

Albatross

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EXT. LAKE- GOLDEN HOUR

IVY stands at the edge of a LAKE. A GIANT BIRD PUPPET is attached to her with a ROPE. She leads the puppet into the water. It cocks its head.

They wade out to about waist high water. The Bird stares at Ivy with its large unblinking eyes. It SQWAKS. Ivy looks down.

She takes the bird by the neck and plunges its head below the water. It splashes ferociously as it fights against her grasp.

A moment passes and the bird goes limp. Ivy takes a deep breath and wades away from the bird's lifeless floating body.

INT. IVY'S BEDROOM- DAY

Ivy wakes up happy. She checks her phone.

PHONE REMINDER- JARREDS BIRTHDAY PARTY TONIGHT.

Ivy rolls over onto her back. She nearly jumps out of her skin when she discovers the bird sitting up next to her in bed. It has a LAKE PLANT draped over its beak.

IVY
Goddamnit!

INT. BATHROOM- DAY

Ivy tries to brush her hair in the mirror. The bird looks at its reflection, sizing it up.

The bird flaps its wings and pecks at the mirror.

IVY
Stop! That's you!

Ivy tugs at the rope. The bird looks at her, grabs the hairbrush out of her hand and throws it.

Ivy groans.

IVY
God Every Morning.

The bird SQWAKS.

INT. OFFICE SPACE- DAY

ADRIAN stands at a COFFEE MAKER. He stares absentmindedly at the pot until his PHONE vibrates in his pocket.

He checks his phone- NOTIFICATION- JARREDS PARTY TONIGHT.

BEATRICE enters the room with a giant TUB of CANDY (M&Ms maybe? Something that is already unwrapped). She shovels the candy into her mouth.

BEATRICE

Adrian!

Adrian turns to attention. Beatrice looks at the floor (carcass) and grimaces, then shakes it off as to not appear rude.

She shoves candy into her mouth and does not stop when she speaks.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

Can you have those progress reports to me by the end of the day?

ADRIAN

Oh yeah for sure.

BEATRICE

Thanks.

Beatrice exits. Adrian pours himself a cup of coffee and sets it on the table. He reaches down and struggles to lift up a GIANT PIECE OF ROADKILL.

He slings the carcass over his shoulder, picks up his coffee and struggles out of the room.

INT- OFFICE- DAY

Adrian sits at his desk. He looks at the giant dead carcass on the ground. He stares into its beady eyes. He nudges it with his foot. Nothing happens.

EXT. STREET- DAY

Ivy walks with the bird in tow. She passes people on the street.

A woman applies lipstick has a basket of make up that is attached to them with a rope and a completely beat out face.

One person jogs and carries a Mannequin dress in sports attire- attached to them with a rope.

The bird continuously fucks with Ivy as she enters a CONVENIENCE STORE.

A guy walks out of the store smacking the back of a pack of cigarettes. He has a giant Carton attached to him with a rope.

INT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Ivy pauses in the aisles. The bird knocks things off the shelf. She takes her things to the counter where the CLERK is covered in TISSUES and LOTION.

She pays for her things and he hands her back her CHANGE covered in Tissue and Lotion. She frowns Ivy frowns The bird lets out a disgusted caw.

EXT STREET- DAY

Adrian waits at the bus stop with his carcass. The same Cigarette guy walks up next to him. He accidentally steps on it.

CIGARETTE GUY

Oh jeez man.

Adrian tugs on the rope.

ADRIAN

I'm sorry man.

CIGARETTE GUY

God it's all in my shoe!

The guy pulls a cigarette out of the packet.

ADRIAN

Sorry about that, that's my bad.

The guy lights up a cigarette.

INT. COFFEE SHOP- DAY

Ivy sits down with a DRINK and a SCOOP of ICECREAM. She excitedly goes to take a bite, but the bird intercepts her.

The bird makes a huge mess of Ice-cream all over the place, destroying the cone in the process. It SQWAKS in glee.

Defeated, Ivy uses NAPKINS to clean up the mess.

Adrian walks in with the carcass carefully balanced on his shoulder. The bird sniffs the air and eyes down the roadkill as Adrian orders.

The Bird pecks Ivy on the shoulder. She pushes its head away. The Bird gazes lovingly at the carcass.

The bird feverishly attempts to get Ivy's attention who continues to wipe up ice-cream mess.

Adrian turns to leave the coffee shop. The bird locks eyes with the rotting corpse.

Insert- Romance music.

The bird attempts to chase after Adrian and the carcass. Ivy tugs it back into the seat using the rope.

IVY

Quit it.

The bird hangs its head in sorrow.

EXT. HOUSE- DAY

Ivy has a candle. She walks up to the door- pulls the bird aside. She looks into its eyes.

IVY

Listen.

The bird cocks its head

IVY (CONT'D)

Im gonna need you to keep it together tonight okay?

Bird.

IVY (CONT'D)

Lets just have one normal, enjoyable evening okay?

Bird. Ivy sighs.

IVY (CONT'D)

Alright lets get this over with.

INT. HOUSE- EVENING

Ivy and the Bird enter a house party. There are people conversing on the couch. Eating Drinking Etc. In the cast we have-

A person with a giant cheeseburger. Someone with a big hand in which they are nibbling the fingernails. One person attempts to socialize while playing video games.

A girl with a giant bowl of salad. A woman with a skeleton. Someone with a giant martini.

Adrian sits in the corner. The Carcass over his lap. Ivy passes the girl with the giant bowl of salad.

SALAD GIRL

Yeah- You should really try adding fennel seeds. It's a super food.

The bird is enraged by this. It angrily bashes the salad out of the girls hands and squawks in her face. Ivy reels the bird in.

IVY

Oh my God. I am so sorry.

The girl bends down to pick up whats left of her lettuce.

GRACE- Literally always doing yoga spots IVY.

GRACE

Ivy! You made it!

Ivy gives a little wave. She changes poses.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Jarred! Ivy's here!

A rather vanilla looking dude comes out and gives Ivy a hug. He keeps a man in a gimp suit.

JARRED

I'm so glad you could make it!

IVY

Happy Birthday!

Ivy presents the candle.

IVY (CONT'D)
I got you this candle.

Jarred smiles and takes the candle.

JARRED
Oooh. I'll put this to good use.

Jarred puts the candle under his gimp's nose. The Gimp smells it.

JARRED (CONT'D)
You like that boy?

GIMP
Yes Ma--

Jarred yanks on the chain.

JARRED
I did not give you permission to speak!

The party gets quiet. Jarred switches back to himself.

JARRED
Well come in get a drink. Meet everybody.

The party continues.

INT. LIVING ROOM- DAY

Ivy, Jarred, his Gimp and Grace sit on the couch drinking chatting- Party like things.

JARRED
Listen, Ivy. I have a question for you.

IVY
Oh boy.

JARRED
No, no. It's not bad.

Jarred tickles his gimp under the chin.

JARRED (CONT'D)
I've just always been curious. What's with the bird?

Ivy looks at the bird whose head is nestled in her lap.

IVY
What do you mean?

JARRED
I mean aren't you tired of it?

Jarred eyes the bird who rustles its feathers. Ivy raises an eyebrow.

JARRED
I'm sorry I don't think I understand what you're getting at.

GRACE
Jarred, maybe nows not the time. Hows your job Ivy?

Ivy stares at Jarred.

IVY
No what do you mean?

JARRED
I mean why have something that makes your life...you know... so difficult.

IVY
I don't think it makes my life more difficult than anyone else?

Jarred sips his drink.

JARRED
If you say so.

IVY
I mean life is kind of shit through and through, am I wrong?

INT. HOUSE- EVENING

Adrian sits alone at the party. Martini girl and Fingernail boy talk close by.

FINGERNAIL GUY
Do you smell that.

He and Martini Girl sniff.

MARTINI GIRL
Smells like death.

Adrian takes the QUE to step outside.

INT. LIVING ROOM- DAY

GRACE
Look, Ivy. We aren't trying to be judgmental its just, there are easier ways live life.

IVY
Well I can't really help it can I?

JARRED
You could try different avenues.

IVY
Different avenues?

GRACE
Exactly, like me with my Yoga. It really helps me stay centered and relax--

IVY
Yeah, but I can't imagine your life is perfect trying to open doors through your asshole and what not.

The bird hisses at Grace.

JARRED
Woah Ivy, no need to get aggressive.

IVY
And you, you're just dominating your gimp because you have no real control over your life. Nobody does.

JARRED
You really need to learn how to calm down.

Ivy tenses with rage. She looks around to see the party has quieted and everyone is staring at them. She opens her mouth to speak but instead drags the bird with her onto the porch.

EXT. PORCH- DAY

Ivy sits on the couch. She takes a moment to compose herself. The bird stares at her. She stares back. She burries her head in her hands.

The bird looks like it may comfort her, but then catches a smell in the air. It looks over to Adrian and the carcass on the other side of the porch.

The bird lights up and charges towards them, it yanks Ivy along with it.

The bird pecks at the carcass with excitement. Ivy pulls at the rope.

IVY

Bad Bird. Stop it. Oh my gosh I'm so sorry.

Adrian gathers his rope in his hand. Their ropes get tangle up.

ADRIAN

Oh It's fine, It's fine.

Ivy finally manages to wrangle the bird back. It still tries to sneakily pick at the dead thing.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

It's refreshing really. This thing repels most people.

Ivy looks at the carcass.

IVY

Well, there doesn't seem to be a problem here.

Adrian smiles.

ADRIAN

It's a pretty cool, bird thing you've got there.

Ivy smiles.

IVY

Thanks, He's a real pain in the ass.

Adrian looks at the road kill

ADRIAN
I feel you.

A pause.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
Wanna sit?

IVY
I mean, do you mind if my bird snacks
on your carcass?

Adrian gestures to the seat next to him.

ADRIAN
Be my guest.

Ivy sits next to Adrian on the couch. They chat as the bird
picks away at the carcass.

Inside party goers interact with their vices.

End.