

1 EXT. DUMPSTER- EVENING

A dumpster sits in the alleyway between two city buildings. Trash bags and other discarded items encircle it-Garbage juice leaks from the dumpster and pools into a dirty puddle.

PEACH (An adolescent Opossum) lays motionless beneath the bin. It's quiet, except for the distant hum of city noise and the drip of garbage juice. Peach opens one eye and checks her surroundings.

The Possum slowly gets to her feet. She limps to the puddle of garbage juice and checks her reflection. She looks rough, covered in dirt and grime.

She lets out a sniffle, and a tear drips down her cheek.

A shadow eclipses Peach. She looks up. There is a dark, bird-shaped mass covering the sun. She gasps, keels over, and plays dead again.

VULTURE (Turkey Vulture, ugly as sin) lands beside the Opossum. It studies the marsupial, then prods her with its beak.

VULTURE

You don't smell like death. Why are you pretending?

Peach opens an eye, making eye contact with the bird.

PEACH

What are you?

The vulture scoffs.

VULTURE

(offended)

What? Don't you mean who?

Peach gets to her feet, brushing dirt off her fur. The vulture raises its head proudly.

VULTURE (CONT'D)

(Proud)

I'm Cathartes Aura, but you can call me Vulture, as that is what I am.

The vulture waits expectantly. Peach stares at the bird.

PEACH

I'm Peach. I'm a possum.

The vulture rolls its eyes.

VULTURE

I can see you're an Opossum. You best be careful, playing dead like that.

The vulture leans in. Peach takes a step back.

VULTURE (CONT'D)

Someone might make a meal out of you.

Peach backs away from the bird. Vulture shakes his head and raises a wing grandiosely.

VULTURE (CONT'D)

No need to worry, dear; I see you were being deceptive. I'm a scavenger, not a hunter.

Peach's shoulders relax. She wipes a muddy tear from her eye.

VULTURE (CONT'D)

(inquisitive)

You're kind of a pitiful creature, aren't you?

Peach sniffs and looks at the ground.

PEACH

It's been a rough day.

The vulture looks at the poor creature up and down.

Peach looks at the ground-the vulture roots in the trash with his wing.

VULTURE

Go on, tell me about it.

The vulture plucks a bucket of popcorn chicken from the trash and horks a piece of chicken into the back of his throat.

Peach puts a finger to her chin, thinking.

2 INT. POUCH

A hairless Peach in a pouch. The quiet sounds of breathing and the faint beating of a heart.

PEACH (VO)

The beginning was peaceful and easy.

3 EXT. PEACH TREE-DAY

Mama carries several babies on her back toward a burrow under the roots of a magnificent peach tree.

PEACH (VO)

When we were young, my mother carried us to our home under the peach tree.

4 INT. BURROW- NIGHT

The Possums eat ticks and bits of peach.

PEACH (VO)

For a while, everything was perfect; we had plenty to eat, a comfortable home, and each other.

5 EXT. PEACHTREE- DUSK

Peach and her siblings play by the tree, which bears less fruit. A few of the leaves have changed color. There is an orange line painted around it.

PEACH (VO)

Then the nights got colder, and we had less food.

6 INT. BURROW- NIGHT

Mama and babies huddle in the burrow. Mama talks inaudibly to her young.

PEACH (VO)

But on nights when we were hungry, Mama would tell us about a city over the ridge...

7 EXT. DUMPSTER- DAY

Peach faces the bird, fully animated and engrossed in her story.

PEACH

...She said it was a magical place beyond an Opossum's wildest dreams.

The vulture smirks.

## 8 INT. DARK SPACE- 2D ANIMATION?

Peach stands in the dark space. Minimal outlines of buildings surround her. Her ideations of the city appear as Peach describes them.

PEACH (VO)

Like incredible things to eat all over the ground! Hot Dogs, Melty Ice cream, and piles of food sitting on the ground! Water gushes from a rain gutter along the city street.

PEACH (VO)

And fresh rainwater flowed through the street to wash it down!

## 9 INT. BURROW- NIGHT

Rain pours from outside. Peach smiles at Mama in wonder as Mama tells stories.

PEACH

Why don't we all go there!? Let's leave in the morning!

Peach's siblings nod and agree. Mama shakes her head, "no."

MAMA

Oh, Peach, the city is not safe. There are evil creatures there, and it is very dangerous.

Peach frowns and looks at the ground.

PEACH (VO)

But I felt I belonged in the city and promised I would get there someday.

## 10 EXT. DUMPSTER- DAY

Peach's face falls. The Vulture cocks its head.

VULTURE

So I don't get it. You made it here. Why so morose?

Peach looks down the alleyway.

PEACH

Mama was right, and it was too late to

return.

VULTURE

Why?

Peach lets out a troubled sigh.

11 INT. BURROW/ EXT. TREE- DAY

The Possum family sleeps. Some are snuggled together; some are hanging from their tails from the roots overhead. The sun starts to come up.

Peach lays awake.

PEACH (VO)

One morning, I left with only the stuff in my pouch.

Peach gets out of bed and sneaks to the edge of the forest. She looks at the tall foreboding trees with apprehension.

12 INT- FOREST- DAY

The sun beats down directly overhead. Peach walks through the forest. Beer cans, snack wrappers, and 7/11 cups have been scattered.

PEACH (VO)

I'd never been on my own before, in the forest, or even awake at this time of day.

Peach passes a gooey snail going up a leaf. Scary forest noises sound all around her.

Large deer legs travel over her. Peach squeaks and dives between a Big Gulp cup and a large rock.

Her eyes dart back and forth frantically. She spots her warped reflection in an aluminum can.

PEACH (VO)

I was exhausted and lost, so I went home. It's just...

13 EXT. PEACHTREE- DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS

A) A bulldozer knocks over the peach tree. (day)

B) The Peachtree falls over. (day)

C) Peach looks at the ruins of her home from the edge of the forest. (evening)

14 EXT. DUMPSTER- DAY

Peach hangs her head solemnly.

PEACH

There was no home to go back to.

Peach sniffles.

PEACH (CONT'D)

I didn't even get to say goodbye.

Silence. The bird has some semblance of empathy on his face.

VULTURE

My mother pushed me from the nest when  
I was young. I had to learn to fly  
halfway down.

Peach raises her eyebrows.

PEACH

Really? What did you do?

The vulture chuckles.

VULTURE

(Casual)

What else? I learned. My sister wasn't  
so lucky. Poor thing hadn't shed all  
her baby feathers, broke her neck, and  
died instantly when she hit the  
ground.

Peach reacts with horror. The vulture laughs, fondly  
reminiscing.

VULTURE (CONT'D)

She made a lovely breakfast for the  
rest of the family.

Peach's mouth hangs open in disgust. The vulture snaps back  
to the present moment.

VULTURE (CONT'D)

Of course, we thanked her for giving

her body so we could survive.

Peach stares. An awkward silence settles over them.

VULTURE (CONT'D)

Well, go on. How did you get through  
the forest?

15 EXT. PEACHTREE- EVENING

Peach approaches a large hole in the ground at the construction site and crawls into it.

PEACH (VO)

I thought it was a burrow, but it just  
kept going.

16 INT. SEWER- DARK

Peach walks through a tunnel until she reaches an opening at the forest's edge. Peach exits the tunnel and spots a glow emanating from the crest of a hill.

17 EXT. OVERLOOK- EVENING.

Peach crawls to the top of the hill. There is a bustling city below: smog, urban decay, the golden arches.

She catches her breath and Peach's eyes light up in wonder.

PEACH (VO)

(bittersweet)

And there it was! I had made it!

18 EXT. CITY- DAY

Peach walks along the side of the highway in the grass.

A plastic bag flies through the air and hits Peach with a smack. She wrestles with it, falling into a muddy oily puddle.

She untangles herself from the plastic bag and studies it. A smiley face and "Have a Great Day" are on the front. Peach tosses it aside.

Peach walks, and a car passes, leaving a wake of exhaust. Peach sputters and coughs.

A disoriented bird twirls around in the smog. It flies directly into the window of a building with a loud SPLAT.

The bird sticks for a moment on the window. It slides, squeaking down the glass of the windowpane, and lands on the sidewalk below with another loud splat.

Peach runs up to the bird. Its leg twitches and a small pool of blood oozes from its body. After a small chirp, it ceases movement.

With a heavy heart, Peach closes the bird's eyes.

19 EXT DUMPSTER- DAY

Peach shakes her head solemnly. The vulture looks at her perplexedly.

VULTURE  
Why did you close its eyes?

Peach shrugs.

PEACH  
Mama said it was a sign of respect.

The vulture considers this.

VULTURE  
That's very kind.

Peach nods.

20 EXT. CITY- DAY

Peach continues down the street. Brown water trickles from a drain. Peach sniffs its gags, continuing her journey.

PEACH (VO)  
I vastly underestimated how  
challenging the city would be.

Peach slumps down next to a garbage can. She watches Rat drag a piece of pizza down the alley to a group of rat babies who rejoice.

Peach sighs and buries her head in her knees. A loud NOISE, a dog bark, or a door opening spooks Peach. She runs down an alley and plays dead at the base of a dumpster.

21 EXT DUMPSTER- DAY

Peach's stomach rumbles softly. She puts a hand over it.



PEACH

So that's how I got here. Beat up,  
starving, and alone.

The vulture plucks up. He gestures to the mounds of rotten garbage littering the alleyway.

VULTURE

But look at all this delicious garbage  
you can eat.

Peach looks at the mountains of trash. There are food items next to chemicals. A discarded box of rat poison is tipped over next to a box of rotten fruit.

The vulture plucks a rotting apple from the trash and offers it to Peach.

VULTURE (CONT'D)

Here.

It is covered with abnormally colored dust. Peach goes to take a bite but stops. She sniffs it and gags. The vulture furrows his eyebrows angrily.

VULTURE (CONT'D)

What now?

PEACH

It smells funny, like the city.  
(steps back)  
How can you eat this?

The vulture, annoyed, tosses the apple to the ground. It makes a SPLAT, and apple goo is smeared all over the concrete.

VULTURE

I do what it takes to stay alive.

The Vulture hops onto the dumpster's lip and retrieves a strip of putrid meat. He horks it into the back of his throat.

VULTURE (CONT'D)

Delicious.

The vulture leans down, ominously towering over Peach.

VULTURE (CONT'D)

Speaking of staying alive, you won't

last long if you stay here.

Peach looks back toward the city street.

PEACH

I can't go back out there!

The vulture flaps its enormous wings a few times, ready to take flight.

PEACH (CONT'D)

Wait, don't leave me!

The vulture looks at the scraggly possum's tearful eyes and huffs. He gestures with his wing.

VULTURE

(eyes-rolling)

Do you see those leaves in the distance?

Peach squints at some foliage above a building's roof.

VULTURE (CONT'D)

There are some places here untouched by the city.

Peach turns back to the vultures as drops of rain fall from the sky. Peach watches the bird disappear over the building's roof.

22 EXT. PARK- DUSK

The rain picks up as the sun sets. The vulture flies to a peach tree that looks over a park. The Peaches are plump and ripe. The vulture scowls.

The vulture watches a Mama bird feed some babies. One of the babies teeters toward the edge of the nest. The mama bird pulls it back to safety.

The vulture unfurrows its brow.

23 EXT- ALLEY- EVENING

Peach loiters in the alleyway as rain washes away the grime from the day.

She looks at her reflection in the puddles pooling around her feet.

Peach's stomach lets out a loud GROWL. She opens her eyes and looks down the alley toward the quiet city street. She marches toward the road.

24 EXT. CITY- NIGHT

Peach walks with gumption down the road; her eyes fixed on the tree ahead.

A plastic bag blows down the street. She hops to the side, dodging the trash.

25 EXT. PARK- NIGHT

Peach reaches a more residential part of the city. Her stomach growls. She looks down, holding it, then looks up.

She spots a peach tree in the middle of a grassy field. Her eyes light up.

Two birds, the same species as the one that died, are splashing in a birdbath. Peach looks at the sky.

PEACH (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
Thank you.

26 EXT. CITY STREET- NIGHT

Peach creeps across the road. A fallen peach has rolled into the street.

She happily hops to it and takes a bite. The juice dribbles down her chin. She closes her eyes and smiles in pure satisfaction.

She goes in for another when two beams of bright white light appear on the road. She freezes, eyes wide.

A semi promptly runs over peach.

The semi passes- a smile on the cargo box followed by the slogan "Have a nice Day." A huge puff of exhaust follows in its wake. It is quiet.

Peach lays lifeless on the side of the road. There could be varying amounts of gore here.

A shadow eclipses her dead body from the streetlight above-vulture lands next to her.

He shakes his head, looking down at her lifeless body. He closes her eyes with his wing.

They sit there for a moment. The bird's eyes are closed, and he has a wing over his heart.

VULTURE

Thank you, innocent Peach. Your death allows me to live another day.

He sighs, then rips a strip of her flesh from the asphalt and horks it into the back of its throat.

The sounds of the city at night continue as the vulture continues his meal.

FADE TO BLACK

27 EXT. CITY STREET- NIGHT

The vulture wipes his mouth with his feathers. He looks sideways and spots the half-eaten peach on the side of the road.

The vulture takes the peach pit in his mouth and takes flight into the night.

28 EXT. NIGHT SKY

The vulture soars through the sky with the peach pit in his mouth.

29 EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE- NIGHT

The vulture swoops down to the construction site that was once Peach's home.

The vulture plops the peach seed into the freshly dug-up ground at the construction. He covers the seed in dirt.