.

BIRDIE

Of course, they'll all be there!

DEPUTY SANTOS

Who will be there?

BIRDIE  
All the suspects.

BETSY  
Including that idiot songbird  
hunter!

Birdie grabs the Sheriff's arm to lead him away.

BETSY (CONT'D)  
(laughs)  
Look no further than your arm  
deputy. Birdie had the only motive.

Birdie turns to glare at Betsy.

BIRDIE  
Oh, shit! My husband. I left him  
out by the pool!

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Fine! You get your husband, while I  
look into your bank statements back  
at the office. I'm afraid you're  
still my number one suspect.

Birdie runs off with a worried look.

The Deputy follows behind shaking his head in disgust.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - AFTERNOON

Birdie races to her husband who is no longer drugged. He  
GROANS in pain, and he's sunburned and covered with mosquito  
bites at the edge of the pool. He has difficulty speaking.

ADRIEL  
Birdie? Where the hell have you  
been?

Birdie fumbles for the bottle of pain pills in her back  
pocket.

BIRDIE  
You've had a rough couple of days,  
Adriel.

Adriel mumbles his words as Birdie forces TWO pills into his  
mouth.

ADRIEL  
I'm in pain. A lot of pain, in my  
stomach, foot, and head.  
(MORE)

ADRIEL (CONT'D)

I'm sunburned, mosquito-bit, and I almost fell in the pool.

Birdie holds his jaw shut and tilts his head back so he swallows the pills, just as Buck joins them carrying a .22 rifle with a scope.

BIRDIE

Buck, where the hell did you get your rifle?

Adriel's eyes begin to wander.

BUCK

(proudly)

It's my spare. I keep it under my mattress.

Birdie yanks it away and unintentionally points it at Adriel.

Arvin walks by the pool and lights a firecracker and keeps walking.

BOOM!

Adriel's eyes open wide as he almost falls in the pool.

Birdie and Buck duck until they see Arvin running away laughing.

Adriel begins to drool and look around aimlessly.

BIRDIE

Damn it, Buck. Help me get Adriel into the RV for his nap.

Birdie hands Buck back his rifle and starts to push Adriel away.

BUCK

I'm sorry, Birdie. I got two .22 pistols in my RV too.

BIRDIE

If the Deputy finds a .22 in your possession, he'll assume it was improperly stored or not locked up, and that it was stolen to shoot Adriel and returned without you knowing it! Do you want to be an accessory to murder? I suggest you get rid of it. The lake, maybe?

BUCK

Good idea! What if the Deputy asks  
me about them?

Birdie hits her palm to her forehead in disgust.

BIRDIE

Jesus, Buck, you put the word "Lie"  
in "Liability." Get rid of all your  
.22s and meet me at our RV in an  
hour.

Buck wanders away as Adriel MOANS.

Birdie pats his shoulders.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

We need to talk, Adriel.

(beat)

Without you being drugged up.  
You're not gonna like what I have  
to say.

She pushes the wheelchair toward their RV.

INT. LONG'S RV - AFTERNOON

Adriel sits on a bench with his bandaged leg up. His waist  
remains fully bandaged, but his head bandage no longer  
encircles his jaw. He wears only exercise shorts. There is a  
large bowl of soapy water and a sponge on a table. Adriel  
MOANS in pain.

BIRDIE

How was your sponge bath?

Adriel MOANS happy sounds.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

You're obviously feeling better.  
You can speak, ya know!

ADRIEL

What...? What happened to me?

BIRDIE

You were drunk and flirting with  
all the women in camp at the fire  
pit when you got shot in the  
stomach by a .22. Then you bumped  
your head before the ambulance  
came.

(MORE)

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

You went to the hospital, where they took the bullet out, drugged you up, and sent you home the next morning.

ADRIEL

My foot?

BIRDIE

Someone shot you with a hunting arrow at the archery range.

ADRIEL

With a practice arrow?

BIRDIE

Hunting arrow! Someone didn't get the memo. Deputy Sheriff Alejandro Santos was trained in the big city and is trying to solve the case, but he's inexperienced with countryfolk, so I'm helping with his investigation.

Birdie gives him a hand-held mirror.

Adriel's eyes open wide when he sees his sunburn and mosquito bites.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

The sunburn and mosquito bites were my bad. Sorry, but you needed an attitude adjustment.

Adriel looks worried at Birdie.

ADRIEL

You have a .22 and a hunting bow.

Birdie gets in Adriel's face.

BIRDIE

Where did you spot that damn crossbill?

Adriel whispers suspiciously.

ADRIEL

You mean, the presumed extinct One-Eyed Yellow-Breasted Crossbill? You'll just have to keep me alive to find out.

Buck KNOCKS on the RV door.

BUCK (O.S.)  
It's me, Buck.

BIRDIE  
(yells)  
Just a minute!

Birdie gives Adriel two painkillers as she speaks loudly enough for Buck to hear.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
I need you to rest comfortably for  
a few hours, so I can find your  
killer.

She opens the door for Buck.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
Buck, I need you to babysit my  
husband for an hour.

Adriel feels immediate pain relief and has a drunken smile.

ADRIEL  
Is that Bucky?

BUCK  
I always hated that nickname,  
Adriel!

Adriel's eyes gloss over as the pills take effect.

ADRIEL  
What are you...?

BUCK  
(to Birdie)  
No on the babysitting. Our parents  
let someone babysit us and they  
didn't come home for six months.  
Luckily, our crazy Aunt June picked  
us up after a week.

BIRDIE  
A week? How old were you two?

BUCK  
Nineteen and seventeen.

ADRIEL  
(slurs his words)  
Do I get another sponge bath?

Buck looks back at Adriel as he nods off.

BUCK  
No. I'm outta here!

Birdie grabs Buck's arm.

BIRDIE  
(angry)  
It's just an hour! Before Judy's  
slide show on the crossbill in the  
Rec Hall. It's a potluck, so look  
for something in the cupboards for  
us to bring to share. Adriel can  
help you.

They look at Adriel to see him drooling and looking around  
aimlessly.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
Or not.  
(beat)  
See you in an hour.

Birdie puts three bottles of wine (with screw-tops) in a  
cloth shopping bag and rushes out the door.

INT. JENKIN'S RV - CONTINUOUS

Betsy shuts the door behind Birdie. Judy types on BRAND  
laptop computer at the kitchen table.

BETSY  
What a surprise. We're paid up for  
the week, aren't we?

BIRDIE  
Yes, of course. I'm making the  
rounds to remind campers of Judy's  
slide presentation and the potluck.

Judy is suspicious and annoyed.

JUDY  
I'm working on the slide show. I  
don't need interruptions.

Birdie takes out a bottle of wine (with a screw top).

BIRDIE  
This is just a thank you in advance  
for sharing your knowledge.

Judy and Betsy smile at the wine.

BETSY  
I'll crack this baby open.

Betsy grabs the wine as Birdie looks around and spots a few framed photos on the walls of the RV. Among a handful of photos with the happy couple on deluxe vacations and cruises, one shows Betsy in hunting gear with a compound bow. Another shows Judy with a rifle at a target range.

JUDY  
How is Adriel feeling?

BIRDIE  
Much better. He should be able to speak by tomorrow morning when his pills run out.

BETSY  
Do you think he'll remember where he spotted the crossbill?

Betsy delivers three full plastic wine tumblers.

BIRDIE  
If we can keep him alive! There have been two attempts on his life. Who knows what he'll say when he snaps out of it?!

Judy's and Betsy's eyes open wide as they stare at each other, which Birdie sees.

Birdie toasts them both, and they all gulp down the wine.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
I can't wait for the slide show and potluck when everyone's together.  
(sarcastic smile)  
One big, happy family.

Betsy stands between Birdie and the photographs on the wall.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
I'd better remind the other campers about the slide show and potluck.

Betsy, angry, escorts Birdie to the door.

BETSY  
I hope you've learned everything you came here for!

BIRDIE

I think you should know the Deputy may come back with a warrant. If he finds a .22 in your possession, he'll assume it was improperly stored or not locked up, and that it was stolen to shoot Adriel and returned without you knowing it! Do you want to be an accessory to murder? I suggest you get rid of it. The lake, maybe?

Judy and Betsy glare at Birdie as she exits.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

(smiles)

See you tonight!

CUT TO:

INT. LONG'S RV - SAME

Buck force-feeds Adriel hot coffee. Adriel drools saliva and coffee. Adriel's lips turn bright red from the heat of the coffee.

BUCK

We gotta talk serious, Bro!  
Something ain't right. Hot coffee is the best thing to snap you out of those painkillers.

We SEE the bandage around Adriel's stomach begin to show a bit more blood.

Adriel looks oblivious as Buck gets in his face.

BUCK (CONT'D)

Birdie called me and told me to get here quick!

Buck turns sad and tears up as he pours more hot coffee into Adriel.

BUCK (CONT'D)

She said you've been hitting the tequila a bit too hard and that you were whoring around and making a mess of things.

Adriel starts to regain his senses. He spits out hot coffee into Buck's face, and Buck turns angry.

BUCK (CONT'D)

That's the thanks I get! All I ever wanted was to work for you as the maintenance guy here, but you went and hired your freakin' wife just 'cause she could see and fix things and I couldn't, but...!

BACK TO:

INT. MANN'S RV - AFTERNOON

Cheryl closes the door behind Birdie as she enters holding up a bottle of red wine (with a screw top).

CHERYL

What a nice surprise. We don't get many visitors.

Larry politely grabs the bottle of wine and whispers.

LARRY

She means, any visitors. But we have to keep it down. The baby's sleeping.

Arvin plays a combat video game loudly in the back of the RV, which Birdie points to.

BIRDIE

The baby doesn't hear the bombs exploding or the gunshots?

Larry opens the screw top on the wine and fills three colorful plastic KID'S CUPS.

LARRY

The baby's used to the noise.  
(glares at Arvin)  
I'm not!

Cheryl ignores her husband and smiles at Birdie.

CHERYL

How's your husband?

BIRDIE

He should be talking by morning.

LARRY

Will he remember anything after you conked him in the head?

Birdie glares at Larry, so Cheryl steps between them.

CHERYL  
Dirty rumors floating around camp.

BIRDIE  
(loudly)  
I love my husband!

Larry delivers the cups of wine and toasts Birdie.

LARRY  
I'll drink to that! It's so rare to  
meet a woman who...

Cheryl steps on Larry's foot so hard that he spills his wine  
on his shirt.

He grabs a kitchen towel to blot his shirt dry.

BIRDIE  
Do either of you own a .22 or a  
hunting bow?

Cheryl looks away and takes a big gulp of wine.

CHERYL  
That's none of your business.

BIRDIE  
I think you should know the Deputy  
may come back with a warrant. If he  
finds a .22 in your possession,  
he'll assume it was improperly  
stored or not locked up, and that  
it was stolen to shoot Adriel and  
returned without you knowing it! Do  
you want to be an accessory to  
murder? I suggest you get rid of  
it. Maybe the lake?

Cheryl glares at Larry's red shirt and towel.

Larry heads to the back of the RV talking to himself.

LARRY  
I'm gonna need hot water and stain  
remover stat! Good thing tomorrow  
is laundry day for me.

CHERYL  
(yells)  
That better come out of my kitchen  
towel.

Cheryl and Birdie take big gulps of wine, before Cheryl gets in Birdie's face.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Betsy called me and said you came snooping around. I'm intent on finding that crossbill before anyone else. Got it?

BIRDIE

Got it.

CHERYL

And if you don't want anything else to happen to you or that cheating husband of yours, you'll make sure I get the first sighting of that freakin' bird! Got it?

BIRDIE

(smiles)

See you at the slide show and potluck.

Birdie lets herself out.

CUT TO:

INT. LONG'S RV - SAME

Buck paces as he yells at Adriel who GROANS in pain as more blood shows through on his waist and his foot.

BUCK

And I know what it's like to be in pain. I remember when dad disinherited me after ditching out of rehab the third time. He liked you better is all. You and him could drink tequila together. What could I do as the younger brother? Say, Dad, how about sharing pills together instead of tequila? That didn't go so well for me, did it, Bro?

BACK TO:

INT. SMITH'S RV - AFTERNOON

Talia shuts the door behind Birdie as she enters with a bottle of wine.

Birdie looks around at the deluxe RV.

TALIA

Birdie's here to remind us of the  
slide show and potluck tonight.

(points at Zach)

You remember my successful angel  
investor.

BIRDIE

Nice to see you again.

Birdie sees Zach sitting at a nice desk with a fancy BRAND  
laptop computer. She is surprised to see an ankle monitor on  
his right leg.

Zack stands quickly to conceal the ankle monitor. He inspects  
the bottle of screw-top wine and hands it back to Birdie.

ZACH

Bring this to the potluck tonight  
where it will be appreciated. How  
is that charming husband of yours?

BIRDIE

Improving by the hour. His brother  
is making sure he gets his rest.

ZACH

Buck? A good man.

BIRDIE

How do you know Buck?

TALIA

They talk every night on the phone.  
That's why I have to go outdoors to  
practice my craft.

Zach gets in Talia's face.

ZACH

Let's keep my business practices to  
ourselves, dear.

Birdie gets in Zach's face.

BIRDIE

My brother-in-law never mentioned  
any business practices with anyone  
here at the camp. I'm sure your  
wife is just as curious as I am.

ZACH

You'll have to ask Buck, although everyone I deal with signs non-disclosure agreements. My charity work must remain discrete.

Birdie glances at Zach's ankle monitor.

BIRDIE

Apparently, at least one judge disagrees with you.

(beat)

I think you should know the Deputy may come back with a warrant. If he finds a .22 in your possession, he'll assume it was improperly stored or not locked up, and that it was stolen to shoot Adriel and returned without you knowing it! Do you want to be an accessory to murder? I suggest you get rid of it. The lake, maybe?

Zach forcefully ushers Birdie toward the front door of the RV.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

But I hope to see you both tonight at the slide show and potluck, if your ankle monitor allows it.

Birdie starts to exit as Talia defends her husband.

TALIA

He can go up to fifty yards from the RV. My spineless step-brother, Larry, is going to save us a parking space right next to the Rec Hall tonight.

Birdie turns around to face Talia.

BIRDIE

I knew everyone here on National Birding Week is one big happy family. I just forgot most of us are related in some way.

(snickers)

I guess family trees around here don't fork!

INT. LONG'S RV - SAME

Buck finishes his rant as Adriel regains all his faculties and SCREAMS in pain.

BUCK  
I'm not done with you yet, big  
brother! I've got plans!

Buck takes out two purple pills from a bottle on the counter and forces them in Adriel's mouth as he tries to scream, but he can't.

ADRIEL  
No! No!

Buck puts a hand over Adriel's mouth and lifts his head so he's forced to swallow the two pills.

BUCK  
(sincere)  
I know it can be tough. I've been  
addicted to pills several times in  
my life and I quit. You can too!  
One day at a time, Bro!  
(looks at a clock)  
Oh, shit! I've got to make  
something for the potluck.

INT. PICNIC TABLES - EVENING

Birdie is at the picnic tables when the Deputy arrives in his squad car.

He exits the car with a sad, stern look.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Ms. Long? Where's your husband?

BIRDIE  
His brother is babysitting him.  
He's in good hands. I'm sure  
they're having a nice talk.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Maybe they should hear what I have  
to say.

The Deputy starts toward the Long's RV, when Birdie pulls him back by the arm.

BIRDIE  
I should tell you what I've  
uncovered in my investigation.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Hold it right there. This is my...

BIRDIE  
(interrupts)  
I visited the RVs owned by Betsy  
and Judy Jenkins, Cheryl and Larry  
Mann, and Zach and Talia Smith,  
only I don't think his name is  
really Smith. He wears an ankle  
monitor like a common criminal!

The Deputy shakes his arm free. He's angry.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
I'm not interested in your  
findings. I've got to find the .22  
that shot your husband!

BIRDIE  
Every RV has at least one .22  
caliber pistol. Buck said he had  
two more .22s in his possession!  
Hell, Adriel told me last week that  
our Lost and Found cabinet in the  
Rec Hall has two or three .22s!

DEPUTY SANTOS  
That's fine.

He pulls out a warrant.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
I've got a warrant to search the  
entire RV park.

Birdie points behind her to the Rec Hall.

BIRDIE  
That's fine. The slide show doesn't  
start in the Rec Hall until sunset.

The Deputy hands Birdie the search warrant.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Maybe I should start in the Rec  
Hall before everyone arrives.

BIRDIE  
Or at the lake.

DEPUTY SANTOS

The lake?

Birdie smiles and takes his arm in a flirty way and guides him toward the lake.

BIRDIE

Good idea, Alejandro.

EXT. DOCK AT A LAKE - EVENING

Buck pushes Adriel in his wheelchair out to the edge of the dock. Adriel is blissfully under the heavy influence of painkillers. Buck has added more bandages to Adriel's stomach and foot to cover the blood.

Buck looks around. Seeing no one approaching, he throws one .22 pistol to the left into the lake, and another pistol to the right into the lake. He turns the wheelchair and pushes Adriel away.

At one point, Buck almost steers Adriel off the side of the dock. Adriel's eyes open wide as Buck pauses to think.

Tense moments.

Buck corrects his steering and all is well.

Nearby, in the woods, the Deputy ignores his body-cam. Birdie whispers behind him.

BIRDIE

After Adriel and I were married,  
Buck was arrested twice for being a  
peeping tom and taking videos of us  
in our R.V.

DEPUTY SANTOS

(surprised)

That's a felony.

BIRDIE

I had to get a restraining order,  
which he framed and put in his RV.

When Buck and Adriel are out of sight, the Deputy starts to leave, but Birdie pulls him back.

Cheryl sneaks up to the end of the dock.

She looks around.

Seeing no one, she throws a .22 pistol slightly to the right and into the lake and races away.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

Rumors around camp say Cheryl had a torrid affair with my husband and Adriel tried to black-mail her when it ended.

DEPUTY SANTOS

Are you sure it ended?

When Cheryl is out of sight, Betsy races to the end of the dock.

She looks around.

Seeing no one, she throws a .22 pistol straight ahead into the lake and races away.

BIRDIE

(surprised)

Betsy's never done anything illegal in her life.

DEPUTY SANTOS

(curious)

She could be acting on Judy's behalf.

BIRDIE

Rumors around camp say Judy loves to have Adriel watch her in the ladies shower.

The Deputy shrugs.

DEPUTY SANTOS

No law against that. It's just weird. I wonder what Betsy thinks about that?

When Betsy is out of sight, Talia races to the end of the dock.

She looks around.

Seeing no one, she throws a .22 pistol slightly to the left and into the lake and races away.

BIRDIE

Talia hates guns. Must be her husband's.

(MORE)

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

Rumors say he wants to force a buy-out of our land and turn it into a fancy hotel and nightclub where Talia could sing.

The Deputy panics and stares at his body-cam.

DEPUTY SANTOS

Damn it. I forgot to turn it on!

BIRDIE

There's a lot of evidence down the drain!

(excited)

Quick! Let's beat them to the Rec Hall.

They race off.

INT. REC HALL - NIGHT

The door is unlocked as the Deputy enters with Birdie. Birdie heads to the back table and puts out a dozen paper plates, forks, and napkins.

A pingpong table is folded against the wall. Four card tables and a dozen fold-up chairs face a large screen. A laptop computer sits on a small table with a projector.

DEPUTY SANTOS

The door is unlocked and a nice computer is here. That's pretty trusting for a group of evidence-destroyers.

Birdie smiles.

BIRDIE

We're all family here.

DEPUTY SANTOS

Where is your Lost and Found area?

Birdie points to a cabinet and laughs.

BIRDIE

I haven't looked in there in years!

The Deputy puts on blue latex gloves and looks around.

He immediately finds a .22 rifle.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
It's unloaded but improperly  
stored.

BIRDIE  
Talk to my husband about it.

He finds a .22 pistol and examines it angrily.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Also unloaded but improperly  
stored.

BIRDIE  
They have probably been there for  
years. I bet my husband's  
fingerprints are on them if you  
want to arrest him.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
(sarcastic)  
Very funny!  
(serious)  
I'll put them in my squad car and  
have ballistics look at them.  
Tomorrow, I'll send out a dive team  
to retrieve the firearms from the  
lake.

Birdie nods in approval.

BIRDIE  
Good to know.

Buck wheels Adriel into the Rec Hall. On Adriel's lap, Buck  
has placed a large, steaming, mac 'n cheese casserole dish  
covered with plastic wrap with a serving spoon on top of it.

Birdie immediately removes the hot casserole dish from  
Adriel's lap and sees his burnt lips and extra bandages.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
What did he do to you, darling?

Adriel drools and looks around aimlessly.

BUCK  
I gave him some coffee to sober him  
up!

BIRDIE  
You burned his lips and probably  
his...!

Birdie examines Adriel's bandages.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)  
Is he bleeding more?

BUCK  
He'll be fine. I think he quit  
drinkin' coffee!

Adriel looks around aimlessly as the Deputy looks on.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Maybe he'd be safer in the  
hospital.

BUCK  
If he wastes money on medical care,  
he won't have the money to hire me  
permanently as his maintenance man.

BIRDIE  
He isn't hiring you.

Cheryl, Arvin, and Larry carrying a covered baby bassinet  
show up. Larry has a large mac 'n cheese casserole dish  
covered with plastic wrap with a serving spoon on top of it.  
He puts it on the back table.

BUCK  
Yes, he is. He told me so after  
some coffee.

Cheryl races up to Buck, as Judy and Betsy stroll in. Betsy  
has a large mac 'n cheese casserole dish covered with plastic  
wrap with a serving spoon on top of it. She puts it on the  
back table.

CHERYL  
When he was clear-headed, did he  
tell you where he saw the  
crossbill?!

BUCK  
We didn't talk about it!

Judy races to Buck.

JUDY  
Idiot! I need to know what he said  
for my slide show!

Everyone stares at the drugged-up Adriel in his wheelchair.

DEPUTY SANTOS

He doesn't look like he knows what planet he's on.

BIRDIE

His one pill should be wearing off by now.

BUCK

He was moaning like a sea cow, so I gave him one or two of mine.

Birdie grabs Buck by the collar.

BIRDIE

Are you nuts? Two pills could have killed him!

The Deputy separates them as Talia and Zach enter.

ZACH

He doesn't look too good.

TALIA

He's been through a lot with his broken marriage.

Birdie is stunned and glares at Talia.

BIRDIE

Where did you hear that?

TALIA

It's all around the camp.

Birdie glares at everyone.

BIRDIE

You people are sick! He's been drinking heavily, but which of you hasn't been drinking heavily of late?

They all look around suspiciously.

The Deputy raises his hand, but no one else does.

Cheryl slaps Arvin on the back of his head and he slowly raises his hand.

Larry lifts the hand of the sleeping baby.

The Deputy lowers his hand.

DEPUTY SANTOS

I'm glad you're all here. I need to give you an update on my investigation. Please take a seat. I'd like to bring you up to date on the multiple assaults on Mr. Long.

They all look around suspiciously.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)

The ballistics studies on the .22 bullet that wounded Mr. Long are inconclusive, but by the end of the night, I hope you'll all willingly submit your .22s for testing.

He holds up the two weapons from the Lost and Found.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)

I discovered these two weapons, improperly stored in the Lost and Found.

Everyone shrugs.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)

And I have a search warrant to gather any others you may own.

The Deputy paces and glares at each guest, including Arvin.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)

(yells)

But that won't be necessary, since they were all tossed in the lake tonight!

They all GASP and look around nervously.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)

That leaves these two weapons! Can anyone tell me about these?

Arvin begins to slowly raise his hand, but Cheryl slaps the back of his head and points to the .22 rifle in the Deputy's hand.

CHERYL

That was Arvin's squirrel rifle before I made Larry take it away from him.

DEPUTY SANTOS

When was that?

LARRY

Three days ago when we arrived to look for that stupid bird! Arvin was shooting at everything that walked, crawled, or flew so I turned him in to Adriel and Birdie!

DEPUTY SANTOS

What did they do?

LARRY

Adriel just laughed but Birdie thought it was smart to trade Arvin a bunch of firecrackers and cherry bombs for the rifle.

BIRDIE

(smiles at Arvin)

At least he wouldn't shoot anyone.

(sadly)

We couldn't have children of our own. Adriel's you-know-what only shot blanks.

(glares at Cheryl, Judy, and Talia)

It's what made him so popular with the ladies!

Cheryl, Judy, and Talia look away.

The Deputy glares at Birdie. He's angry.

DEPUTY SANTOS

We're getting off-topic here! The point is that Adriel obviously put the rifle in the Lost and Found which any one of you could have accessed and shot him in the stomach! Or any of you could have used the other .22 pistol that was improperly stored in the unlocked cabinet!

He shakes his head in disgust.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)

How many of you have ever registered a firearm, or owned a gun safe or trigger locks?

They all look around and shrug 'no.'

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
How many of you own top-of-the-line  
hunting arrows?

Buck holds up his hand and Adriel's hand.

BUCK  
But it ain't even hunting season so  
they're stored away.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Where?

BUCK  
In the storage locker.

Buck points to the cabinet below the Lost and Found cabinet  
as Birdie and the Deputy roll their eyes in disgust.

The Deputy strolls over to the storage cabinet and opens it  
up to find practice arrows and hunting arrows, hunting knives  
fishing gear, and a single large firecracker (or cherry  
bomb).

BIRDIE  
Adriel never furnished the bows or  
fishing rods. He said personal  
choice was too important.

Everyone looks at Adriel who remains heavily drugged.

The Deputy hits his head with his palm.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Don't touch anything until I search  
your RVs.  
(sarcastic)  
I assume they aren't locked.

JUDY  
Can we proceed with my slide show  
on the One-Eyed Yellow-Breasted  
Crossbill?

DEPUTY SANTOS  
(sarcastic)  
Yes, indeed. Far be it from me to  
interfere with the edification of  
this group of ruthless birders.

He stomps out with the .22 rifle and two evidence bags as  
Judy begins her slide show.

Judy shows a slide of a beautiful photo of the red crossbill on the left, and the poor drawing of the One-Eyed Yellow-Breasted Crossbill on the right. She uses a cue stick as a pointer to point to the red crossbill.

JUDY

The red crossbill is common in pine forests throughout North America. It's been fully described in every major bird book.

She points to the One-Eyed Yellow-Breasted Crossbill.

JUDY (CONT'D)

There are no known photographs of the rare and threatened One-Eyed Yellow-Breasted Crossbill, so we are stuck using a drawing by Adriel's and Buck's father who may have had a little to drink.

Birdie RACES out.

JUDY (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Rumor has it that Adriel was the last person to actually see this rare bird...

EXT. REC HALL - CONTINUOUS

The Deputy loads the evidence in his trunk as Birdie catches up to him.

BIRDIE

I'm sorry if folks around here aren't into big city ways of storing guns. My husband...

DEPUTY SANTOS

(interrupts)

Look, Ms. Long, let me be honest with you.

Birdie steps back, alarmed.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)

You've made it clear that everyone in camp could be suspect in your husband's assault. It's also clear that you're the smartest one of the lot. I knew that from the moment you played me in your RV by teasing me.

Their eyes meet and they share a moment.

Birdie calmly tilts her head like she's perplexed.

BIRDIE  
Surely, you don't think...?

The Deputy moves in kissing-close and interrupts her smugly.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Your bank records show the Park is  
in trouble. That's why you both  
dropped your health insurance a  
month ago.

BIRDIE  
(defensive)  
I love my...

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Yet, you kept up his life insurance  
policy.

Birdie looks away.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
Which only pays out in cases of  
death by natural causes or  
accidental death!

Birdie acts surprised.

BIRDIE  
I had no idea...

DEPUTY SANTOS  
(interrupts)  
That's what puzzled me most.

The Deputy paces as he speculates.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
That provides the clearest motive  
ever for these recent accidents  
your husband's suffered.

He pauses and looks back at Birdie who has a blank look.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
And the means will be obvious to  
any jury in the country. Weapons  
are freely available.  
(MORE)

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)

Nothing is safely stored and locked around here! It's all about personal freedom and the Second Amendment!

BIRDIE

(surprised)

What?

DEPUTY SANTOS

I think you made a brilliant choice of a .22 for the first assault on your husband. They are as common around here as mac 'n cheese casseroles, or didn't you notice?

Birdie looks away.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)

The tip-off was the contusion on the back of Mr. Long's skull.

BIRDIE

What about it?

DEPUTY SANTOS

I had a second doctor examine the x-ray and she concluded it was blunt force trauma, not a simple bump from being set down on a rough surface.

BIRDIE

That's an opinion. I was there.

DEPUTY SANTOS

(smiles)

Yes, you were. Unseen for the gunshot and archery assaults, but in the area for both.

The Deputy glares at Birdie.

BIRDIE

Good luck trying to prove all of that!

The Deputy is calm and stern.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Motive, means, and opportunity.  
Even these country bumpkins you  
surround yourself with know what it  
means to be "beyond a reasonable  
doubt!"

Birdie begins to walk back to the Rec Hall but the Deputy  
steps in front of her.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
I learned something more about  
Adriel's life insurance policy.

BIRDIE  
What's that, Sherlock?

DEPUTY SANTOS  
The next premium is due next month.  
But I bet you knew that! You're  
stretched for cash. You love your  
husband, but you could do better.  
Much better given all those rumors  
around camp!

Birdie slaps the Deputy hard across the face.

BIRDIE  
You don't know me!  
(scoffs)  
And you have no idea what kind of  
extended family you're dealing with  
here, Deputy!

Birdie stomps back to the Rec Hall, as the Deputy closes his  
trunk.

He glances back at the Rec Hall as Birdie enters.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
(snickers)  
Extended family? Who does she think  
she's dealing with?

He stomps toward the Jenkin's RV.

INT. REC HALL - NIGHT

Judy's shows a close-up of the beaks of the two crossbill  
species as Birdie sneaks into the back of the room.

JUDY

It's rumored that the One-Eyed  
Yellow-Breasted Crossbill lives  
only here in this county, and  
doesn't eat pine seeds like the red  
crossbill.

BIRDIE

That's just a rumor! I think it  
prefers salami and pepper-jack  
cheese sandwiches at picnic tables.

Everyone chuckles.

BETSY

Why not bait the bird in with  
salami?

JUDY

(glares at Betsy)  
It's immoral to bait in birds for  
observation!

Cheryl stands in defiance.

CHERYL

What my long-winded sister is  
saying is we have to find and  
photograph the nest!

Larry goes berserk and dives at Cheryl knocking her to the  
ground.

The electricity goes out during the slide show as Larry and  
Cheryl wrestle and fight. It's dark and chaotic.

LARRY

Judy's not long-winded. You are,  
Cheryl. And you're mean and  
overbearing. I've had it with you  
and the stupid bird.

Buck glances out the front door.

BUCK

Hey, the electricity went out all  
over the camp.

BIRDIE

I'll check the master switch!

Birdie exits the back door of the Rec Hall.

CHERYL  
Get off of me, Larry!

Talia tries to pull Cheryl away from Larry.

TALIA  
Keep off my brother, Cheryl! You  
sure don't want to make another kid  
like Arvin!

SPLAT! Talia gets hit with a handful of Mac 'n cheese in the face.

TALIA (CONT'D)  
Who threw that at me?

LARRY  
Arvin, was that you?

Arvin laughs.

ZACH  
I'll kill you if I find you, Arvin!

SPLAT! Zach gets hit with a handful of Mac 'n cheese in the face.

ZACH (CONT'D)  
Arvin hit me, too!

CHERYL  
Arvin, I'll kill you if I find  
out...

A mac 'n cheese fight breaks out. SPLAT! SPLAT! SPLAT! SPLAT!

The lights come on.

Deputy Santos storms in with a flashlight from the front door as Birdie enters from the back door.

Everyone sees that all the guests have been hit with mac 'n cheese, and that many have their hands loaded up to throw.

Adriel smiles and eats mac 'n cheese off his clothes.

ADRIEL  
This is great stuff!

Birdie and the guests smile and cheer. They surround Adriel and pat him on the back while wiping the mac 'n cheese off themselves.

Birdie kisses Adriel on the cheek.

BIRDIE  
Welcome back, dear.

CHERYL  
Glad you're okay, Adriel.

JUDY  
Me too.

ARVIN  
Can I get my rifle back?

LARRY  
Good to hear your voice, Adriel.

ADRIEL  
It's been a rough couple of days.

Adriel looks at his bandages.

ADRIEL (CONT'D)  
But it looks like I'm healing  
pretty good. What the hell happened  
to me?

Everyone laughs and cheers until the Deputy yells.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Take a seat and I'll tell you what  
happened.

BETSY  
Can we grab a bite to eat while we  
listen?

The Deputy rolls his eyes in disgust.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Yes, yes, okay.

Everyone smiles as they grab plates of mac 'n cheese, and a  
glass of wine, a bottle of beer, or a soft drink.

JUDY  
I hope he has slides.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
No slides.

BETSY  
Probably won't be very  
entertaining.

ADRIEL  
Buck, bring me a beer or two.

BIRDIE  
(to Adriel)  
Not a good idea with the  
painkillers you're on.

ADRIEL  
Not a problem. While Buck was  
watching me this afternoon, I  
swapped all the pain pills out for  
my supplements for growing chest  
hair. Same color.

Buck is upset as he looks down his shirt for chest hair.

BUCK  
They're not working! You better not  
have touched my stash of pills!

ADRIEL  
Too late, little brother. I had to  
find out what was going on around  
here!

Everyone but Buck, Birdie, and the Deputy laugh.

BIRDIE  
Poor thing, you must be in a great  
deal of pain!

DEPUTY SANTOS  
That could be dangerous.

Adriel smiles at the Deputy.

ADRIEL  
Not as dangerous as not knowing who  
was out to harm me!

Buck cheers.

BUCK  
You tell 'em, Big Bro!

Adriel glares at Buck.

ADRIEL  
You ain't out of the woods yet,  
Little Bro.

Buck looks away as everyone takes a seat for the Deputy.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
(confident and smug)  
I've studied you all very closely  
over the past few days, but some of  
the things I'm about to say may  
surprise you all.

SILENCE

CHERYL  
I doubt it!

Everyone but the Deputy laughs.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Did you know that Adriel's and  
Birdie's health insurance lapsed  
last month?

JUDY  
(laughs)  
Hell, nobody here has health  
insurance.

The guests laugh and keep eating.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Did you all know from the rumors  
around camp that the RV park is in  
serious financial trouble?

LARRY  
(mumbles)  
Everybody here is in financial  
trouble! We live in RVs!

The guests laugh and keep eating.

The Deputy paces and speaks up.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Did you all know that Adriel has a  
life insurance policy with a large  
premium due in one month?

Everyone looks at Birdie, including Adriel.

ADRIEL  
I didn't know that!

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Here's the kicker. The policy only  
pays out in cases of death by  
natural causes or accidental death!

Adriel examines his wounds as Birdie looks away.

The crowd shrugs and keeps eating and drinking.

The Deputy glares at them.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
I think you knew that!

ZACH  
(scoffs)  
Tell us something we don't already  
know!

The Deputy glares looks at Birdie again.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
We all know that Birdie is the  
smartest person in the room.

Adriel glares at the Deputy until Buck breaks the tension.

BUCK  
I thought I was the smartest one in  
the room.

JUDY  
(to Buck)  
You wouldn't be the smartest one in  
an RV bathroom.

Everyone but Buck and the Deputy laughs.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Okay, quiet down, and I'll tell you  
what I think happened to Adriel.

SILENCE. The Deputy has their undivided attention.

The slide show screen in the room displays the FLASHBACKS.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
Two nights ago, I suspect Birdie  
visited the Rec Hall...

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. REC HALL - NIGHT

Birdie, wearing a vintage 1960s housecoat and clear latex  
gloves, stops by the Rec Hall, and opens a cabinet that reads  
"Lost & Found."

DEPUTY SANTOS (V.O.)  
I think she removed a .22 pistol  
from the Lost and Found, probably  
the only loaded one. She wore  
gloves so she wouldn't leave  
fingerprints.

We HEAR gasps from the crowd in V.O.

She moves a .22 rifle out of the way to a box of clothes,  
pool toys, and two .22 pistols.

She takes a .22 pistol out of the box, checks to see that  
it's loaded, and puts it in her housecoat pocket.

She HEARS the BOOM of a cherry bomb (or large firecracker).

CHERYL (O.S.)  
Arvin! Get back to the RV and quit  
lighting off them things!

Birdie smiles.

END FLASHBACK

The Deputy is pacing as he speaks.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
She knew Arvin would be lighting  
off the firecrackers she traded for  
his rifle. That was to disguise  
what would later be the shot into  
Adriel's stomach.

The crowd shrugs, although Adriel looks sad.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
I suspect that Birdie dressed in  
dark clothes when she snuck out of  
the RV that night.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. LONG'S RV - NIGHT

Birdie dresses in all-black leotards and clear latex gloves.  
She slips on her housecoat and stuffs a black ski mask in her  
pocket, along with a .22 pistol in a plastic bag.

ADRIEL (V.O.)  
She has a set of black leotards  
that drive me wild.

The crowd CHUCKLES in V.O.

BUCK

Me too.

SILENCE

She peeks out the kitchen window before slipping out the back door of the RV.

END FLASHBACK

Everyone stares at Buck as the Deputy glares at him.

DEPUTY SANTOS

Also, Buck Long has two arrests as a peeping tom, which is a felony.

JUDY

I never turned him in.

CHERYL

Me neither.

BIRDIE

I did! I was creeped out. Adriel and I were just married and we were naked a lot!

Everyone but the Deputy giggles. Adriel smiles at Birdie and the Deputy turns angry.

DEPUTY SANTOS

This is serious! When I was in the RV with Birdie, I saw that she had a perfect view of the entire camp from her kitchen window.

ADRIEL

When was that?

Birdie pats Adriel on the shoulder.

BIRDIE

You were at the archery range or the swimming pool.

ADRIEL

What was I doing there?

BIRDIE

Recuperating. Shut up and listen to the story.

Adriel shrugs then focuses on Birdie, studying her.

DEPUTY SANTOS

Then, that fateful evening when  
everything was quiet, Birdie, I  
mean, Ms. Long, snuck out of her RV  
and down to the fire pit.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. LONG'S RV - CONTINUOUS

We SEE no one and HEAR crickets as Birdie tiptoes within  
sight of the fire pit.

Birdie sees Adriel passed out in an Adirondack chair with a  
near-empty bottle of Tequila tucked in his crotch.

ADRIEL (V.O.)

She sent me down to the fire pit to  
see if I could remember where I saw  
that stupid bird. So I took a  
bottle of tequila to keep me  
company.

BIRDIE (V.O.)

And hoping some pretty ladies would  
pass by for a little nip.

Birdie slips on the ski mask, takes the .22 pistol from the  
plastic bag, drops her housecoat, and tiptoes about eight  
feet from Adriel.

She aims at his heart.

ADRIEL (V.O.)

I'm not that bad, dear!

The women in the group SNEER in V.O.

We HEAR a large firecracker BOOM from the far side of camp.

CHERYL (O.S.)

(yells from inside her RV)  
Arvin! Cut that shit out and get  
home. Now!

DEPUTY SANTOS

When Ms. Long heard the  
firecracker, she knew she would be  
in the clear.

Adriel stirs a little and Birdie puts the pistol behind her  
back.

Adriel SNORES and goes back to sleep.

She aims at his heart again, then suddenly changes her aim to the side of his belly and fires! BAM.

Adriel clutches his stomach, GROANS, and rolls his eyes in shock, but he doesn't see Birdie who is already gone.

CHERYL (O.S.)  
(yells from inside her RV)  
Arvin! I warned you!

Birdie sweeps up her housecoat and RACES to the backdoor of her RV where she grabs a metal rake.

She peeks out over the camp to see that the coast is clear before RACING off.

END FLASHBACK

ADRIEL  
So, why didn't she kill me?

DEPUTY SANTOS  
The accidental death clause in your life insurance policy. It had to look like an accident. A stray bullet perhaps from any gun-crazed camper.

The group looks at each other suspiciously.

BUCK  
And how did she dispose of the pistol?

DEPUTY SANTOS  
I'm getting to that.  
(softly)  
Earlier this evening, Ms. Long took me out to the woods looking out to the dock on the lake, where we watched Buck, Cheryl, Betsy, and Talia toss pistols into the lake before tonight's slide show and potluck dinner.

No one acts surprised. The Deputy is furious.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
Impeding an investigation and illegally disposing of a firearm?

Again, no one acts surprised. The Deputy is angrier.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
Littering?

Everyone nods and shrugs 'yes.'

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
I assumed Ms. Long was smart enough  
not to lead me to the spot where  
she dumped her .22, so I had to  
assume she discarded the weapon in  
a location that would confound a  
future ballistics test and DNA  
analysis.

BEGIN FLASHBACK (as a New scene)

DEPUTY SANTOS (V.O.)  
The only place I saw at the park  
that would fit the bill was the  
filthy pit toilet at the Archery  
Range.

ALL (V.O.)  
Ewwwww!

EXT. ARCHERY RANGE - NIGHT

Birdie looks around before opening the door to the pit  
toilet.

She removes the .22 pistol from the plastic bag, hooks it on  
a rung of the rake, and lowers it into the pit toilet. She  
holds her breath.

She shoves the rake down as far as it will go.

She turns the rake handle and pulls up the rake.

She pats the top of the pile before leaving.

END FLASHBACK

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Ingenious. Any traces of her DNA  
would be contaminated by the mix of  
feces, and to be honest, the  
Sheriff's Department would never  
pay to dig out a weapon that wasn't  
a murder weapon, and as we can see,  
Mr. Long is alive and well.

Everyone but the Deputy cheers.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
But that was almost not the case.

SILENCE

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. LONG'S RV - CONTINUOUS

Birdie strips to her underwear and throws on her housecoat.  
She waits until she HEARS screams coming from the fire pit.

DEPUTY SANTOS (V.O.)  
All that remained was for Ms. Long  
to finish him off.  
(loud)  
As an accident!

She grabs a FLASHLIGHT and RACES out the front door.

EXT. CAMPFIRE CIRCLE - NIGHT

Birdie, in shock, examines her husband.

BIRDIE  
He's been shot! Call 9-1-1!

DEPUTY SANTOS (V.O.)  
I bet she acted surprised!

Judy whips out her phone to make the call as Birdie and Talia lay Adriel on the ground. Accidentally, the back of Adriel's head hits the ground with a thud as it lands on a fist-sized boulder.

DEPUTY SANTOS (V.O.)  
It was dark. Everyone was stunned  
and the adrenaline was pumping.  
Everyone was moving and talking in  
a panic. No one would have noticed  
if Mr. Long's head was lowered  
softly to the ground, or if it was  
purposely dropped on the hard  
surface with rocks all around.

ALL (V.O.)  
Oh, no...

DEPUTY SANTOS (V.O.)  
That alone could have caused a  
concussion and knocked him out!

TALIA  
I'll get Zach.

Talia races off as Adriel MOANS again and Birdie pushes aside the boulder under Adriel's head.

They HEAR the Dispatch Officer (30s, female).

DISPATCH OFFICER (O.S.)  
Emergency Services. Who's calling?

Judy panics and hands her phone to Birdie.

BIRDIE  
This is Birdie Long. My husband's been shot!

DISPATCH OFFICER (O.S.)  
Where...?

BIRDIE  
In the stomach.

JUDY  
I'll get Betsy, Cheryl's wife.  
She's almost a doctor.

Judy races off.

BETSY (V.O.)  
(angry)  
Almost a doctor? I am a doctor!

Adriel MOANS.

DISPATCH OFFICER (O.S.)  
No, where are you located?

BIRDIE  
At the Days of Views RV Park  
outside of town. We need the  
Sheriff.

DISPATCH OFFICER (O.S.)  
I'll send the ambulance...

BIRDIE  
No, he'll be fine. Just send the  
Sheriff.

Birdie stares into Adriel's eyes with love and concern.

DISPATCH OFFICER (O.S.)  
I'll send both.

Adriel MOANS.

BIRDIE

Okay! Please hurry. It looks like  
we're losing him.

Birdie ends the call, pulls Adriel's head up by his man bun, angrily grabs the boulder his head landed on. She glares at it in the dark.

DEPUTY SANTOS (V.O.)

In all the confusion, everyone  
could have taken their eyes off Ms.  
Long for a moment.

BEGIN INSERT

Birdie sees that no one is looking at her, so she pulls Adriel's head up by his man bun and conks him HARD on the back of the head with the boulder.

END INSERT

Birdie tosses the rock into the fire pit and begins CPR as Judy races back to the fire pit pulling Betsy behind her in a Japanese kimono.

Birdie ceases the CPR.

BIRDIE

It's no use. I think he's gone.

END FLASHBACK

DEPUTY SANTOS

Two real doctors...  
(glares at Betsy)  
Examined the x-rays of Mr. Long's  
skull and suggested his injuries  
were the result of blunt force  
trauma.

Adriel feels the bandages on his head.

ADRIEL

Ow! Still hurts.

BETSY

But suggested is a wimpy term for  
uncertainty, wouldn't you agree,  
Deputy?

ADRIEL  
(sadly to Birdie)  
They can't prove that!  
(to the Deputy)  
Isn't that right, Deputy?

DEPUTY SANTOS  
A jury would have to believe the  
doctor's testimony.

CHERYL  
Never happen in this county!

ADRIEL  
What about my foot?

BIRDIE  
You were resting comfortably at the  
Archery Range when a stray arrow  
hit your foot.

BUCK  
Could have happened to anyone.

ADRIEL  
(puzzled)  
What was I doing there? That could  
have given me a heart attack!

DEPUTY SANTOS  
Exactly. You would have died from  
natural causes and your life  
insurance would pay out!  
(glares at Birdie)  
I have a theory.

The Deputy paces as he speculates.

DEPUTY SANTOS (CONT'D)  
I was searching the fire pit area  
for a blood-stained boulder that  
could explain the contusion, while  
Ms. Long went back to change out of  
her housecoat. She was only gone  
for a few minutes, but there was  
enough time to launch a hunting  
arrow from the woods near the  
Archery Range to Mr. Long's foot.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. LONG'S RV

SUPER: "Yesterday."

Birdie strips of her housecoat and is already dressed in her sexiest tank top and jogging shorts and quickly adds red lipstick.

She slips on clear latex gloves and grabs her bow from underneath her mattress and hunting arrow from a utility closet and RACES OUT.

END FLASHBACK

JUDY

Would have taken a hell of a shot.

ADRIEL

She did take archery at the Community College.

DEPUTY SANTOS

I didn't know that!

Birdie slaps Adriel playfully on the shoulder.

BIRDIE

So did you, it was an easy "A."

ADRIEL

I gotta "B."

DEPUTY SANTOS

If she used latex gloves again, the arrow couldn't be traced.

ZACH

That's circumstantial evidence! It would never hold up.

BUCK

What if I told you I shot the arrow practicing for deer season?

DEPUTY SANTOS

You would be guilty of reckless endangerment. That's a misdemeanor.

CHERYL

(scoffs)

Miss Demeanor was my nickname in high school.

Everyone laughs as Buck gives Cheryl a high-five.

JUDY  
Mine was Judy-the-nudie.

Everyone laughs.

BETSY  
I was called...  
(beat)  
Never mind. Kids can be cruel.

SILENCE

Larry shoots up out of his seat and yells.

LARRY  
I confess!

Everyone, especially the Deputy, is stunned.

ADRIEL  
What?

Larry carefully hands the baby on his back to Cheryl whose eyes open wide.

LARRY  
(to Adriel)  
It was an accident.

He paces and shouts like a madman.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
I told Cheryl I was going out to  
stop Arvin from lighting off  
firecrackers, took a .22 pistol  
from the Lost and Found.  
(boldly)  
I shot Adriel in the stomach. By  
accident. I was aiming at the chair  
next to him.  
(to Adriel)  
Sorry, dude.

The Deputy races up to Larry. Behind the Deputy, Adriel and Birdie smile briefly, glance at each other, and share a moment.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
That's preposterous! What motive?

Larry looks the Deputy in the eyes.

LARRY

One: my wife had an affair with him!

Cheryl moves to hug Larry.

CHERYL

How sweet. You're jealous.

LARRY

Two: I need a vacation. Maybe one of those country club-like prisons for rich people so I could learn how to play pickleball.

The crowd nods approvingly.

The Deputy raises his hands in fury.

DEPUTY SANTOS

That's not a motive!

LARRY

A house that doesn't move, three square meals a day, a quiet library.

(Screams)

You try living with Arvin and a baby in an RV!

Everyone laughs.

Arvin picks up a large handful of mac 'n cheese and tosses it at Larry who instinctively ducks and it hits the Deputy in the face.

Arvin races out the door. The Deputy is furious.

DEPUTY SANTOS

But the contusion on Mr. Long's skull!

Zach stands like an attorney.

ZACH

Circumstantial evidence! I move that it be stricken from the record.

Everyone cheers.

DEPUTY SANTOS

And the hunting arrow in his foot!

Buck stands as Zach sits.

BUCK  
I already admitted to that  
accident. Sorry, Bro.

The Deputy points to Buck and Zach.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
You two are felons and can't be  
seen together.  
(to Birdie)  
And I'm taking you in!

The Deputy handcuffs Birdie.

Talia stands.

TALIA  
I confess. I shot Adriel and tried  
to give him skin cancer!

Cheryl stands.

CHERYL  
I confess. I shot Adriel and tried  
to get mosquitoes to give him West  
Nile Virus!

Betsy, Zach, and Arvin stand, but before they speak, Adriel  
gets out of the wheelchair, in some pain, and hugs his wife.

ADRIEL  
I won't be pressing charges against  
anyone!

The Deputy gets in Adriel's face.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
You were shot in the stomach,  
conked on the head, and took an  
arrow in the foot. They left you  
out by the archery range and  
swimming pool in hopes another  
accident struck you. Your brother  
almost rolled you off the dock and  
into the lake this afternoon! What  
do you mean, you're not pressing  
charges?

ADRIEL  
(softly)  
You'll never understand what having  
a family is all about!

The guests surround Adriel and Birdie as they kiss.

The Deputy removes Birdie's handcuffs.

DEPUTY SANTOS  
You people are crazy!

He stomps toward the exit.

As he swings open the door, the rare One-eyed, Yellow-breasted Crossbill stops to rest on the top of the open door.

Adriel points to the rare songbird.

ADRIEL  
That's it! The rare and  
endangered...

Arvin is outside lighting a firecracker. BANG!

The bird flies off!

The Deputy races away in his squad car.

CHERYL  
(in a panic)  
Did anybody get a photo?

ALL  
Nope.

BIRDIE  
It will be an economic boom for the  
RV park!

JUDY  
Birders will be coming here from  
all over!

BIRDIE  
(calmly to Adriel)  
Sorry, dear. About the shooting,  
conk on the head, arrow in the  
foot, sunburn, and mosquito  
bites...

ADRIEL  
No worries, dear. I needed an  
attitude adjustment.  
(smiles)  
Plus, I loved my sponge bath! Maybe  
tonight...

Birdie moves in and KISSES Adriel long and hard.

BIRDIE  
Who wants to light up the campfire?

ALL  
Yeah!

EXT. CAMPFIRE CIRCLE - NIGHT

Everyone is there. The fire is big. Talia has her guitar and she's ready to sing.

During the song, the couples squeeze closer together. They smile and kiss a lot.

BIRDIE (V.O.)  
Everyone listened to Talia sing her new song.

TALIA  
Ba Ba Ba Ba Ba Bakersfield...

BIRDIE (V.O.)  
It was comically awful, but we all pretended to love it!  
(beat)  
That's what families do!

They all CHEER wildly.

FADE OUT.

**THE END**