

Jade Farms

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. STREET/ MORELLI MANSION - DAY

JESUS BRAVO (27), parks his truck in front of a sprawling mansion. His truck reads: Jesus Bravo's Pool Cleaning Service. "Let us Help You Walk on Water."

The gold M.M. Initials are on the front gate.

Jesus takes out his pool supplies and heads to the side gate. He punches in the code: 6666

Jesus waves to MAXIMO MORELLI (70s), his wealthy long-time client from across the yard.

The pool is overflowing.

JESUS

Good Morning, Mr. Morelli. When did this start?

MAXIMO

Just yesterday evening.

Jesus takes a sample of the water.

JESUS

Something is going on. The PH balance is way off.

Jesus begins to check all of the filters one by one, looking for any kind of clog.

JESUS (CONT'D)

(To Maximo)

I think I found the problem, there is something stuck.

Jesus reaches his hand in trying to pull the clog out.

JESUS (CONT'D)

I can't do it from this angle.

Jesus hops in the pool waist-deep.

MAXIMO

Sorry to get your clothes wet this early.

JESUS

Part of the job.

Maximo is watching Jesus from the poolside.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
Probably a rat; it happens all the  
time.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
Hold on, I can feel it.

With one giant pull, Jesus grasps the object and gets it  
unstuck from the pool drain.

It's a human foot.

Jesus and Maximo look at each other.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
(Nervous)  
Well, this is awkward.

MAXIMO  
Dry off, and come see me in my  
office.

Maximo throws him a towel.

Jesus quickly dries off and goes inside.

INT. MANSION - DAY

GREYSON PAULEY (60s), greets Jesus at the door.

GREYSON  
This way, Sir. May I take your  
towel?

JESUS  
Oh, yeah, sure. Sorry, it's  
soaking.

Jesus hands Greyson the towel. Greyson gives him a fresh one.

Greyson knocks on the grand door of the office.

Behind a large desk sits Maximo, looking at a finance  
magazine.

MAXIMO  
Come in, Jesus, sit down.

Jesus takes a seat, lining the leather chair with his towel  
so he doesn't ruin the furniture.

MAXIMO (CONT'D)

How long have you been servicing my pool?

JESUS

I believe three years now, Sir.

MAXIMO

I admire a man with his own business. You have done an excellent job. If you don't mind me asking, what does a person like you make in a year?

JESUS

Well, last year was my best year so far, and after taxes, I managed to clear \$88,000.

MAXIMO

Do you have kids?

JESUS

Kids, no, I don't even have a girlfriend.

MAXIMO

Well, what if I told you I would pay you \$250,000 for your silence?

JESUS

(Excited)

Sir, you would have the cleanest pool in town. You could deliver a baby in it. It would be sparkling. I swear I will work night and day to keep it perfect.

MAXIMO

(Laughing)

Oh, Jesus, I'm not talking about cleaning the pool.

JESUS

Oh right, I can clean your house, be your driver, walk your dog, whatever you need. No one needs to know about the foot.

MAXIMO

I just need you to do one simple thing. I need you to drive to Canada.

JESUS

Sure, I've never been to Canada.  
What part?

MAXIMO

Toronto. It's a beautiful drive. My wife and I have been going for years, but now that drive is getting to be too much for me.

JESUS

When would I leave?

MAXIMO

I'm still working out the details.

Maximo's wife, STELLA MORELLI (65), walks by the door.

MAXIMO (CONT'D)

Stella, come in here for a minute. I want you to meet our pool maintenance person. Jesus, this is my wife, Stella.

STELLA

(Mispronouncing his name)  
Nice to meet you, Jesus. Sounds like your parents set some big goals for you.

Jesus smiles nervously.

Maximo and Stella don't understand that the pronunciation of Jesus is HEY-SOOS.

MAXIMO

Jesus is going to be driving up some things for us to our Canadian house. Tell him about Canada.

STELLA

I met Maximo 42 years ago on a trip to Toronto. It was autumn, so very beautiful foliage. We fell instantly in love. We ended up buying a house there.

Maximo kisses Stella.

STELLA (CONT'D)

It's a very romantic drive. I prefer to fly at my age, but Maximo says the drive relaxes him.

STELLA (CONT'D)

I'm sure you will have a wonderful time. You should bring a friend, or maybe a girlfriend.

JESUS

I'm single right now.

STELLA

A handsome young man who owns his own company and you're single?

JESUS

It turns out most girls are not impressed with owning a pool cleaning company.

STELLA

It's a long drive. You will want someone to share the driving.

Stella runs to pick up BELLA (13), a one-eyed mutt. She sets it on top of Maximo's desk.

STELLA (CONT'D)

Nice meeting you, Jesus.

MAXIMO

(To Jesus)

What's the most important thing in life?

JESUS

Getting to live the rest of it, sir.

MAXIMO

The most important thing in life is family. Without family, life has no meaning. The Man in the filter had no family.

JESUS

That's a good thing, sir.

Maximo picks up the one-eyed mutt.

MAXIMO

This is Bella, we adopted her from a farm in Manteca. It was called something like the Obese and the Forgotten.

(MORE)

MAXIMO (CONT'D)

They take animals that never get adopted at shelters because of their disabilities or special needs.

JESUS

Oh my God, that's my sister's animal sanctuary. It's called The Oldie's and the Fatty's. What a coincidence!

MAXIMO

What was her motivation to start such a place?

JESUS

My sister's husband died last year, and she found out he had taken a second mortgage on the house. It's always been an animal rescue, but if she can't pay the mortgage, she could lose the farm.

MAXIMO

Perfect...There is your motivation. You can do this drive for me and help your sister.

JESUS

So all I have to do is drive some of your things to Canada?

MAXIMO

That's it. There is one thing, though, you will need to complete the trip.

JESUS

Sure, what is it?

MAXIMO

You will be transporting five-hundred pounds of illegal drugs across the border.

Jesus sits in silence, stunned.

JESUS

Drugs? oh no, Sir, I'm just a pool guy. I would not have the slightest clue how to successfully pull off a drug smuggling operation, but thank you anyway for the offer.

Jesus gets up from his seat and heads toward the door.

MAXIMO  
Jesus, sit down.

Jesus goes back to his seat.

MAXIMO (CONT'D)  
You are a witness to a murder.

JESUS  
I didn't see a murder. I just found  
a foot.

Stella comes in with some coffee and cookies.

STELLA  
Remember, Maximo, you have your  
golf lesson at eleven.

Maximo glances at the clock.

Stella leaves the room.

JESUS  
Sir, I promise I will never say  
anything. People have pool  
accidents all the time, hence the  
foot in the drain. No one needs to  
know.

MAXIMO  
A young man your age, a business  
owner with their whole life ahead  
of them, I would hate to see that  
all end.

JESUS  
Sir, I can still work here; in fact  
I can work here for free. It will  
be our secret.

MAXIMO  
You're missing the point. I'm not  
asking you to drive to Canada...I'm  
telling you. In return, I will pay  
you \$250,000 for your time. You can  
go see some of the sights. Think of  
it as a paid mandatory vacation.

JESUS  
But sir, I know nothing about  
smuggling drugs. My Father was a  
postman.

MAXIMO

What's to know? You have a product that has a buyer; it's as simple as that.

JESUS

I'm a pool guy; I only know about pool stuff. I didn't even graduate from community college

MAXIMO

Going to school has nothing to do with being smart. You need to use your imagination. You will figure it out.

JESUS

So if I say no, you'll kill me?

MAXIMO

I hate to use the word kill. It makes me sound so demanding and cruel.

JESUS

(Relieved)

So you won't kill me?

MAXIMO

Manteca has a lot of farmland. People don't look for bodies in almond fields, same trees, year after year, no need to dig them up.

Jesus walks out of the office in shock. Greyson is waiting for him.

GRAYSON

(To Jesus)

Sir, if you don't mind me saying, I would do whatever Mr. Morelli asks you to do.

JESUS

So you must know everything about him?

GRAYSON

He's a man who knows what he wants and gets it. We all play our part here, and in return, we live.

JESUS

So, you're saying I should just do what he says?

GRAYSON

It's in the best interest of your health.

EXT. THE OLDIES AND THE FATTY'S MISFIT SANCTUARY - DAY

Jesus is speeding down the road to his sister's farm.

RICCI MASON (45), is motioning for Jesus to slow down.

Jesus stops the truck abruptly.

RICCI

What is the matter with you? You're scaring the animals.

Jesus gets out of the truck and forgets to shut the door.

Dogs are jumping in the truck, hoping to go for a ride.

The Oldie's and the Fatty's wooden sign is faded and needs repair. The fence is falling apart. The house is held together by spit and chewing gum.

JESUS

We have to talk. Something happened at work.

RICCI

Oh, shit! Did that rich client fire you?

JESUS

No. It's not that.

RICCI

You slept with one of the client's wives?

JESUS

No Ricci.

RICCI

Oh, God, did someone die in the pool?

JESUS

Yes!

RICCI

Was it your fault? Do you need to find an attorney?

JESUS

Now let me explain. I was cleaning the filter and found...

RICCI

Ewww, don't tell me it was a human head.

JESUS

Have you seen a pool filter? A human head would never fit.

RICCI

A penis?...someone is always losing a penis in the pool.

JESUS

What pools do you swim in?

RICCI

It happens; I mean, you read about things like that happening.

JESUS

Ricci, listen, I found a foot.

RICCI

This one, it's Keller's favorite toy?

Ricci picks up a dog toy that is a squeaky toy human foot. She squeaks it. All the dogs come running.

JESUS

No, Ricci, it was a human foot.

RICCI

Ewwwww, a man's foot or a woman's?

JESUS

It may have been a man's foot, I'm not sure. Usually, if the person is attached, I have a better chance of guessing.

RICCI

Was it above the ankle or below?

JESUS  
Above, I think? I'm not sure, it's  
hard to remember.

RICCI  
Did you keep it?

JESUS  
Is our last name Dahmer? No, Ricci,  
I'm not keeping death trophies.

RICCI  
So who do you think was the killer?

JESUS  
You're not listening. It was my  
client.

RICCI  
Your client's foot.

JESUS  
No, my client is the killer. He's  
running some kind of drug smuggling  
operation.

RICCI  
So what does that mean now for you?

JESUS  
It means, I'm his bitch!

All the dogs are running around. One of them takes a poop in  
the grass.

RICCI  
What a good girl! That was a nice  
poop. Darling had a peanut butter  
poop this morning must have been  
something she ate.

JESUS  
Can we focus here?

RICCI  
I get it; you had a bad day. Want a  
beer?

JESUS  
Being linked to a murder is more  
than having a bad day.

Ricci grabs two beers and pops the caps off. Jesus chugs his  
beer.

JESUS (CONT'D)

He says he will give me \$250,000 to take drugs across the Canadian border.

RICCI

What part of Canada?

JESUS

Toronto.

RICCI

Darn, I would love to go, but I have all the animals, and I don't want to be a prison wife.

JESUS

Ricci, this is real. What am I going to do?

RICCI

Wow, your day was definitely more interesting than mine. All I did was feed, water, and love on animals.

Ricci gets another beer.

RICCI (CONT'D)

Could I please borrow the \$75,000 and pay you back? You know I'm up for it.

Jesus finishes his beer and takes another.

JESUS

I don't have the money, he'll pay me when the job is done.

RICCI

I know it's kind of rude to ask, but could I take out a life insurance policy on you?

JESUS

Can you please just focus and help me?

RICCI

Sorry, that was out of line.

JESUS

I run a pool service. How am I going to get drugs across a border and not look suspicious?

RICCI

You're Mexican in a truck, you're already on their radar.

JESUS

Exactly!

RICCI

Wait, what happens if you say no?

JESUS

He will kill me.

RICCI

Did he specifically say kill? Or just a little maiming?

JESUS

It was strongly implied. Even his butler warned me I should do it.

RICCI

What kind of drugs?

JESUS

I didn't ask. I don't want to know.

RICCI

Well, some drugs are way worse than others.

JESUS

All drugs are the same in jail and carry a prison sentence. One minute I'm a business owner, and now I'm thinking what things I need to take care of before I'm incarcerated.

RICCI

I'm not going to let you down. You're my only brother. We will figure this out.

JESUS

I have a drug lord who is willing to kill me if I can't pull this off.

RICCI

Let's think about it. What do people use to hide drugs?

JESUS

Coffee? It kills the scent so the dog's can't smell it. Do you think they have a canine unit at the border?

RICCI

Not sure. We can Google that.

JESUS

I can just picture me being mauled by a German Shepard, just before I'm arrested.

RICCI

Coffee is a well-known thing to hide drugs in; besides, who would be driving that much coffee across the border?

JESUS

Juan Valdez?

RICCI

It needs to be something people are afraid of and won't look through. What about a lion?

JESUS

Oh, sure, I'll just throw a lion in my truck on the way.

RICCI

Wait, I got it! People are scared of dogs.

Ricci and Jesus take a look at the group of disabled dogs around them, wagging their tails and playing. KELLER (14), a dog with no eyes, is running along with the group.

JESUS

Yes, Keller is terrifying. People would search the truck to cuddle with him.

RICCI

What other things are people afraid of? What about snakes?

JESUS

I'm afraid of snakes. No way am I driving snakes. Every time I take a plane, I search the whole cabin before I can sit down.

RICCI

Good point. I loved Snakes on a Plane. People are seriously afraid of snakes, but certain types might be considered exotic animals.

Ricci throws a ball, and all the dogs run after it.

RICCI (CONT'D)

What about spiders? So many people have a spider phobia.

JESUS

(Mocking)

Hi, Canadian border police. I have five hundred pounds of spiders that I would like to bring into your country.

RICCI

Yeah, that probably won't work. What about clowns?

JESUS

That seems perfectly normal to be transporting clowns across the border.

RICCI

(Laughing)

Your arrest would blow up the internet.

Keller drops a toy at Jesus's feet. Jesus picks up the toy and smells it.

JESUS

Ugh, that toy stinks!

RICCI

We don't wash the toys so Keller can find them. His sense of smell is advanced because of his lack of sight.

A bumblebee is buzzing around the empty beer bottles. Jesus gets out of his seat and is swatting at the bee, terrified.

RICCI (CONT'D)

Don't fan them. They will sting you.

JESUS

I don't have my epi pen.

RICCI

That's it! Bees, people are afraid of bees!

JESUS

I currently don't know anyone with bees to transport, and you know I'm allergic.

RICCI

The bees would be in the back. You wouldn't be near them. Who on earth is going to check bees for drugs? It's brilliant.

JESUS

You watch too many movies.

RICCI

It's the perfect crime.

Ricci picks up a local flyer magazine and shows a photo of a family in bee costumes. it reads: Jade Farms Manteca: Local Honey & Bee Keeping Since 1904.

RICCI (CONT'D)

Jesus, this my chance to save the farm. It will work. I know I'm putting my needs above yours, but if he's going to kill you anyway, what have you got to lose?

JESUS

And what if it doesn't work?

RICCI

I'll write you every week, if you're arrested. I'll be right behind you.

JESUS

And in another country, unable to help.

EXT. JADE FARMS - DAY

SPARROW DANG (27), the eldest daughter of six girls, sits in a bee costume, manning the honey booth for sales. A banner reads: Jade Farms Manteca local honey since 1904.

SPARROW  
(To customers)  
Pride of Manteca, local honey, step  
right up for a sample.

AVERY BROWN (30s), wearing an "Indiana" t-shirt, is inspecting the honey.

AVERY  
So these bees are local?

SPARROW  
Yes ma'am. Would you like a sample?

Sparrow hands Avery a plastic spoon with some honey.

AVERY  
(Suspicious)  
How do we know some of these bees  
aren't from the city?

SPARROW  
I assure you, ma'am. This honey is  
made with bees from Jade Farms.

AVERY  
Were they grass-fed?

TEX JOHNSON (50,s), walks up, tipping his cowboy hat to Sparrow.

SPARROW  
Howdy, Miss, I would like to get a  
sample.

Tex savors the flavor of the honey.

TEX  
Dang! That's good, honey.

Sparrow points to a jar half full of quarters. It has a sign that reads: Every Time You Use Our Last Name, It's a Quarter For Bee Conservation".

Tex laughs and reaches into his pocket.

TEX (CONT'D)

Dang... Dang... Dang I got no change.

Tex puts a dollar in the jar.

TEX (CONT'D)

I'll take six. I'm giving them as gifts in my hometown, Guerra. There ain't nothin' better than honey on cornbread.

Sparrow puts each jar in a paper bag marked with the Jade Farm Bee Logo. She ties it with a piece of raffia.

SPARROW

Thank you, sir. enjoy.

Sparrow is distracted by a handsome guy walking around.

Jesus Bravo turns around. Sparrow is blushing in her bee costume.

SPARROW (CONT'D)

Sample?

Sparrow knocks over the jar of honey with her bee wing.

SPARROW (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm sorry, I don't always wear a bee costume. My Bo' likes us to wear them on weekends; he thinks it's good for business.

JESUS

I find it quite charming.

SPARROW

(Embarrassed)

We are third-generation honey makers.

Jesus takes a spoonful.

JESUS

I heard that local honey helps with allergies.

SPARROW

Well, we can't verify that with accuracy, but I've heard it too.

JESUS

Well, it's delicious. I will take fifty.

SPARROW

Fifty, wow, that's great. Gifts? Where are you from?

JESUS

Yes, they are gifts. I know a lot of people with allergies. I'm local. I live above a storefront in downtown Manteca, off of Yosemite and Main.

Jesus hands Sparrow his card.

SPARROW

Do you own a pool business?

JESUS

Yes, do you have a pool?

SPARROW

I wish it were 109 most of last week. I'm living at home for now, saving money.

Sparrow is wrapping all fifty of the honey jars. Jesus tries to take the jars to his truck. There are too many.

SPARROW (CONT'D)

Let me help you.

Sparrow grabs a milk crate. She walks Jesus to his truck, helping him load the honey.

SPARROW (CONT'D)

Well, I appreciate you're patronage.

Sparrow awkwardly shakes Jesus's hand. Sparrow turns and walks away.

JESUS

Wait Miss.

Sparrow turns around.

JESUS (CONT'D)

I didn't get your name.

SPARROW

It's Sparrow, like the bird.

JESUS

What a pretty name. I feel weird asking you this, but could I call you sometime?

SPARROW

Yes, I work weekdays and weekends, but I can also get off when I want. We are a family business, so I work for room, board, & food... so, like basically for free.

Sparrow writes her cell number on the back of a Jade Farms card.

Sparrow hands Jesus the card.

Jesus drives off.

SPARROW (CONT'D)

(Rolling her eyes)

I thank you for you're patronage.

EXT. JADE FARMS/ BEE COMBS - DAY

FALCON DANG (66), (Bo') and BICH DANG (Ma')(60,s), are tending to the bees, taking out some of the honeycombs to look at.

FALCON

Not quite ready; maybe a week out.

Falcon returns the frames, and Bich takes off her beekeeper suit.

Bich walks over and pours some iced tea for Falcon and herself.

OWL DANG (21), a solid girl, runs up to Bich in full firefighter's gear. Owl picks up Bich, throwing her over her shoulder like a sack of potatoes.

BICH

Do we need to do this now?

OWL

MA' my test is in a few months. I need to build up my upper body strength.

Owl runs down the field with Bich.

FALCON

Owl, leave your Ma' alone.

Owl runs back and puts Bich down. She is doing push-ups.

BICH

(To Falcon)

Maybe she will meet a man at the fire department? Wouldn't it be nice to have two firefighters in the family?

OWL

(Yells out)

Not happening.

BICH

(To Falcon)

Girls change their minds. I didn't know what I wanted at her age.

FALCON

(To Bich)

I wouldn't get my hopes up. You didn't wanted to date girls at her age.

BICH

True, I just thought she was athletically gifted.

Owl is practicing dragging the fire hose back and forth.

BICH (CONT'D)

It's funny how different all the girls are.

FALCON

I am blessed to have six smart girls like their Ma.

WREN DANG (25), a smart, driven woman focused solely on becoming a pastry chef, walks out with a plate of hot cookies.

WREN

Ma' taste these.

Falcon, Bich, and Owl take a cookie.

FALCON

Is that honey?

WREN

Yes, do you like them?

OWL

They are ugly but delicious.

BICH

OWL!

OWL

How is she going to improve if it's all sunshine and rainbows?

WREN

These are just samples to get the flavor right.

WREN (CONT'D)

Wait till you see the finished product. I'm working on a concept.

Bich dips the cookie in her tea.

BICH

What is the other flavor? I can't place it.

WREN

It's lavender. I was just experimenting.

FALCON

Did you talk to any culinary schools?

WREN

I need to have something that gets noticed first and then save my money, maybe get with a small local restaurant.

FALCON

I wish we could pay for you Wren. If Mr. Taylor didn't ruin us...

BICH

Let's not think about the past.

WREN

I know Bo. It's ok, I have it all figured out. I'm all about improving my craft.

FALCON

Mr. Taylor is a horrible man.

BICH

He just has more money than us. He can pay to market and advertise. Our main advertising is our annual Christmas card.

OWL

Ugh!

WREN

Ugh!

OWL (CONT'D)

Bo', we got to get with the times;

we need to be on social media and

have a website.

FALCON

We are third generation bee farmers. None of my ancestors did it that way, and they were all highly successful.

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They didn't have the competition we have now.

FALCON

Dang's honor tradition.

OWL

We know.

WREN

We know.

FALCON

That's our family motto. Never forget that.

WREN

We know Bo.

BICH

Where is Dove?

WREN

Asleep.

FALCON

It's 11:00 AM. Why is she still sleeping?

WREN

She stayed up all night writing and rapping. I hate to burst her bubble, but how many Vietnamese female rap artists are selling songs?

OWL

Dream crusher. Just because you don't know any off the top of your head, maybe Dove will be the first.

WREN

Hey, I support her, but I need my sleep. and can someone find a word that rhymes with Manteca so I can get some sleep?

PHOEBE DANG (23), an aspiring Horror special make-up Fx and prop maker, is carrying a hatbox and walking towards the family.

PHOEBE

I found this in the closet.

BICH

That's one of my old hat boxes, I haven't seen it in years.

Phoebe takes off the lid. Inside the box is a gruesome, bloody severed head covered with welts on his face. Real dead bees are all over the face and hair.

BICH (CONT'D)

(Let's out a scream)

Oh, honey, that scared me! It looks so real.

PHOEBE

I think it's my best work yet. I am focusing on using special effects materials and organic materials.

OWL

That is cool AF! That looks like real pus.

Owl touches it and licks it.

PHOEBE

Cream of Wheat.

OWL

How long did it take you?

PHOEBE

Maybe 36-40 hours. I'm sending pictures in for a competition.

Phoebe sets the head in the middle of the table like a centerpiece and takes a cookie.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Dang, these are good!

OWL

You owe us a quarter.

Phoebe takes three more cookies.

PHOEBE

I've got to go, I'm working on my next one.

OWL

What is it?

PHOEBE

I'm creating an easy peel-off skin. It needs to look like it's melting off the bone.

BICH

You can do it, honey. We're proud of you.

PHOEBE

Maybe I can create a "Candyman" like character for the farm. Sort of a tourist attraction.

OWL

That's a name I will never say five times in the mirror.

BICH

Well, honey, I think we want to attract sales, not scare people away. Let me think about it.

Phoebe walks toward the main house, taking her head in the hat box.

INT. DANG HOUSE/ DOVE'S ROOM - DAY

DOVE DANG (19), an aspiring rap artist, is just waking up. She has a notebook next to her bed. She sits up abruptly, writing furiously.

DOVE

(Rapping in the mirror)  
 Welcome to the sweet life. don't  
 mean you any harm, hopin one day  
 you'll visit Jade Farms.

Posters of her favorite Rap artist are on the walls.

Phoebe knocks on Dove's door.

PHOEBE

Hey, sleeping beauty. I saved you a  
 cookie.

Phoebe tosses her one of Wren's cookies.

DOVE

Yum! Are there any more?

PHOEBE

You snooze...you lose.

DOVE

I was tired. I needed to sleep in.

PHOEBE

Hey, I appreciate your love for  
 music, but you kept me up half the  
 night.

DOVE

Sorry. I'm working on a song.

Owl walks in.

OWL

Have you seen my grey hoodie?

DOVE

I think it's dirty, sorry.

OWL

It's the only one that fits me.

Owl digs through her hamper and finds it. Owl smells it and  
 puts it on.

DOVE

It's dirty.

OWL

I'm just using it to work out. I have to train every day, or I'll never make the cut. I'll wash it after.

PHOEBE

So what is your "Rap" name going to be?

DOVE

Double D.

Owl and Phoebe are laughing hysterically.

OWL

Does that stand for delusional dreamer?

PHOEBE

(Patting her chest)

How are you going to be Double D? You ain't got nothin.

DOVE

(Laughing)

Rap names are a fantasy; besides mine is my initials.

OWL

Oh, I actually love that. Look at Ice Cube. I think I would be Whoo Whoo.

Owl makes the noise of an Owl hooting.

PHOEBE

I think I would be Gore Girl or maybe Scare Bear.

DOVE

(Laughing)

What would Bo' be?

PHOEBE

Traditional Busy Bee?

DOVE

That sounds like a Preschool.

OWL

Bo' would just be called Tradition, kind of like a Cher or Madonna thing.

DOVE  
 (Laughing)  
 Yes... totally.

PHOEBE  
 Ma' would just be Bich with the  
 American pronunciation.

OWL  
 (Laughing)  
 She would own that!

DOVE  
 Magpie would be Shiny Thing.

OWL  
 What would Wren be?

DOVE  
 Goodie Girl.

PHOEBE  
 What about Sparrow?

DOVE  
 That's so easy. Sparrow would be  
 Queen Honey Bee.

EXT. JUNKYARD DOG SCRAP METAL - DAY

MAGPIE DANG (17), rings the bell of a scrap metal business.  
 It seems no one is there.

Two big mutts run up to the gate toward her. Magpie pets them  
 through the gate. They are guard dogs on duty. Beware of Dog  
 signs are posted.

A buzzer rings, and she hears the door unlock. Magpie inches  
 her way in so she doesn't let the dogs out.

The dogs are jumping all over her, excited to see new people.

MAGPIE  
 Hello...is anyone here?

The place is a mishmash of scrap metal, old tires, and trash-  
 to-treasure items.

Magpie immediately sees a shiny object; it's a pile of copper  
 scraps.

She sees a piece of copper that is just what she is looking for. She nervously looks around and is about to put it in her backpack.

ROMERO TAYLOR (18), A handsome, quirky boy, comes up behind Magpie.

ROMERO  
Copper's my favorite metal because  
of the color.

Magpie looks at the metal as it sparkles in the light.

MAGPIE  
I love shiny things.

The dogs run up to Magpie.

ROMERO  
Boy, they sure like you, some guard  
dogs you are. That's how I got this  
job.

MAGPIE  
What happened.

ROMERO  
About a month ago, a guy cut  
through the metal fence and stole  
thousands of dollars of scrap  
metal. The dogs were asleep when  
the owner got here.

MAGPIE  
What are their names?

ROMERO  
The owner never gave them names.  
He's never here. I named them Scrap  
& Metal.

MAGPIE  
So the owner has no contact with  
them?

ROMERO  
I get free rent to take care of  
them, but they deserve a family.

MAGPIE  
That makes me sad. Are you in  
college?

ROMERO

I'm still in high school. I go to Cleveland.

MAGPIE

I'm a Senior at Franklin, hoping to not stay a Senior forever.

ROMERO

So what brings you to a scrap metal place?

MAGPIE

I design jewelry; well, that's what I want to do. I haven't sold anything yet.

Magpie shows him her necklace.

ROMERO

That's cool. I make sculptures out of scrap metal. Business has been slow. Lots of people want to sell scrap metal. Not as many want to buy it.

Romero points to two dogs in the likeness of Scrap & Metal cast in scrap metal.

MAGPIE

(Impressed)

You could sell these. These are fantastic!

ROMERO

I just make them to kill time. I actually do enjoy it, though. I can look at a piece of metal and see a nose or an ear. Somehow, I can piece it together to make something out of it.

MAGPIE

I will take this piece.

Romero puts the copper of the scale.

ROMERO

That will be fifty dollars and thirty-one cents.

Magpie takes the piece, puts it in her backpack, and starts to leave.

ROMERO (CONT'D)  
 (Yelling)  
 I hope I see you again. Wait,  
 what's your name?

MAGPIE  
 It's Magpie, like the bird.

Magpie closes the door.

The dogs are sitting hopefully for treats next to Romero,  
 panting.

ROMERO  
 (Talking to the dogs)  
 Wow! Magpie, ain't she something  
 else?

INT. SPARROW'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sparrow is lying on her bed, trying to get comfortable. She  
 feels something under the pillow.

SPARROW  
 (Yelling)  
 Phoebe! Not funny!

It's a sardine can with the lid peeled back. The sardines are  
 replaced by what look like human fingers.

The phone rings, and she sees the name: Man of my Dreams come  
 up on the phone screen.

Sparrow quickly sits up in her bed.

SPARROW (CONT'D)  
 (Trying to play it cool)  
 Sparrow here.

JESUS  
 Hi, I'm not sure if you remember  
 meeting me. I bought fifty jars of  
 honey from you.

SPARROW  
 (Playing it cool)  
 Is this Jesus?

JESUS  
 Oh you remember me great. What are  
 you up to?

Sparrow puts the can of special effects fingers on her night table.

SPARROW

I was just resting. I got up early to work with the bees.

JESUS

Well, I wanted to see if you were free this Saturday.

SPARROW

Let me check my schedule.

Sparrow pretends to be looking at her schedule.

SPARROW (CONT'D)

What time were you thinking?

JESUS

I wanted to make it an early dinner and then maybe go for a walk. What about 4:00 PM?

SPARROW

Yes, that works for me.

JESUS

Great, I will text you the directions.

SPARROW

Dressy? Casual?

JESUS

Wear anything you want. You can even wear your bee costume.

SPARROW

Ok, see you Saturday.

Sparrow hangs up and smiles from ear to ear. Sparrow runs to Owl's bedroom.

OWL'S BEDROOM - DAY

SPARROW

Guess who just called me?

Sparrow holds up the recent calls screen, and it reads: MAN OF MY DREAMS.

OWL

I wish I remembered who he was, it was busy last weekend.

SPARROW

He was the tall, dark, and handsome guy.

OWL

Not something I would notice.

SPARROW

Sorry yeah.

OWL

I hate wearing the bee costume. Horizontal stripes are not my friend.

SPARROW

Bo's the only one who looks normal in that costume.

OWL

It's like he was born a bee.

EXT. ALMOND FIELD/ MANTECA - DAY

Sparrow is driving in her older model, beat-up pick-up truck. She is listening to her GPS.

It's all almond farms. Rows and rows of trees, no one in sight. She sees Jesus's pool-cleaning business truck.

SPARROW

Where the hell am I? This is in the middle of nowhere.

GPS (V.O.)

Arrived.

Sparrow pulls her truck over on the side of the road.

She sees an arrow directional sign with her name on it.

Sparrow is wearing a dress and heels. As she walks through the fields, it's very hard to walk on the dirt.

SPARROW

(Talking to herself)

I thought we were going to a restaurant, and now I'm in a field with no one knowing where I am.

(MORE)

## SPARROW (CONT'D)

This is a classic horror movie scene.

Sparrow takes off her heels and walks barefoot.

In the middle of the almond tree farm, she sees Jesus. He has a full picnic laid out.

Grapes, crackers, cheeses, nuts, fruit, chocolates, and wine. A large, pretty blanket is laid on the ground.

The blanket is set with fine china and silverware. Candles are lit in mason jars.

JESUS

So you found it.

Jesus stands up and hugs Sparrow. Sparrow is overwhelmed at the level of romance.

SPARROW

I can't believe you did all this.

JESUS

I'm big on first impressions.

SPARROW

Believe me...I'm impressed.

JESUS

True confession. I'm not a great cook, so I picked things you can't mess up. Who doesn't love fruit and cheese?

They begin to eat. Jesus takes out a boombox.

JESUS (CONT'D)

No meal would be complete without music.

Jesus turns on his playlist. (Cheesy '70s music).

SPARROW

You never struck me as a Barry Manilow fan.

JESUS

I'm full of surprises. So you know I clean pools for a living, but I want to hear about you.

SPARROW

Nothing exciting here. I've lived in Manteca my whole life. My Bo' came over with his parents from Vietnam when he was a baby. My great-grandfather started Jade Farms in 1904.

Jesus pours Sparrow a glass of wine.

JESUS

It's great that your family kept it going. Will you take over the business someday?

SPARROW

That's the plan; none of my sisters want it. They all have their own lives. I love the bees, It's all I know.

JESUS

I never known anyone who was a bee farmer.

SPARROW

My Bo' use to take me as a baby when he was working.

SPARROW (CONT'D)

My Ma' said I was fascinated and could watch for hours.

The sun is starting to set.

JESUS

Would you like to take a walk?

SPARROW

Sure, just not in these heels.

Jesus extends his arm and reaches out, and takes Sparrow's hand.

They are walking the almond fields.

JESUS

I love that you are dedicated to your family and the farm. It's just me and my sister Ricci. My parents passed away years ago.

SPARROW

At least you still have her.

JESUS

Yeah, her husband died recently. It was very unexpected. She has had it pretty rough. She runs an animal sanctuary.

SPARROW

Animals are amazing. Bees are focused and productive. We can all learn from their hard work and dedication. Their life purpose is to complete one thing.

JESUS

You are not what I expected.

SPARROW

I hope that's a good thing.

Jesus talks Sparrow in his arms and kisses her.

INT. SPARROW'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Owl knocks quietly on the door.

SPARROW

Come in.

Owl jumps on the end of the bed.

OWL

So what happened? How did it go?  
Wait, hold on.

Owl runs to her room and gets a bowl of popcorn. She sprinkles Parmesan cheese on top.

SPARROW

You're eating this late?

OWL

I've been waiting up all night,  
living vicariously through you.

SPARROW

Well, he made the most incredible picnic in the middle of an almond field. He had candles, food, wine & music.

OWL

I'm so happy for you. What kind of cheese was it? Brie or Gouda?

SPARROW

He had several kinds, and yes,  
there was brie.

OWL

I already like him, he knows good  
cheese. Did he kiss you?

SPARROW

Yes, at the end of the night. I  
didn't want to leave. I can't  
believe I'm saying this after one  
date... but he is perfect. I think  
he's the one.

OWL

I'm so jealous. The last girl I  
went out with wanted to split the  
bill in half; she even had coupons.  
I need to set my standards higher.

SPARROW

Is there anyone in the fire  
academy?

OWL

I do like one girl, but I think she  
likes one of the guys. We're just  
friends.

SPARROW

Take a chance and ask her out. The  
worst she can say is no.

OWL

She stares at me sometimes, but I  
really can't tell what she's  
thinking. What if I'm wrong?

SPARROW

Just do something simple and see  
where it goes. Maybe it will just  
be a friendship, but maybe  
something more.

OWL

When she is in her gear, I start  
sweating. I need to lose some  
weight.

SPARROW

Not everyone likes skinny girls. We  
got the Dang genes; none of us will  
ever be considered skinny.

Sparrow joins Owl in eating some of her popcorn.

INT. MANSION/MAXIMO'S HOUSE -DAY

Greyson takes Jesus back to Maximo's office.

GREYSON

Mr. Morelli, Mr. Bravo is here to see you.

MAXIMO

Well, that was fast. I guess you figured out a plan.

JESUS

I have a plan, but I need your help. I need you to pretend to be a Canadian client who needs to rent bees for pollination.

MAXIMO

I'm not following you.

JESUS

We can hide the drugs in the bottom of the hives. It won't hurt the bee, and no one on earth would look in those containers.

MAXIMO

That's the spirit. I knew you were smart.

JESUS

It's funny how smart you become when you're faced with your own death.

Maximo picks up Bella, the one-eyed mutt, and baby talks to her.

MAXIMO

(To Bella in baby-talk)  
Bella's so tough. She's a big killer. Who's a killer? Who's a killer?

Stella walks in.

STELLA

(To Maximo)  
What are you on about, Maximo?  
What's all this talk of killers?

MAXIMO

Jesus was just saying that Bella has the instincts of a killer guard dog.

Stella picks up Bella.

STELLA

She's my protector. The groomer is here, it's time for her spa day.

Stella walks away with Bella.

Jesus takes a business card from his wallet and hands it to Maximo.

JESUS

This is the number to call. Make it clear that it needs to be Sparrow Dang who drives the bees up.

MAXIMO

Who is Sparrow?

JESUS

I think she is my future wife- long story.

MAXIMO

All the more reason to do this. You can make a little money to buy your first house.

JESUS

Right now, I just don't want my first house to be a Canadian jail cell.

INT. SPARROW'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sparrow calls Jesus.

SPARROW

Hey, what are you doing?

JESUS

I just cleaned out and organized the truck, and as a result, I found my old cell phone from three years ago and a family of dead rats in a dog food bag.

SPARROW

You have a dog?

JESUS

No, I was probably dropping off food for my sister's dogs and forgot about it.

SPARROW

I was calling because I won't be able to see you on Friday.

JESUS

Why? What's up?

SPARROW

A man from Toronto called and wants to hire the bees for a pollination job. I leave with my Bo' this Thursday.

JESUS

Toronto, that sounds exciting. I've always wanted to go there.

SPARROW

The guy is paying us triple since it's such short notice. My Bo' is thrilled.

JESUS

How many hours of driving?

SPARROW

It's about 45 hours, give or take.

JESUS

That's a lot of driving for you and your Dad.

SPARROW

We drive straight through. We take turns. We just drop the bees off and come back home. My Bo' is getting too old for these road trips; he can hardly see at night so I do all of the night driving.

JESUS

I know this sounds crazy, but what if we went together?

SPARROW

Driving the bees?

JESUS

Yes, I have a passport, and I've never been to Toronto. It would be an adventure.

SPARROW

I guess I could ask my Bo' but aren't you allergic to bee's?

JESUS

I carry an epi-pen just in case. It could be a romantic road trip. It's not like I have to take the bee's out to poop or anything. I should be fine.

INT. JUNKYARD DOG SCRAP METAL - DAY

Romero turns around as he hears the front doorbell ring. He is working on a sculpture.

Romero buzzes Magpie in.

ROMERO

Hello again. I remember your name. It's Magpie.

MAGPIE

Yes, my sisters and I are all named after birds.

ROMERO

Why birds?

MAGPIE

My Bo' loves birds. He says birds are free spirits, and he has a bird's name as well.

ROMERO

I was hoping you would come back. I was working on a sculpture.

MAGPIE

Can I see it?

ROMERO

Sure.

Romero leads Magpie to a room upstairs. It's his studio and where he lives. There is an unmade bed and several cans of soda in an overflowing garbage can.

Romero's entire furniture set is made of milk crates, including his shelves, bed, sofa, chair, ottoman, and coffee table.

ROMERO (CONT'D)

Excuse the mess. I've never had anyone in here.

Magpie sees a large metal sculpture of a grasshopper.

MAGPIE

People would buy these, they're so cool. What are those?

Magpie points to the shelves. There are hundreds of baby food jars, all neatly labeled, each containing a toothpick and a date and location.

MAGPIE (CONT'D)

I don't understand. Aren't they all the same toothpicks?

ROMERO

Actually no. These two are from different manufacturers.

Romero holds up the two jars.

MAGPIE

So, why not just buy a box of toothpicks?

ROMERO

It's not the object that is important. It's the destination of acquiring the object.

Romero holds up a jar.

ROMERO (CONT'D)

This one I got in a gas station in Stockton two years ago. Each one is a memory for me.

MAGPIE

What makes it so special?

ROMERO

It's one of the last times I spoke with my Dad; that's when I started living here.

MAGPIE

Why did you stop talking?

ROMERO

My Dad thinks all of my hobbies are strange. He thought it would be better for me to move out.

MAGPIE

That's harsh. Maybe he will come around?

ROMERO

You don't know my Dad. He is not ever going to be wrong in a situation.

MAGPIE

So why not call him?

ROMERO

He blocked my number.

MAGPIE

Wow, that's harsh! I'm so sorry.

ROMERO

Enough about me. Did you ever make anything out of the copper?

MAGPIE

That's why I came back, I wanted to show you these.

Magpie takes out a velvet jewelry box, revealing two copper bracelets and 2 copper necklaces in the shape of bees. They have moving wings.

ROMERO

These are amazing. Did you design them?

MAGPIE

I made the mold out of a dead bee. See the wings move. I like to think that each one has another life.

ROMERO

My Dad would buy these.

MAGPIE

Why would your Dad want a bee necklace?

ROMERO

We own Taylor Bee Farms. I mean, he owns the farm.

MAGPIE  
(Shocked)  
Your Dad is Maddox Taylor?

ROMERO  
You know him?

MAGPIE  
Your Dad is infamous at my house.  
We own Jade Farms.

ROMERO  
My Dad is not known for his  
popularity. I'm sorry. He talks  
about your Dad as well.

MAGPIE  
The bee farm is everything to my  
Bo'. He has such pride. He just  
can't let things go.

ROMERO  
My Dad is all about winning. He  
bought that farm without any  
knowledge of what he was doing. He  
pays other people to run it.

MAGPIE  
So, he isn't interested in the  
craft?

ROMERO  
No, when he found out your Dad  
wanted to buy it, he way overbid  
for it. It was just about his  
massive ego. I'm sorry. He has  
money but no common sense.

MAGPIE  
Don't you just hate it when parents  
act like children?

ROMERO  
Yes... Hey, what are you doing on  
Saturday? The new food cart court  
is opening up downtown. It's not  
fancy, but we could probably try  
out some great carts.

MAGPIE  
OK, I would love that. We visited  
Portland once and did the food cart  
thing. What's your number?

Magpie puts the number in her phone and texts Romero her number.

Romero walks Magpie to the door.

ROMERO  
Ok, see you Saturday.

Scrap and Metal sit on Romero's milk crate sofa.

ROMERO (CONT'D)  
(To Scrap and Metal)  
She said she would go out with me!

INT. JADE FARMS/ KITCHEN - DAY

Everyone is down for dinner. The food is served family style at the middle of the table. They are all talking over each other.

Magpie stands up.

MAGPIE  
I have an announcement.

They all look fearful.

MAGPIE (CONT'D)  
What? I'm not pregnant.

Big sighs of relief.

They all go back to talking over each other.

MAGPIE (CONT'D)  
I wanted to tell you that I am going on my first official date.

DOVE  
Who is he? Someone from school?

MAGPIE  
He's an artist. I met him at the scrap metal place.

OWL  
What's his name?

MAGPIE  
That's what I wanted to tell you. His name is Romero Taylor. He is Maddox Taylor's son.

DOVE

(Rapping)

It's her first date, so we've got  
to celebrate. Falcon's going to  
hate. Two souls, please pass the  
egg rolls...

Dead silence.

MAGPIE

He's nothing like his Father.  
You'll like him, really.

Falcon slams his hand on the table.

FALCON

No daughter of mine is going to go  
out with a Taylor!

MAGPIE

Romero doesn't have anything to do  
with your relationship with his  
Dad.

FALCON

I would rather die than see you go  
out with a Taylor.

MAGPIE

Bo, I really like him.

BICH

(In Vietnamese)

Falcon, stop being dramatic! Let  
Magpie enjoy her first date.

PHOEBE

I think Magpie should be allowed to  
date who she wants.

OWL

Can you pass the pork?

MAGPIE

Bo' Mr. Taylor is not even speaking  
to Romero.

FALCON

You see what kind of a person he  
is. What kind of man doesn't speak  
to his own son?

MAGPIE

I only told you because I didn't want you to find out after and freak out.

OWL

Bo is way past freaking out.

BICH

She is not marrying him, Falcon, it's just a date.

SPARROW

Bo, this isn't about you.

FALCON

You women out number me! That man doesn't know the first thing about bees.

WREN

He does; he's using social media to promote his business. That's what we should be doing.

FALCON

I am a bee farmer, not a celebrity. My life is private.

WREN

But Bo' we are running a business. You can't have a private business.

MAGPIE

Bo' We are just going to dinner. I've never been asked out.

FALCON

I forbid it!

MAGPIE

(Upset)

He's weird like me, you should see where he lives.

FALCON

You have been to his place?

BICH

Calm down! We raised our girls right!

MAGPIE

Bo' he lives above the place he works at.

DOVE

Chill out Bo'. This isn't the Montagues and the Capulets. She just wants to go and eat food with a guy.

BICH

Just let her go, Falcon. If I remember right, my Father was not very fond of you when we started going out.

Falcon storms out.

BICH (CONT'D)

Don't worry. He will get over it. His ego is getting in the way. Everyone knows we have the best honey, and the customers who have stood by us are loyal.

WREN

Speaking of honey, I made a new dessert. It's a cornbread cupcake stuffed with real honey and topped with angel hair honey caramel.

Wren brings out a platter of cupcakes.

PHOEBE

Dang, that's good!

BICH

Quarter.

DOVE

Quarter.

OWL

Quarter.

WREN

Quarter.

MAGPIE

Quarter.

EXT. JADE FARMS - NIGHT

The truck is loaded and ready to go. Sparrow shivers in the night air.

SPARROW

(To Jesus)

Why are you sweating? It's cold  
out?

JESUS

(Nervous about the drugs)

I guess I'm just excited about our  
trip.

Falcon and Bich come down to send them off.

FALCON

You drive safe with my little girl,  
she's precious cargo.

SPARROW

(Embarrassed)

Bo'! I'm twenty-seven.

Bich hands them a basket full of food she made and a cooler  
full of drinks.

BICH

Call us every day so we know you  
are safe.

SPARROW

I will. let me guess what's in this  
basket. Banh mi, pate, fruit, fried  
pork roll, and Wren's cookies.

JESUS

Thank you, Mrs. Dang.

SPARROW

Every trip we take, we follow the  
same routine and pack the same  
food.

BICH

Yes. Dang's honor tradition.

Sparrow puts a large bag of candy in the passenger seat.

JESUS

What's that?

SPARROW

The truck candy.

Falcon snaps a photo on his phone of Sparrow and Jesus.

Sparrow loads her suitcase with travel stickers that are faded and peeling. She tosses Jesus a journal.

JESUS

What's this for?

SPARROW

It's a travel journal; we make notes, write stories, and add postcards and quirky stuff. it's a tradition.

JESUS

OK. I'll put you in charge of that.

SPARROW

The whole point is that we are both using it to make memories.

JESUS

Ok, I'll be in charge of counting the road kill.

SPARROW

I have dozens of road-trip journals, the Dangs are all about tradition. The suitcase was my Ong's. We take it on all of our trips for good luck. We like to think he is traveling with us.

Sparrow and Jesus are pulling away in the Jade Farm truck.

Falcon and Bich watch them drive away.

INT. FIRE FIGHTER ACADEMY/ GYM - DAY

Owl is running on the treadmill next to RENE TURNER (21), Owl is out of breath.

OWL

I need to get better at cardio.

RENE

I need to be able to lift more. My upper body is so weak. I need to get some guns like yours.

Rene squeezes Owl's arm.

OWL

Maybe we could work out before class starts?

RENE

I would like that. I can meet you here at 6:00 AM.

OWL

Great, it's a date. I mean, I'll see you tomorrow.

INT./ EXT. TRUCK - GOODSPRINGS NEVADA - DAY

Sparrow pulls the truck off to the Seven Magic Mountains roadside attraction. Thirty-foot high, colorful, stacked boulders are the perfect backdrop for a photo.

Jesus wakes up.

JESUS

Was I sleeping?

SPARROW

You were snoring like a lumberjack. I thought we could take a quick photo.

Tourists are snapping photos. Sparrow asks a tourist to take their photo.

They kiss as the cell phone clicks.

SPARROW (CONT'D)

I have lots of photos here with my Bo' since I was little. Let's stop for breakfast.

Jesus does a search on his phone.

JESUS

There is a place less than a mile from here. It's a saloon built in

SPARROW

Sounds good; I'm starving.

EXT./ INT. PIONEER SALOON/ NEVADA - DAY

Sparrow and Jesus walk into the cafe and are seated at a table.

PAGE ERWIN (60s), a local favorite waitress, is ready to take their order.

PAGE

Hello, I'm Page. What can I get you, folks?

SPARROW

I will try the haunted hotdog and the ghost B.L.T. with fright fries and diet soda.

PAGE

And for you?

JESUS

I'll try the hangover burger with a side of jalapeño bacon, onion rings, and a coke.

SPARROW

I like this place. Very historic.

JESUS

I can't believe how hungry I got napping.

Page serves the food, the portions are huge.

SPARROW

Page, could you take our photo?

PAGE

Sure, are you on your honeymoon?

JESUS

Not exactly. We're on a business trip.

Page takes a photo of them, their arms are wrapped around each other.

PAGE

Well, maybe you'll come back here someday for your honeymoon.

Jesus and Sparrow blush.

PAGE (CONT'D)

I've been a waitress for forty years. They call me the Dion Warwick of waitresses.

JESUS

Why is that?

PAGE

I can predict things before they happen.

Page points to a bulletin board of happy couple photos.

PAGE (CONT'D)

Those are all the people I predicted would get married. They sent photos to the restaurant after. You'll do the same someday.

SPARROW

How do you know?

PAGE

You know the answer to that. when you two met, I bet it wasn't by chance. There was a reason you needed to meet each other.

JESUS

(To Page)

You're right. I did feel that way, plus she was the sexiest bee I had ever seen.

PAGE

(Smiling)

You know when you know, oh, and you're going to have heartburn later.

SPARROW

Wow, I'm amazed you can see that?

PAGE

Your boyfriend ordered the jalapeño bacon. It's just a fact.

Page goes to her next table.

Sparrow buys a postcard of the restaurant and puts it in the journal.

INT. TRUCK/ HIGHWAY - DAY

Sparrow and Jesus are driving cross-country.

Jesus is driving, and Sparrow is writing in the journal.

JESUS

Our next stop is Colorado. What are you writing?

SPARROW

I was just writing about that waitress Page. I did know when I met you, I know that sounds crazy.

JESUS

I knew, too.

Jesus pulls the truck over, and they make out like teenagers.

INT./ EXT. COLORADO - DAY

Sparrow pulls the truck off the road to a sign that reads: Alfred Packer Massacre Site.

They get a tourist to take a photo of them.

SPARROW

So this guy is known as the Colorado Cannibal. He was a prospector who returned alone, then they figured out he ate most of the people he went with.

JESUS

Remind me to never go on a guys' camping weekend, I guess I missed that history lesson.

SPARROW

Speaking of cannibals...I'm starving.

INT./ EXT. PACKER SALOON & CANNIBAL GRILL - DAY

Sparrow and Jesus pull into the Packer Saloon & Cannibal Grill.

They are eating their lunch.

JESUS

How is your Cannibal Salad?

SPARROW

It's good, I'm a little disappointed that this isn't a BBQ place.

(MORE)

SPARROW (CONT'D)

It would be way more fun to see  
people eating meat off of a bone.

JESUS

Yes, and they should not let you  
use utensils. They need a signature  
Israel Swan Bloody Mary.

SPARROW

How's your's?

JESUS

These blood thinner jalapeño  
poppers are amazing, I hope

I

don't get heartburn like the last  
time.

DOREEN (30)'s, a waitress, walks by.

SPARROW

Can you please take our picture?

Doreen takes a photo of Sparrow and Jesus with Sparrow's cell  
phone.

SPARROW (CONT'D)

(To Waitress)

Thank you, Doreen.

INT./ EXT. CAIRO NEBRASKA/ CAMEL & PYRAMID

Sparrow and Jesus take a selfie with the fake camel and  
pyramid sign in Cairo, Nebraska.

JESUS

Are we in Nebraska or Egypt? None  
of my friends will ever know.

SPARROW

Let's make a bathroom stop.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE BATHROOM - DAY

Sparrow lines the toilet seat with two sheets of toilet  
liners. She pulls her pants down, and just as she is about to  
sit down, the toilet automatically flushes and takes the  
liners with it.

Sparrow is on a contaminated seat.

Sparrow pulls a bottle of hand sanitizer from her purse and rubs it on her legs and butt. Wiping with toilet paper & toilet seat liner. The liner is clinging.

Sparrow washes her hands and rushes out.

Jesus sees Sparrow. He grabs her and kisses her.

JESUS

What is this?

Jesus pulls out some of the toilet paper liner from the back of Sparrow's pants.

SPARROW

(Embarrassed)

Oh my God!

JESUS

(Laughing)

Don't be embarrassed, It's ok.

Sparrow rips the remaining toilet seat cover paper from her pants.

SPARROW

Well, I guess I'm past the point of playing it cool.

JESUS

I consider it reaching another milestone in our relationship.

Sparrow rolls her eyes.

INT./EXT. AUDUBON IOWA - DAY

Sparrow and Jesus pull into the next roadside attraction.

Jesus hands his phone to a tourist. Sparrow and Jesus pose with "Albert the Bull," The World's Largest Bull Sculpture.

JESUS

Thank you, Ma'am.

SPARROW

It says his body frame is formed from abandoned windmills.

JESUS

Albert seems solid. These roadside attractions are hysterical.

EXT. MANTECA FOOD CARTS - DAY

Magpie arrives for her first date and walks over to Romero.

Romero hands Magpie a gift bag.

MAGPIE

What's this?

ROMERO

Open it, I made it for you. Read  
the card first.

Magpie opens the card. It reads: Just bee you, you're perfect.

Magpie is blushing. She pulls out a bee sculpture made of copper.

MAGPIE

Romero, this is so awesome. I love  
it, and you used copper.

Magpie kisses Romero on the cheek.

ROMERO

I'm glad you like it, let's get  
something to eat.

Romero and Magpie walk through the food carts. Romero sees an Asian cart.

ROMERO (CONT'D)

Do you want Asian food?

MAGPIE

Actually, no, I eat that all the  
time. Do they have any pizza?

They see a food cart called Fold Pizza: New York Style Pizza.

ROMERO

What would you like?

NADINE (46), the owner of Fold, takes their order.

ROMERO (CONT'D)

(To Nadine)

We will have two slices of cheese,  
two slices of mushroom, and black  
olives.

NADINE

Will that be all?

ROMERO

Also, two Cokes. Do you have any toothpicks?

They take their pizza and toothpicks and head to a seating area.

MAGPIE

The trick is to fold it and eat it.

Magpie demonstrates. Romero gives it a try, spilling grease all over his new white shirt.

ROMERO

Oh crap...I guess I need more practice.

Magpie takes her napkin, making more of a mess on his shirt.

MAGPIE

I'm sorry. I just made it worse.

ROMERO

It's ok. I'm still having a great time. This is going in my memory jar.

MAGPIE

Me too. to be honest, this is my first date.

ROMERO

Really? This is my second date. My parents set me up on my first date with a family friend's daughter.

MAGPIE

How long did you date her?

ROMERO

About thirty minutes later, she called her Dad to pick her up. We had nothing in common.

MAGPIE

Well, it was her loss. Sometimes, I can be doing the dumbest thing and still enjoy the moment.

ROMERO

I know what you mean. I organized my soups by broth base yesterday, and I felt like I really accomplished something.

MAGPIE

Being the youngest of six girls is weird, my family expects nothing of me. It's like the five before me accomplished everything; they just want to baby me.

ROMERO

Your jewelry designs are great. I can tell you will achieve whatever you dream of.

MAGPIE

I dreamed of you.

Magpie leans in and gives Romero a kiss.

INT./EXT. - ILLINOIS - DAY

Sparrow and Jesus stop at the Twistee Treat shop. The shop is a giant ice cream swirl cone. They order from KASHER (17),.

SPARROW

I will have Does a Bear Poop in the Woods a cone, with extra jimmy's.

JESUS

I'll try the Peanut Butter Allergy in a cup with extra nuts.

Kasher hands them their order.

They stand next to the shop, eating their ice cream.

SPARROW

My Bo' is working too hard. All we need to do is come up with a roadside attraction and sell merchandise.

JESUS

It would be interesting to see how much their place makes in a year. People are here for 15 minutes max, then it's back on the road. most everyone buys a T-shirt or some souvenir.

SPARROW

It's the gift that keeps on giving. What would you have as a roadside attraction?

JESUS

That's a tough one. maybe World's Largest Stick of Gum, made out of individual pieces of gum. Tourists can add their gum, and it just keeps getting larger, you?

SPARROW

It would have to be something that would give money back to bee conservation.

EXT. YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN - DAY

Sparrow comes out of the store with a bag of groceries. A giant plaster cow is on the roof of the store. They pose for a selfie with the cow in the background.

SPARROW

Who wakes up and thinks You know what this store needs? We need a giant cow on the roof. So many treasures right in our backyard.

EXT. CANADIAN BORDER - NIGHT

Jesus is frantically writing in the travel journal. They are in line to check into Canada; in between trucks, about seven cars are in front of them. Sparrow is driving.

SPARROW

What are you writing?

JESUS

Just some memories. Here are our passports.

Jesus rolls down the window. Suddenly, he reaches for the big gulp cup and throws up in it.

SPARROW

Oh my God. You're sick? You probably shouldn't have had that chili cheese dog. You need to pace yourself.

The cars are moving up.

JESUS

(Sweating)

Sparrow, there is something I have to tell you.

SPARROW

Wait, are you breaking up with me?

JESUS

No.

SPARROW

Did you cheat on me?

JESUS

I would never cheat on you.

SPARROW

Then what?

JESUS

I need you to stay calm when I tell you this.

SPARROW

What is it? Are you dying?

JESUS

We are about to cross the border with five hundred pounds of drugs. They are underneath the bees.

Sparrow is silent for a minute and stares at the cars in front of her. They are number three in line.

SPARROW

Oh my God, you're a drug dealer?

JESUS

No, I can explain everything. I want to marry you.

SPARROW

Marry me? You're a criminal!

The cars are moving up.

Sparrow takes a big gulp full of vomit and flings it in Jesus's face. He is covered in fruit punch and chili cheese dog vomit. They are next in line.

Sparrow pulls up the window.

HELGA WEBBER (50s), (LGBT) motions for them to roll down the window.

HELGA  
 (In Canadian accent)  
 Welcome to Canada. Are you here for  
 business or pleasure?

SPARROW  
 Business.

Helga checks their passports and matches their faces.

HELGA  
 (To Jesus)  
 Whoa, what happened to you?

JESUS  
 I got a chili cheese dog from a  
 stand a few miles back. Then I got  
 car sick.

HELGA  
 Are you transporting any meat,  
 alcohol, fruit, or exotic animals?

SPARROW  
 No nothing but bees.

Helga looks at the Jade Farm logo on the truck.

HELGA  
 I'll take your word for it. I'm  
 terrified of bees.

Helga stamped their passports and handed them back to  
 Sparrow.

HELGA (CONT'D)  
 Here you go. You're a cute couple.  
 our motto in Toronto is Diversity  
 is Strength. Enjoy your stay.

Helga makes the heart symbol with her hands.

Sparrow rolls her window up and punches Jesus in the arm.

JESUS  
 Sparrow, let me explain.

SPARROW  
 (Disgusted)  
 Do not even speak to me.

EXT./INT. MANSION/ KITTY FELIX'S - LATE NIGHT

Sparrow follows the GPS directions, and they end up at a grand mansion. KITTY FELIX (70s), answers the door in her pajamas.

KITTY

I've been expecting you, please  
come on in.

Kitty looks at Jesus.

KITTY (CONT'D)

Rough trip?

SPARROW

(Glaring at Jesus)  
It's about to get rougher.

KITTY

If you pull around back, I can have  
Nick, my helper, unload the bees.

SPARROW

(Sarcastic)  
Do you mean the drugs?

JESUS

Sorry, Kitty, it's been a long  
trip. Sparrow's tired.

SPARROW

I'm so far past tired that I'm  
borderline homicidal.

KITTY

Let me show you to your room.

SPARROW

Oh, we are not staying. Let's  
unload the bees and go.

KITTY

It's the middle of the night, I  
insist you stay. There are clean  
towels and extra blankets in the  
upstairs closet.

SPARROW

I can sleep in the car.

KITTY

I assure you're in no danger.

JESUS

Sparrow, let's just take a shower and go to bed. We can sleep a few hours and get back on the road.

SPARROW

(Pissed off)

Fine!

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

They are sleeping on a queen-sized bed. Jesus has just taken a shower and comes into the room.

JESUS

Wow, that shower had three shower heads. It was bigger than my first apartment.

Sparrow turns her back to him.

JESUS (CONT'D)

I know you're pissed, but when you hear the whole story of why I had to do it you'll understand.

They both fall asleep immediately. The alarm goes off at 6:00 AM. Sparrow gathers her things and marches downstairs.

Kitty is waiting for them.

Kitty hands them a carton of her blueberries.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Thank you, Kitty. I appreciate you letting us stay. Honey, look, blueberries.

KITTY

The bees will be great for the blueberries. I packed some sandwiches for your trip. Will you be coming next year?

SPARROW

(Pointing to Jesus)

Pablo Escobar may be coming back, but this is the last time you and Jesus will see me.

EXT./ MANSION - DAY

Sparrow and Jesus put their bags in the truck and drive off, heading home. Sparrow is driving.

JESUS  
OK, can you let me explain now?

SPARROW  
I'm only going to say this once. I don't want you to speak to me.

SPARROW (CONT'D)  
I just want to get home. If you speak to me...

Sparrow looks around the car and picks up a pen.

SPARROW (CONT'D)  
I will take this pen and stab you in the balls, do you understand?

JESUS  
(Sad)  
Yes. I understand.

They drive for miles not speaking.

MONTAGE: JESUS TRYING TO WIN SPARROW BACK.

-- Jesus puts on his playlist and starts to car dance, trying to win her back. Sparrow ignores him.

-- They stop at a store, and Jesus buys all of her favorite truck candy.

-- Jesus pays a child at the gas station to deliver roses to the truck.

-- Jesus buys her a fruit punch "Big Gulp".

-- Everywhere they stop, Jesus buys a postcard and puts it in their journal.

-- Jesus, buy Sparrow a key chain that says: SEXY.

-- Jesus buys the biggest stuffed animal he can at a convenience store.

END OF MONTAGE

Sparrow is having none of it.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
Sparrow, can you just let me drive?  
You need to take a break.

SPARROW  
Anger is my fuel.

JESUS  
Can we please stop for lunch? I  
can't eat any more junk food. I'm  
begging you.

Sparrow exits the highway.

EXT./ INT. PIONEER SALOON/ NEVADA - DAY

A hostess seats them at the same table they sat at the first  
time they were there.

Page Erwin is their waitress.

PAGE  
Oh, it's you two. I knew you would  
be back. What are you having?

SPARROW  
I'll have the Spooky grilled cheese  
sandwich with onion rings, a side  
salad with ranch, cheese nachos,  
and a Diet Coke.

PAGE  
(Laughing)  
Well, someone is really hungry, or  
pregnant.

Sparrow glares at Page.

SPARROW  
Where are the restrooms?

Sparrow gets up to go to the restroom.

JESUS  
I'll have a Ghost BLT with fries  
and a Coke.

Sparrow and Jesus eat without speaking. Page gave them the  
bill. Sparrow gave her a credit card.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
Wait, I have cash.

SPARROW

Your drug money is no good here.

Page gives Sparrow a bag of fresh-cut lemons.

SPARROW (CONT'D)

What's this?

PAGE

Remember that they call me the Dion Warwick of waitresses?

SPARROW

Yes.

PAGE

Something tells me that about three hours from now, you are going to get car sick. Smelling these lemons will help you.

SPARROW

I never get car sick.

PAGE

Trust me on this one, I look forward to seeing you next time.

SPARROW

There won't be a next time.

PAGE

Trust me, darlin. I'll see you again.

Three hours later, Sparrow is throwing up into the Big Gulp.

SPARROW

This is crazy. It's all psychological. She made me think I was going to get sick. She is some kind of truck-stop Samantha Stevens.

JESUS

Pull over! You can't drive like this.

Sparrow pulls over, and Jesus takes over driving. She sleeps the rest of the way home.

EXT. JADE FARMS - NIGHT

They pull up to the house. Sparrow wakes up, taking her things.

SPARROW

Thank you for getting me home.  
never contact me again.

JESUS

Sparrow...

Sparrow slams the door.

Jesus drives off in his truck, feeling horrible.

EXT. DECEMBER - JADE FARMS - DAY

Falcon Dang is putting on his bee wings and pulling up his black and yellow tights.

Bich, Sparrow, Wren, Phoebe, Owl, Dove, & Magpie are all in bee costumes next to a tall pine, freezing their butts off.

BICH

Come on, Falcon. We are waiting on  
you.

Falcon sets the camera timer on the tripod, and the camera flashes.

FALCON

Wait, let's do another. I think I  
was blinking.

Bo'.	SPARROW	Bo'.	WREN
Bo'.	PHOEBE	Bo'.	OWL
Bo'.	DOVE	Bo'.	MAGPIE

BICH

The kids are freezing.

The camera flashes, and they all race to take off their bee wings.

FALCON

Dang's honor tradition.

MONTAGE OF ALL THE YEARS OF THE SAME CHRISTMAS FAMILY PHOTO.

-- 1995 Falcon, Bich, and Sparrow in bee costumes next to the tree.

-- 1997 Falcon, Bich, Sparrow and Wren in bee costumes next to the tree.

-- 1999 Falcon, Bich, Sparrow, Wren and Phoebe in bee costumes next to the tree.

-- 2001 Falcon, Bich, Sparrow, Wren, Phoebe, and Owl in bee costumes next to the tree.

-- 2003 Falcon, Bich, Sparrow, Wren, Phoebe, Owl and Dove in bee costumes next to the tree.

-- 2005 Falcon, Bich, Sparrow, Wren, Phoebe, Owl, Dove and Magpie in bee costumes next to the tree.

END OF MONTAGE.

EXT. OLDIE'S AND THE FATTIE'S MISFIT SANCTUARY. - DAY

Ricci is trying to take a photo of Keller, the dog with no eyes. Keller is not sitting still for the photo.

RICCI

Keller, come on, I'm trying to get you adopted. You have no eyes, but you see with your heart. People would be lucky to have you.

Keller runs away, playing with the other misfit old & special needs dogs.

Ricci walks to the mailbox and gets her mail. All of the envelopes say Final Notice in red.

Ricci sits on the ground and puts her hands in her head, crying. Keller comes on and licks her face.

RICCI (CONT'D)

You're right, Keller. You've been through tough times. We will get through this.

Ricci looks at all of her special needs and senior dogs.

She gets off the ground and brushes off the dirt.

She picks up a bucket of tennis balls and throws them. The dogs go crazy with excitement.

RICCI (CONT'D)

I can't give up. You all deserve homes.

HUNTER SHARPE (50s), pulls up in his pickup truck.

RICCI (CONT'D)

How can I help you?

HUNTER

I have to get rid of this dog. She got hit by a car, and now her back legs don't work.

RICCI

When was she hit?

HUNTER

About two months ago. Her legs never went back to normal. We just keep her outside.

Ricci sees the dog is malnourished and dirty.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

I told the Vet to put her down, but they wanted to charge me. Can you imagine? Charging me for this loser?

Hunter spits out the truck window.

RICCI

I can take her. We try and find homes for all of our dogs.

HUNTER

That dog is ugly as sin, she ain't never getting adopted.

Ricci picks up the dog and wraps it in a towel.

RICCI

What's her name?

HUNTER

Ask her. I never named her.

Hunter speeds off in his truck.

RICCI  
 It's ok, baby. Let's see what  
 beautiful name we can give you.

Ricci looks at the trembling dog.

The other dogs are curious and come to greet GILDA (8),.

RICCI (CONT'D)  
 (To the dogs)  
 Everyone, this is Gilda.

An overweight senior dog, BRANDO (10), brings over a toy to Gilda.

RICCI (CONT'D)  
 Well, aren't you a gentlemen,  
 Brando?

A three-legged senior dog, LIGHTNING BOLT (11), comes over for some love.

RICCI (CONT'D)  
 Come here, Lightning Bolt.

All the dogs want her attention. Ricci is picking up large amounts of poop in the yard with a pooper scooper.

CARL SHAW (45), a local politician, pulls up in a town car.

Carl gets out of his car. MARGO GATES (30s), is filming him.

CARL SHAW  
 Allow me to introduce myself.

Carl looks directly at the camera.

CARL SHAW (CONT'D)  
 My name is Carl Shaw, and I am  
 running for the City Finance  
 Director.

RICCI  
 I have chores to do; just drop off  
 your information.

CARL SHAW  
 No, you misunderstand. I'm here to  
 adopt a dog.

Margo Gates zooms in on the camera.

CARL SHAW (CONT'D)  
(CONT'D)  
So, who is your biggest loser?

RICCI  
Do you mean who is the least  
adoptable?

Carl points to Keller.

CARL SHAW  
(To Margo)  
What about this one? This one would  
get press.

RICCI  
Why do you want to adopt a special  
needs dog?

CARL SHAW  
People don't trust candidates that  
don't have any animals.

CARL SHAW (CONT'D)  
I would only need him for a few  
months and then can return him.

RICCI  
(Offended)  
Excuse me?

CARL SHAW  
For social media and events, he  
would be in excellent care, and I  
would compensate you. It looks like  
you could use some upgrades.

RICCI  
None of my dogs are available for  
adoption.

CARL SHAW  
What about this one?

Carl points to Gilda, who is dragging her legs.

RICCI  
Sorry, no, Gilda is not available.

CARL SHAW  
I'll give you five hundred for her.  
The public would love her.

RICCI  
She's worth millions, you can't afford her.

CARL SHAW  
Lady, I'm not trying to offend you. This is business: name your price.

RICCI  
Get off my property.

CARL SHAW  
What!

RICCI  
You sack of shit I said get off my property!

CARL SHAW  
Stop filming.

The crew gets in the car, and Carl Shaw gets in the driver's seat. He shuts the door and rolls down the window.

CARL SHAW (CONT'D)  
I did some research on you; don't act so high and mighty. I know your house is in foreclosure. You should have just taken the money.

Ricci takes the pooper scooper and flings all of the dog shit in Carl Shaws face.

RICCI  
Like I said, get off my property.

EXT. OLDIES AND THE FATTIES MISFIT SANCTUARY PET CEMETARY - DAY.

Ricci walks through, remembering all of her past pets.

There are trees planted with the animal collars hanging on the trees with tags.

RICCI (CONT'D)  
Animal spirits, I need your help.

Ricci walks up to a tree and looks at the tags.

RICCI (CONT'D)  
(Looking at the collar tag)  
Solomon, I really need your advice right now. What should I do?

The tag collars are clinking as a sudden wind comes in.

Ricci sees Jesus's truck speeding down the road.

Jesus pulls up.

JESUS

Ricci, I did it. I got the money!  
We can pay off your debt.

RICCI

(Choking up)  
I will pay you back everything. I'm  
so grateful.

JESUS

No payment is needed. He gave me  
the whole \$250,000 and told me if I  
chose to do it every year, he would  
pay me the same.

RICCI

You're doing it again?

JESUS

No, I politely declined, but he did  
say he has no plans on killing me.

RICCI

Well, that is a win-win situation,  
I guess. How did Sparrow take  
things?

JESUS

She hates me. What can I do to make  
it up to her?

RICCI

Well, I never had a boyfriend lie  
to me about smuggling drugs across  
the border.

JESUS

I offered her the money after I  
paid off your debt, but she  
wouldn't take it. It's cash, I  
can't deposit it in a bank.

RICCI

Where are you hiding it?

JESUS

Everyone hides money in movies in  
the mattress, so I got creative.

RICCI

Where?

JESUS

If I end up dead, deflate the giant unicorn blow-up pool toy. It's all in there in waterproof bags.

RICCI

Mama didn't raise no fool.

JESUS

How can I win her back? She is my soulmate.

RICCI

You're going to have to come up with something romantic.

JESUS

I made her a playlist of all the songs we listened to on the trip.

RICCI

I know your taste in music, that's not going to do it. Something bigger than a playlist.

JESUS

She's the one Ricci; I'm sure of it.

RICCI

What is something that she and her family would enjoy?

JESUS

I just need to win her over. I will deal with her family later.

RICCI

You have them all to win back over; are you stupid? If she told them what happened, there is a shotgun with your name on it.

JESUS

You're right, they must be so disappointed in me. My life was fine until I found that foot.

RICCI

How much money do you have left?

EXT. JADE FARMS - DAY

The backhoe is digging a large hole in the yard. It's early, and the sound wakes Sparrow up.

INT. JADE FARMS/KITCHEN - DAY

Bich is up early making tea. Sparrow comes down.

SPARROW

What's going on? What's that noise?

BICH

I got a call from Jesus this morning, he sent his deepest apology to our family.

BICH (CONT'D)

He knows what he did was wrong, but given the circumstances of getting killed, I gave him our family blessing.

SPARROW

Our family blessing? Did he tell you what he did? I could have gone to jail for my whole life! Our family reputation would have been ruined.

BICH

Sparrow, you're being overly dramatic. No one in the world is going to check a bunch of bees for drugs.

SPARROW

Are you speaking from experience? You're acting like this is normal!

BICH

Of course not! Your Bo' is not a drug dealer, actually, it's kind of romantic.

SPARROW

Romantic!

BICH

He said that you need to look at the journal. He left it in the truck.

SPARROW

(Crying)

He made me fall in love with him,  
then he does this?

BICH

I understand that you are upset.

SPARROW

You bet I'm upset. Why are you  
taking his side?

The noise of the backhoe makes them look out the window.

BICH

Jesus paid to have a pool  
installed. It even has a jacuzzi  
for the winter months, and a  
waterfall.

SPARROW

He thinks he can buy me back with a  
swimming pool?

BICH

I'm sure he does not think he can  
buy you back with a pool... but  
Falcon and I can be bought with a  
pool; we're at peace with it. We  
just ordered floaty toys.

SPARROW

Ma' I can't believe you. How can  
you be ok with this?

BICH

It's hot here, It's like hell on  
earth during the summer. We've  
always wanted one. Lovers have  
quarrels sometimes, and you'll make  
up.

SPARROW

I'm never speaking to him again.

BICH

(In Vietnamese)

If your looking for a prefect guy  
you'll never find one, Falcon is  
not perfect, he farts in the next  
room and thinks I can't hear it.

SPARROW

There is a big difference between farting and smuggling drugs Ma'.

BICH

Everyone has flaws.

EXT. JADE FARMS - DAY

Sparrow walks to the truck. She takes out all the car snacks and garbage, including the Big Gulp.

She sees the journal and sits in the passenger side reading it. She looks through it, seeing all the funny journal logs and postcards, including a roadkill count chart. She reads the last entry.

JESUS (V.O.)

Canadian border police, I want you to know I am not a drug dealer.

JESUS (V.O.)

My life was threatened when I found a foot in a pool filter. I can not reveal the client who threatened me, as the love of my life, Sparrow Dang, and her family could be fatally hurt. Please know that Sparrow Dang had no knowledge of taking drugs across the border and is in no way connected to any wrongdoing. Jesus Bravo.

Sparrow grabs the stuffed animal that Jesus bought her and cries, eating the rest of the candy in the car.

INT. SPARROW'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sparrow keeps playing the awful song from Jesus's playlist over and over.

Owl knocks on the door.

OWL

That song is making my ears bleed. just call him already.

Dove, Wren, and Phoebe come in.

DOVE

You're waking the whole house up.

PHOEBE  
He bought us a pool.

SPARROW  
With drug money.

WREN  
I'm fine with that.

Sparrow takes a drink of water and chokes, throwing up into her garbage can next to the bed.

DOVE  
You're making yourself sick. You need to talk to him.

SPARROW  
How can I ever trust him again?

PHOEBE  
We all know you're in love with him.

SPARROW  
(Crying)  
I know, that's the problem. I can't stop thinking of him. He risked my life going across the border.

OWL  
I think it's romantic. I wish I had that kind of adventure.

WREN  
He must have had a pretty good reason why he did it. He has his own business. He didn't need the money for himself.

DOVE  
Why did he say he did it?

SPARROW  
I was too mad at him to ask. I didn't speak to him the whole way back.

OWL  
He had to have had a reason.

EXT. JADE FARMS/ PORCH - DAY

Jesus pulls up in his truck. He is wearing a donkey costume and carrying balloons.

Owl answers the door.

OWL

Well, It's not my birthday, so I'm guessing this is for Sparrow.

Jesus nods.

Sparrow is tending to the bees. She is wearing her bee suit.

OWL (CONT'D)

(Yelling)

Sparrow!

Sparrow sees Jesus's truck. Jesus has hired a VIETNAMESE COVER BAND (The Fortune Suns) to sing his favorite song from his awful truck playlist.

Bich and Falcon are lounging in the pool, watching it all on pool toys.

Jesus is rocking out to the music. They finish the song, and he takes off the donkey head.

Jesus kneels down on the porch.

Owl, Dove, Wren, Magpie, and Phoebe watch from the house.

JESUS

Sparrow I know I was an ass. I know I'll never get this chance again in my life to find someone like you.

FALCON

(In Vietnamese)

This guy has balls.

JESUS

Sparrow, we have already been through one of the most traumatic things people can go through together.

SPARROW

Potentially spending the rest of our lives in jail?

JESUS

No Sparrow... Possibly spending the rest of our lives apart. I'm not going to let that happen. Sparrow Dang, will you marry me?

All the family is crying.

SPARROW

You knew I was going to say yes!

Sparrow leans in to kiss him.

A bee fly's off Sparrow's bee suit and stings Jesus on his mouth. He blows up like a puffer fish.

Sparrow stabs him hard with the epi pen.

JESUS

You should be ok in about an hour.

Sparrow looks at her beautiful engagement ring.

EXT./INT. JADE FARMS - DAY

Falcon is tending to the bees in his white bee suit.

Dove, Wren, and Phoebe are helping with the bees.

Bich can see him through the window. Bich is making lunch.

DOVE

Do you think Sparrow will let me write a rap song for her wedding?

WREN

Probably, I'm working on ideas for their cake. I've never made a wedding cake. Tres leche with kiwi & strawberry.

PHOEBE

I don't feel like there is anyone out there for me. Try online dating and being me.

DOVE

Just be you. Lots of guys are into horror films.

PHOEBE

When someone sends me a Dick-Pix, I send them one of my pieces I'm working on.

WREN

(Laughing)

You'll find someone as weird as you.

PHOEBE

Do you think so?

DOVE

There is someone for everyone. I'm just focused on my music.

FALCON

A man dreams one day he will walk his daughter down the aisle. I'm blessed six times.

DOVE

The farm is the perfect venue. We should have been having weddings here and charging people.

WREN

How much could we charge?

DOVE

Sparrow said people pay thousands, and it's up to them to decorate. You just provide the space.

FALCON

I hope all of you girls will get married here at the farm. This is a big event for our family.

PHOEBE

We will Bo'.

FALCON

Nothing would make me happier than to see you all married one day.

OWL

I may get married to a girl someday.

FALCON

If you're happy, then your Ma and I will be happy.

Falcon staggers.

Bich sees Falcon grab his chest and drop to the ground.

DOVE

Bo'!

PHOEBE

Ma' call an ambulance!

Bich runs to Falcon. He has passed.

EXT. JADE FARMS - DAY

Guests are arriving dressed in formal black attire.

The family is in traditional white death clothes with a white headband.

The farm is decorated in funeral Buddhist decorations.

The monks in gold robes have blessed the casket.

Falcon's body is brought out and placed in his casket.

A small knife is placed on his stomach. A small bowl of rice and an egg are placed in the casket.

Guests walk up to the casket, lighting incense and bowing to Falcon one, three, or five times. (Never even numbers).

Guests put money in the casket. Bich puts Falcon's eyeglasses in the casket.

SPARROW

(In Vietnamese)

Why are you putting his eyeglasses in?

BICH

(In Vietnamese)

He can't see without them.

SPARROW

(In Vietnamese)

So, in the afterlife, he still has bad eyesight?

BICH

(In Vietnamese)

We can never be too careful.

The altar is decorated with flowers and fruit. Incense burns, and candles are lit. Many arrangements of white flowers surround the altar. Falcon's photo is in a frame.

All of the girls are kneeling, Bich is sitting in a chair.

Everyone is highly emotional. The monks chant endlessly.

SPARROW

(Kneeling)

I can't feel my legs.

PHOEBE

(Kneeling)

How much longer? I'm getting rug burn from shifting my legs.

DOVE

(Kneeling)

I can't even cry anymore, I'm in so much pain.

Magpie falls over, kneeling. Everyone rushes to her.

The ceremony is over. Sparrow steps up to the altar.

SPARROW

I wanted to say thank you to everyone that came out to the farm today to say goodbye to my Bo'.

SPARROW (CONT'D)

Falcon loved this farm, he would have wanted to show his gratitude to all who loved him.

Everyone is emotional.

SPARROW (CONT'D)

(Crying)

My Bo's favorite saying was Dang's honor tradition. I just want to say to Bo that I am now honored to take over the family tradition of running Jade Farms.

A toad hops across the ground.

BICH

It's a sign.

INT. BICH'S KITCHEN - DAY

The aged pots and pans are on the stove. The giant rice cooker is steaming. The girls are helping chop and prepare meals for the guests.

The women are serving the men as the food comes out.

The older women are cooking and tasting. Mats are on the floor where people are sitting and eating. Everything is served family style. Small bowls and chopsticks are used.

The women sit together and speak in Vietnamese.

DAO TRANG (50s), opens the freezer and lets out a blood-curdling scream. A man's severed arm is taking up most of the freezer.

BICH

It's ok, Dao, It's one of Phoebe's.

DOA

(In Vietnamese)

She murdered someone?

BICH

Phoebe's a make-up artist, not a murderer. It's not real. Phoebe! Come take this.

PHOEBE

Sorry Ma', I forgot about it. I needed the blood to set.

All the women are afraid.

Phoebe takes the arm out of the freezer and takes it to her room.

The men sit together, drinking red wine, cognac, and bottles of Heineken.

Magpie is washing the dishes. Romero comes over and takes over dish duty.

ROMERO

Take a break. I can finish these.

MAGPIE

(Crying)

This is all my fault. He was upset with me for seeing you.

Bich hugs Magpie.

BICH

Sweet Magpie, Falcon had cancer for years. I swore I wouldn't tell any of you girls. He didn't want you to worry. The doctor told him he had about a year to live. That was five years ago. The bees kept him occupied.

SPARROW

You knew he was sick?

BICH

He said the honey was all the medicine he needed. The doctors were amazed he had lasted so long.

Everyone is shocked.

EXT. CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL/ GRADUATION - DAY

The entire family sits in the bleachers, fanning themselves.

One by one, they call out the names of the graduates.

BICH

(To Sparrow)

Do you see Magpie?

SPARROW

No, I don't see her.

Everyone grabs the program to check if she is on the graduation list.

DOVE

It's ok, I found her name.

Big sighs of relief from everyone.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Laura Lynn Daniels.

People applaud.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Magpie Falcon Dang

Screams from the Dang family. Magpie walks up and proudly takes her diploma.

OWL  
 (Screams)  
 That's my sister!

BICH  
 (Tearing up)  
 I just wish Falcon was here to see  
 his youngest daughter graduate.

A blue jaybird flies up and sits on the podium.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
 (Laughing)  
 Well, it looks like we have another  
 graduate.

Everyone in the crowd is laughing.

Sparrow grabs Bich's hand. Ma' I think that's Bo' giving us a  
 sign.

After the ceremony, it's crazy crowded. Everyone is taking  
 pictures.

Magpie walks up to Romero.

BICH  
 (To Romero)  
 I'm glad you could come today.

SPARROW  
 Let me take your picture.

Sparrow snaps a photo of Magpie and Romero.

OWL  
 Finally, all my girls are  
 graduates.

MAGPIE  
 Barely. I'm so glad to be done.

Magpie takes off her cap and gown.

MAGPIE (CONT'D)  
 A bunch of us are going out  
 afterward to get food. Can you take  
 my cap and gown? I'll be home late.

BICH  
 No drinking and driving.

MAGPIE  
 I know Ma'.

EXT. JADE FARMS/ ONE WEEK LATER - DAY

Bich, Sparrow, Jesus, Wren, Phoebe, Owl, Dove, and Magpie walk out to a field to plant an olive tree in honor of Falcon.

BICH

This was your Bo's favorite spot.  
He always said if he passed before  
me to plant an olive tree in his  
memory.

They move the plastic chair from the spot Falcon used to sit on and start to dig.

They each take turns digging. Jesus takes the shovel last. The shovel hits something hard.

JESUS

I hit something. Does anyone have a  
flashlight?

BICH

Magpie runs and gets a flashlight.

Jesus continues to try and dig poking several areas of the ground. Every time he tries, he hits something hard.

Magpie comes back and shines the light into the hole.

They continue to dig as the sun goes down for hours. They see an enormous rock.

MAGPIE

That's huge. What is it?

JESUS

That is a weird-looking rock.

Bich takes a bottle of water out of Phoebe's hand and pours it on the rock.

SPARROW

I don't get it. What am I looking  
at?

The smooth rock is cloudy white. Bich drops the water bottle she is holding.

BICH

It's white, Jadeite!

SPARROW

How is it here? Manteca is known  
for pumpkins, not Jadeite.

Jesus digs more. The piece is enormous. They hit a metal box.

Bich takes the box.

WREN

Does anyone have the key?

BICH

I know where the key is.

Bich goes back to the house. Jesus continues to dig.

JESUS

This piece must weigh more than a  
hundred pounds. Someone get a  
blanket.

Jesus wraps the Jadeite in a blanket and rope as they all try  
and pull it out of the ground.

Bich is back with the key.

SPARROW

Where was the key?

BICH

It was on Falcon's key chain. It  
has been for years.

Bich opens the box and takes out a letter in Falcon's  
handwriting.

FALCON (V.O.)

You are probably wondering where  
this came from and why I kept it a  
secret all these years. The Jadeite  
was given to me by my Father, and I  
found it exactly the way you just  
found this. I know the money could  
have made our lives easier, but I  
wanted to teach our children the  
value of a hard day's work.

Everyone is tearing up.

FALCON (V.O.)

I want this to be sold and divided  
equally among you and the girls. I  
hope the farm will continue.

(MORE)

FALCON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Jade Farms was my dream, remember,  
Dang's honor tradition. Love  
Falcon.

MAGPIE

According to the internet, it could  
be worth over \$68,000 a pound.

DOVE

Sweet, that's like over  
\$700,000,00. I'm so producing my  
song.

EXT. MAILBOX/ MANTECA - DAY

Sparrow mails a photo of her and Jesus addressed to Pioneer  
Saloon Nevada c/o Page Erwin. On the back of the photo she  
writes: You were right.

EXT. JADE FARMS/ SIX MONTHS LATER - DAY

It's the grand reopening of Jade Farms. The whole family is  
wearing their bee costumes.

People are taking photos of a giant Bee sculpture that was  
commissioned from Romero and made out of scrap metal.

Bich is running "That Dang Bee Hive Boutique". She is almost  
selling out of the shirts she designed.

Bich's shirt reads: "Bee a Bich". The backs of the shirts  
read: Jade Farms Manteca.

A pregnant Sparrow is wearing a T-shirt that reads: Bee on  
Board. Jesus gets Sparrow a chair to sit at the honey booth.

JESUS

You need to sit down. You're doing  
too much.

SPARROW

Really I'm fine.

Bich walks over to Jesus.

BICH

(To Jesus)

I wanted to give you something.

Jesus reaches in the bag.

JESUS

Falcon's costume- I'm honored.

BICH

He would have wanted you to have it. Dangs...

SPARROW

Honor tradition.

There is a new wooden sign that reads: Jade Farms with a symbol of an olive tree and bees.

Customers are filling out adoption forms for special needs and senior dogs. A sign reads: Adopt an Oldie or a Fatty.

Ricci is answering questions about the dogs.

RICCI

This is Gilda. We named her because of her beautiful spirit.

Gilda is strapped in a doggie walkin wheel for her back legs while running around with the other dogs.

A hippie couple, HALO WRENCH (40s), & KARMA WRENCH (40s), and their daughter RAINBOW WRENCH (11), is in a wheelchair. Gilda runs right up to Rainbow, licking her hand.

RAINBOW

(Laughing)

Mom, look...she's just like me.

HALO

(To Ricci)

Is she spoken for?

RICCI

No Gilda is available. I've been waiting to place her in her forever home.

RAINBOW

Mom, can we keep her?

HALO

Yes, I would love to have her in my family.

Gilda runs over to Halo.

HALO (CONT'D)

Do you know anything about her background?

RICCI

She was given up by a heartless man  
who could not attend to her needs.  
As you can see, she's a senior.

Gilda is trying to get up in Rainbow's chair.

Ricci lifts her up and puts her in Rainbow's arms. Gilda is  
licking Rainbow's face.

RICCI (CONT'D)

It looks like you have a new best  
friend. I don't let these million-  
dollar babies go to just anyone.

RAINBOW

(To Gilda)

I'm going to love you forever.

TOM BRASCH (50s), and ESTHER BRASCH (50s), are watching all  
of the dogs run around.

TOM

We have a farm and are looking for  
a companion dog.

ESTHER

Our Doberman just passed so we are  
not afraid of big dogs.

RICCI

This is Scrap and Metal; they are  
seniors that have lived most of  
their life outside alone. They're  
bonded to one another.

Scrap and Metal run up to Tom and Esther.

RICCI (CONT'D)

They would love a dog bed and some  
toys and just to be around you.  
They would have to be adopted  
together.

TOM

They would sleep inside with us.  
Dogs are family.

ESTHER

They would be with us on the farm  
during the day. We have ten acres.

Scrap and Metal sit for treats.

RICCI  
(Laughing)  
They are very food-motivated.

The Brash's drive away in their truck with the dogs in the cab.

Keller is the only dog left.

RICCI (CONT'D)  
Come here Keller. It's ok, you'll  
have more friends soon.

Keller lies down at Ricci's feet.

INT. JADE FARMS/MUSEUM OF BEES.

Phoebe is wearing a shirt that reads: Killer Bee.

PHOEBE  
Step up and enter the Jade Farms  
Museum of Bees.

Phoebe has a tent that is entirely devoted to the history of honey bees. It's totally interactive.

A soundtrack plays bees buzzing.

Customers can dress up in bee suits.

Customers can pick up the honey combs.

There is a poster of the life cycle of the bee.

People are posing with the displays.

There is a display for a photo opportunity where customers can stick their heads in a hollowed-out tree. It's covered in dead bees.

Customers are making terrified faces and posting to social media.

Everything is branded to Jade Farms.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)  
These displays are made from honey bees. Honey bees do not kill; they are our friends. I am a special effects make-up artist who is practicing her craft. Feel free to take photos.

Dove is playing her rap music and promoting sales of her music online.

Dove's shirt reads: "Bee a Rap Star."

Wren's booth is all cookies and pastries that she made with honey from the farm. A sign reads: All confectionary made with local honey from Jade Farms. Wren is giving out samples.

GERALD TAMAYO (60's), takes a sample.

GERALD

These are incredible. You can really taste the honey.

WREN

Thank you. my dream is to be a pastry chef.

Gerald gives Wren a card. It reads: Wired Pastry Manteca.

GERALD

I'm the owner of Wired Pastry in downtown Manteca.

WREN

The coffee and pastry place?

GERALD

Yes, that's the place. Let me take one of everything. I will be placing an order on Monday.

WREN

Thank you, sir. I look forward to your call.

GERALD

People love local. We can cross-promote.

Wren hands him the bag of goodies.

Wren's T-Shirt reads: "Bee-licious".

Phoebe takes a wine box off the back of a truck that has a Gloria's Grapes Winery Local Wines Since 1954 Manteca, painted on the side of the truck.

PHOEBE

Ma' it's here!

Phoebe breaks the box open, and they all pause. The wine is a red, packaged with a photo of a Falcon bird. The label reads: Falcon Cabernet: Dang's Honor Tradition Jade Farms Manteca.

Bich starts to tear up.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)  
Ma' I'll put these out.

Phoebe starts to unload the next box.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)  
Oh my God! Ma' did you do this?

Each girl has their own wine named after them with their own bird logo. They all say the name with their bird image photo, Dang's Honor Tradition. Jade Farms Manteca.

Bich opens a crate. Her wine has a photo of herself with the words: Bee a Bich. Dang's Honor Tradition. Jade Farms Manteca.

Bich is the most popular wine.

BICH  
Our new tradition will be wine wars. What label can sell the most each year?

SPARROW  
(Laughing)  
Ma', you know you will win.

Customers are scooping up the wine bottles. Magpie's bottles are selling fast.

WREN  
(Laughing)  
Magpie may give you a run for your money.

Magpie is wearing a shirt that reads: "Bee Shiny".

Magpie is selling her bee jewelry.

Page Erwin from the Pioneer Saloon is buying merchandise.

PAGE  
These are darling.

Page picks up a necklace.

MAGPIE

These are all made from copper. See the wings move.

PAGE

I'll take two, one for me and one for my granddaughter.

Magpie puts them in a small sack and ties them with a raffia bow.

Tom and Esther Brash see Ricci. Scrap and Metal are all cleaned up on new leashes.

Ricci runs towards them.

RICCI

(Concerned)

Is everything OK? Are you returning them?

Keller goes crazy when he sees the dogs.

TOM

They are great dogs, but there is only one problem.

RICCI

How can I help?

TOM

We left here with two amazing dogs, and all Esther and I could think about was the one we left behind.

ESTHER

Is Keller still available for adoption?

RICCI

(Crying)

I think Keller would love that.

Ricci bends down and says goodbye to Keller.

RICCI (CONT'D)

(Tearing up)

Oh I'm going to miss you. You and I have been through a lot.

TOM

We live in Manteca. Please come by anytime.

Esther writes down their address.

They drive off with all of the dogs putting their heads out of the truck.

Ricci is emotional.

Romero is selling his metal sculptures. his T-Shirt reads: "Bee Artistic."

Romero walks over to Ricci. He has a large package wrapped up.

ROMERO  
(To Ricci)  
I made this for you.

Ricci unwraps the sculpture. Its a life-like sculpture of Keller.

RICCI  
Oh Romero!

Ricci is crying happy tears. She hugs Romero.

Customers are buying up Romero's metal sculptures like tacos at a fat camp.

Owl is walking the grounds with her new girlfriend RENE TURNER (22), from the fire academy. Her shirt reads: "Butch Bee."

RENE  
( To Owl)  
So this is where you grew up?

OWL  
I was born in the barn; seriously my Ma' couldn't make it to the hospital.

RENE  
It's so peaceful here. I can see why you are the strong person you are.

OWL  
My Bo' raised us to go after our dreams.

RENE  
You're such a free spirit. Your parents let all of you girls be individuals.

OWL

You're right; they did. We had our moments, but in the end, they let us learn from our failures and never let us give up.

Sparrow puts her hand on her belly and looks at Jesus.

SPARROW

This is the future of Jade Farms.

JESUS

I hope our baby is not allergic to bees.

FALCON (V.O.)

In the Spring, the average life of a honey bee is four to six weeks. If you knew you had four to six weeks to live, what could you accomplish? We can learn a lot from bees. They are focused on a mission, they do things with hard work and intent. In the end, they die, but their contribution to earth is so great. They die with a purpose. We should all be so fortunate.

Rap Song playing: The Sweet Life by Dove Dang (Double D.)

DOVE

Like birds of a feather, we flock together

DOVE (CONT'D)

Sparrow, Magpie, Phoebe, Owl, & Wren These are some of my favorite kin They call me Dove... I'm high above Or Double D Even though there's nothin to see DD are my initials... and it's official I'm a bee farmer... a real charmer Bee respectful Bee amazing Bee grateful Don't bee hateful Sparrow freaked out and lost her cool We ended up with a dope killer pool Welcome to the sweet life, don't mean you any harm, hopin one day you'll visit Jade Farms. Bich is Queen... She's never mean Set the bar high... Reach for the sky Confident, strong, pretty, and smart This little lady...

(MORE)

## DOVE (CONT'D)

has a sugar heart We sell honey for  
 money, and that's no lie My sister  
 Wren... can bake a honey pie Black  
 and yellow, I see a fellow Time  
 flies, not lookin for guys Focused  
 on my music, eyes on the prize  
 People tell me I can rap for my  
 size Bee stung lips... I got no  
 hips Look out boys... I ain't your  
 toy I'm delirious; It's getting  
 serious Asian rap is here to stay.  
 I'm the girl who's pavin the way  
 Welcome to the sweet life, don't  
 mean you any harm, hopin one day  
 you'll visit Jade Farms. Falcon  
 loved tradition he had mad  
 intuition Vision, honor, hard work,  
 and clarity Now the farm is an  
 animal charity He told us girls to  
 follow our heart With 6 headstrong  
 girls he had to be smart In bed by  
 eight and up at four

## DOVE (CONT'D)

My Bo' was more than hardcore core  
 Phoebe loves her scary make-up...  
 her and horror will never break up.  
 Magpie finds shiny things...  
 especially copper, silver, & bling  
 Owl puts out fires... she don't  
 like liars I just want you all to  
 know, this song is dedicated to  
 Falcon my Bo' Tradition was his  
 religion I hope you liked the story  
 from the girl from Manteca If  
 you're ever in my hood, you know  
 I'd just love to see ya. Welcome to  
 the sweet life, don't mean you any  
 harm, hopin one day you'll visit  
 Jade Farms.

FADE OUT:

**THE END**