

Gatito Inmigrante
(First draft with some camera directions)
Part II

by
Alfredo M. Bravo de Rueda E.

Based on the novel The Fables,
By Alfredo M. Bravo de Rueda E.

Dedicated to Joaquin Luna

GROUL GUFF, a mixed shorthaired apricot Vizsla with drop ears, in workclothes is operating a serger, breathing with difficulty.

SEATSHOP OWNER, apricot Turkish Angora male cat with black stripes.

RAUL AARF, middle-aged mixed dark brown Sussex Spaniel.

MEAU MICKAU, dark gray Russian Blue cat.

GATITO INMEEGRANTE, mixed caramel colored cat. Real name: Joaquin Gatito Migran

ALFGUAU BRWAU, middle-aged small white shorthaired dog with black mouth and ears

SMUGGLER CAT, cat with rough character

SMUGGLER DOG, dog with rough character

MICHELLE TANCRUARF, small white, bearded Dandie Dinmont Terrier, semi-haired, with white hair on his forehead and drop ears.

DUKE, black Mudi dog.

CHARLES, bearded and short apricot and cream Cairn Terrier of prick ears.

GUSTAVO, a small red and white shorthaired Italian Greyhound with big semi drop ears and a pointy mouth

KIM, a small female black Schipperke dog with prick ears and a foxy face

RODOLFO UFGH, yellow Labrador Retriever

SENATOR SANDERF, Golden Retriever

ATEH TAYARIH, snake

CHIEF HAGEL, old hairy apricot and cream Briard dog

DAVID, white dog

JON, grey and white Bearded Collie.

CHIEF KRUORF, Chief of the immigration police, hairy white Komondor.

POLITICAL APPOINTEE, Affenpinscher dog, bearded, white.

RACHY CORRY, white Labrador Retriever

RAFAEL, small shorthaired black and white Staffordshire Bull terrier with semidrop ears.

GANG MEMBER KILLED BY GROUL, brown dog.

GANG LEADER, black and white Finnish Lapphund with apricot spots

MIAC, black cat.

GISELLE, black female cat.

GANG LEADER, white, gray and dark gray Javanese Tabby Poin with long mouth

FRANCISCO AGUOSTA, small, fat brown semi-hairy Affenpinscher, bearded, with semi-drop ears.

GOVERNOR #1, Basset Fauve de Bretagne, a small brown hound with long ears and a big moustache.

LAST GOVERNOR TO VOTE AT FREEDOM PLAZA, old, big white and apricot Saint Bernard with black spots on his drop hears and long cheeks.

ARISTOCRATS #1 and 2. Apricot and white hairy collies.

MAIN ARISTOCRAT: short haired dark brown Weimaraner with drop ears.

SEQUENCE 25 FADE IN...

Next morning...

106. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE. Groul is talking to Gatito and the other guys.

VOICE IN OFF

Groul came back the next morning. He had a name. So Groul was sent to negotiate with the gang member.

107. CUT TO: INT.: UNTIDY HOUSE, where a fat DOG WHO LOOKS LIKE A GANG MEMBER hears to Groul with attention.

VOICE IN OFF

To not give an impression of weakness the gangster could exploit, Groul gave him the name and description of both of them, the point from where they had been expelled and the moment when the expulsion had happened. If he had all that information, he could not be a '*nobody*.'

GANG MEMBER (with arrogant demeanor)

My partners control the border. We'll find your friends and bring them back. You will give me a day to find them. Then I will give you proof of having found them. The price is five thousand dollars each.

VOICE IN OFF

(CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE. Gatito and the Guys are putting money on the kitchen table)

So Gatito and Groul put all their savings on the table, collected from the members all they could and made the ten thousand dollars not even thinking of what they were going to eat next day.

(CUT TO: INT.: GANG MEMBER'S HOUSE. The fat dog talks to two of Gatito's guys, a DOG and a CAT)

Then they sent two members of the group to bring the proof the gang member was going to show them, the proof that he had actually found their friends. After that they would return to the warehouse and receive confirmation of the go-ahead they were going to give the gang member and he would proceed with the operation.

GANG MEMBER

I think I told the other dog that you will have to pay an advance.

GATITO'S GUY (dog)

An advance is out of discussion. We're not bargaining on the price but any advance is out of question.

Then the gang member gives them a handful of pieces of cloth.

108. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE.

MEAU

Yes, that's what they were wearing that day.

Then Gatito nods and the dog and the cat, the go-betweens, leave the warehouse.

Two days later...

109. CUT TO: EXT.: BEHIND SOME BUSHES at NIGHT. The go-betweens are escorted by Groul and some other Gatito's guys to some bushes from where they can see the gang member's house. Groul hugs them and they leave. CLOSE UP of Groul's face, that looks anxious. PAN of the other guys' faces, which look confused. CLOSE UP of Groul's face, that looks worried now. CLOSE UP of the front door of the gang member's house. PAN of Groul and the other Gatito's guy waiting.

GATITO's GUY

Groul...

GROUL

I know. We're going for our friends right now...

110. CUT TO: EXT.: GANG MEMBER's HOUSE's FRONT DOOR. The immigration police come and, soon after, their two friends, handcuffed, are pushed through the door all the way to the back of the truck.

111. CUT TO: EXT.: BEHIND THE BUSHES. Groul and the other Gatito's guys startle.

GROUL (looking furious)

As soon as the police truck leaves we are going for that fat piece of shit... He's going to pay pay for this treason.

112. CUT TO: EXT.: GANG MEMBER's HOUSE's FRONT DOOR.

Even though the immigration police are still there, more and more gang members come to the house.

GATITO's GUY (sounding afraid)

Are you sure you want to do this now, Groul?

113. CUT TO: EXT.: GANG MEMBER's HOUSE's FRONT DOOR. More and more gang members are coming.

114. CUT TO: EXT.: BEHIND THE BUSHES. Groul, looking beaten, confused, ashamed, enraged, shrugs and then turns to the others and with his eyes still on the floor shakes his head.

115. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE's MAIN ROOM. Gatito, looking devastated, falls heavily on the closest chair. Ashamed, Groul, on his feet, has dropped his eyes to the floor.

GATITO

Do they know where to find us?

GROUL (shaking his head, in a barely audible voice)

No. At least I made sure of that.

GATITO (nodding, pained and somewhat disengaged)

We better go to sleep now. See that we have double guard tonight.

SEQUENCE 26

Next day...

116. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE's MAIN ROOM, at NIGHT. The thirty members of Gatito's group are in attendance. The kitchen table is facing all the attendants. Gatito is sat in the middle; Groul is sat at his side, his eyes dropped on the table. Groul looks as if he had not slept. Gatito glances at Groul with concern and then opens the session.

GATITO

Before we begin, I need two volunteers to go see the families of the two friends we have lost yesterday. The volunteers will also

have to visit the families of our friends we couldn't rescue yesterday and tell them that... we don't expect good news any more.

Several animals raise their hands. Alfguau and Groul raise them first though.

GATITO

Are you sure, Groul?

Groul nods, his eyes still on the table. One small dog raises his hand at the rear of the room. Groul raises his hand again but Gatito takes the question.

GATITO

Okay, now we're going to discuss what we're going to do about what happened yesterday.

Then the same small dog raises his hand again. Gatito nods and the small dog takes the floor.

SMALL DOG

Gatito, why didn't we go over them yesterday night? We might still have been able to rescue our friends and our money! I'm not afraid to fight!

Groul raises his hand again. Gatito let him take the question.

GROUL

There were too many of them by the moment the police left and, even if we had fought and prevailed, by the moment we would've broken into their house, it would've been too late to at least get our money back anyway. And our friends were already gone. The immigration police took them before our eyes. And it's obvious our other friends never were there. And, as I said, our money must have gone soon after. That must be why so many gang members came all of a sudden... They must have come to protect the piece of shit who deceived us and for their cut... Anyway, it was my idea. I assume full responsibility.

And Groul, still ashamed, drops his eyes back on the table.

GATITO

They would've been expecting our attack anyway. That's why there were so many of them. Anyway, we had already lost what was the most precious for us and we would've only put more of us at risk had we allowed ourselves to be carried away by our rage. I, like you, would have liked vengeance, but we have to keep a clear mind. That's why I decided to wait.

A CAT raises his hand.

CAT

There must be something we can do about our friends, Gatito, and about our money!

GATITO

The only thing we can do for our friends is to help their families. We have to find alternative channels to learn whether they could make it to the Northern Country or what happened to them if they didn't. Although I guess us knowing that is not going to

help them very much, so... we better focus on the families. Now, with respect to the money, we'll have to swallow the fact that it's lost. It's not the first time we have had to go through some financial loss when subcontractors have not paid our friends for their work although I must admit that this time the loss is big... And now, with Tancruarf, many subcontractors have learned that they can get away with not paying us and that we cannot go to the courts any more... We will have to live with this as we have learned to live with that. That's precisely why we're fighting, isn't it?

(Gatito then drops his eyes to the table and sounds beaten for the first time)

I wish there's something we can do. If at least they were not protected by the immigration police...

(Then GATITO raises his eyes again)

If we attack them just for vengeance, we would expose ourselves, our warehouse, and soon the immigration police would be here. And I don't want to lose anybody else.

ANOTHER CAT

But it's not fair, Gatito!

GATITO

I know. If there was something we could do... But there isn't.

A DOG (raising his hand and standing up)

Gatito, what are we going to do if another one of us gets caught?

GATITO (grimacing with bitterness)

I am open to suggestions, but unless we can find a way to bring our friends back that doesn't go through the gangs, I am afraid there's nothing we can do but to help the families.

(Then Gatito's eyes sweep the room but nobody else raises his hand)

Unless we find a safe way, I don't want to risk another one of us. Groul did what he believed was right in his heart and did it for love to our friends. But unfortunately the world has changed for the worst and now we have to be more careful. And, as long as we take care of each other, we'll be better off than if each one of us has to face this new world alone.

A FEMALE DOG (raising her hand)

We are not angry with Groul, Gatito. We all wanted to do what he did. We are angry with the gangs and the immigration police. Why do they hate us so much, Gatito?

GATITO (shrugging)

I wish I knew. I wish I knew why they have projected on us all they hate and despise and why they even blame us for everything that is wrong in the Northern Country as if we were not its victims too. My hope is that Tancruarf's power at some moment will have to decline. And we have to be ready to bring the citizens of Nayak the truth about who we really are when that happens.

(Then GATITO sighs profoundly)

We'll think of something to replace the money that has been lost and we'll call another meeting to inform you as soon as possible.

Of course, we are all friends and we welcome your suggestions.

Gatito's friends leave the room in silence. Gatito sees Groul rushing out of the room. Gatito follows him with his eyes until he sees him disappearing inside a closet. Worried, Gatito approaches the closet.

117. CUT TO: INT.: BY THE CLOSET'S DOOR.

Then Gatito leans his ear on the door. Gatito hears Groul sob and discreetly leaves.

SEQUENCE 27

That late afternoon...

118. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE, A SMALL ROOM. Groul and Alfguau are briefing Gatito, who leans on a small table.

ALFGUAU

The families of two of our lost friends, the ones we tried to rescue, are canvassing for us in the neighborhood. They are going to talk to their friends about what we tried to do and what had happened to our other friends for trying to help them. It seemed as if that way they are trying to give some sense to their loss. But the families of the two who had just been ambushed by the gangs and arrested look still distressed, unbelieving of what has actually happened to them, uninterested in the support we offered them. They only want their loved ones back. And when I explained them the circumstances of their arrest, the reaction was hostile, to say the least. The mother of one of them even blamed Groul for the arrest of their son and tried to scratch him, being barely contained by other relatives who then asked us to leave.

Then they hear somebody knocking at the door and Rodolfo opens it. GATITO speaks to him.

RODOLFO (with a sad smile)

I've been talking to my friend, the chief of staff. There's nothing we can do for your friends but at least I can see that we make you a loan so you can cover the basic expenses. We have saved five thousand dollars for some contingency. I'll see that we loan you that. Anything else we can do, the little we can do, count with us.

GATITO (upset now)

Why the regular police aren't protecting us? And the immigration police are protecting the gangs! They came for our friends and not even one of the gang members was arrested.

RODOLFO (closing his eyes with disappointment)

Actually the liaison between the immigration police and the regular police is Tancruarf's political appointee in the police department. Why somebody like Hagel has allowed this to happen? I don't know. I guess there's very little he can do to oppose Tancruarf anyway. He can always resign in protest but I guess that's all he can do. With Tancruarf at the top of his power,

nobody would pay attention to him. Few would miss him now. It wouldn't be a sacrifice. It would be a waste.

(Rodolfo notices that Gatito shrugs)

Next year Tancruarf is going for reelection. We have to think of something to stop him, Gatito. All this has to stop!

Rodolfo now notices skepticism, disbelief on Gatito's face and his eyes drop again, beaten this time. So he just puts his hand on Gatito's shoulder.

RODOLFO

Well, I have to go.

GATITO

Thanks for the loan, Rodolfo. We'll repay you as soon as we can.

RODOLFO

Don't worry about that. Besides that, it's not only my money. Now, make sure the sacrifice of your friends is not in vain and that we're going to do something to give their children a better life. We have to stop Tancruarf.

Rodolfo now notices that other Gatito's guys are in the room too. But he can also see the same skepticism and disbelief in their faces.

119. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE'S MAIN ROOM, at NIGHT. Gatito is reading the newspaper.

CUT TO: INT.: INTERIOR PAGE OF NEWSPAPER: A gang member has been found dead. His face had been smashed by continuous and relentless blows. In a flash Gatito sees Groul's face. Then he remembers Groul trying to hide his swollen hands and then using gloves for days. Then Gatito remembers Groul watching the deserted street from a window, detached of everything.

VOICE IN OFF

Yet, the ten thousand dollars robbed that night had another consequence: the gangs saw the lack of retaliation as a sign of weakness and believed that additional money that could be extracted if they just put enough pressure on immigrant neighborhoods. So the gang activity increased in Miyaff, Rouff and other towns.

Then one day Groul's contact brought another batch of letters for them. Among them there was one for Gatito. It was from his father. His mother had died of cancer two months ago. They had learned about him and his group, because they knew it was his, and were very proud. Her last words were for him to stay firm. Gatito then remembered the closet where days ago Groul had hidden to cry and, after having asked to be left alone, he discreetly went to that same closet, closed the door behind him, and sobbed.

SEQUENCE 28

120. CUT TO: INT.: TANCRUARF'S OFFICE, where he smiles satisfied as he watches Nayak through his window.

VOICE IN OFF

The effects of the Big Drought, the way he managed the gang problem and the cowardice of both liberals and conservatives all helped make of 1899 what Tancruarf liked to call the ‘*conservative wave*.’ It was amazing to see how fragile a society can be when seduced by someone like Tancruarf. Yet, someone like Tancruarf needs many allies and those many allies have many demands. But managing those demands is also part of the strategy. And the fact that so many changes took place in eighteen ninety nine made the life of senators like Sanderf very difficult. And that’s why, as Sanderf tried to contain the conservative wave, Tancruarf’s wave, overflowing in so many fronts, immigration reform passed to be a forgotten issue for liberals. If only for practical reasons, Sanderf had to sacrifice an issue. And that issue was immigration.

Thus, having so successfully made scapegoats of the immigrants, having so efficiently channeled the popular rage towards those he hated the most, Tancruarf could then implement a reform that rewarded his allies and put his rivals in precarious situations. And fortunately he could count with the complicity of the Examining Post and the Nayak Daily, which were indispensable to realign the political and economic forces of Nayak. For instance, his new policies affected negatively the lives of business owners depending on immigrant workers, which had never supported him. Actually, little by little, the costs of Tancruarf’s *enforcement by attrition* began pushing them off the market and replacing them in some cases with importers and in others with callous employers, who became the predominant source of demand for immigrant labor. And both of these groups supported Tancruarf.

SEQUENCE 29

July, 1900...

121. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE’S MAIN ROOM. CLOSE UP of Groul, voice of Meau in the background.

VOICE IN OFF

That afternoon of July nineteen hundred Groul, in silence, was reliving all that had happened to them the day he hired the gangs to bring back their two friends deported by the immigration police. And now those memories were mixing up with the recent ones of the raid from which he had barely escaped thanks to Meau Mickaw, the raid from which Raul had not been able to escape. And no matter what he tried to do, those memories kept chasing him and overwhelming him. Understanding that, Gatito himself helped Groul sit down, took care of his scratches and asked the others, who wanted to do something about his limping, to leave him alone, to give him time. Fortunately Meau had made all the explaining already.

Groul turns and now sees Gatito talking to Alfguau, who soon after, with moist eyes, leaves. Groul then surrenders to his thoughts until he feels something. He turns and it's Gatito putting his hand on his shoulder. It was Gatito, who was coming back. And he noticed that he was again talking to Meau. Then Groul sees Gatito leaving the room.

CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE, MAIN ROOM. Meau is addressing the group.

MEAU

Come on, guys! Gatito has gone to see Rodolfo to see if he can help us about Raul. But right now we need a double guard and you, Rafael, go after Gatito and be his shadow!

122. CUT TO: EXT.: SOME STREET IN MIYAFF, DAY.

VOICE IN OFF

And Gatito felt guilty because he realized that in all this time they had no been able to come with an emergency escape plan, with an alternative place in case a raid on their warehouse took place; with nothing of the sort. It's not that only now he was thinking about that.

(CUT TO: EXT.: MIYAFF TRAIN STATION: Gatito and RAFAEL are talking)

Then, as he was arriving at the train station, Gatito told his *shadow* that he could go back to the warehouse, that he would be okay, but his shadow ignored his petition and asked him how long would it take for him to come back; that he could be searching for work and be back at the train station, at that same spot, by then. It seemed his guys would follow him anywhere. And, no matter how risky what he was going to do was or what he told them, they would simply not pay attention and do whatever they believed was necessary to keep him safe. And knowing how protective they were of him made him feel immensely well.

123. CUT TO: INT.: TRAIN WAGON. Gatito sits down and surrenders to his own thoughts.

VOICE IN OFF

Theoretically he understood that numbers gave them the strength individual immigrants didn't have to survive in these new times. But when it came to living, to have hope, things had not improved. After all this time they were still thirty or so and the people of Nayak still could not see them for what they were but through the caricatures of the Dancing Doggies or through the venomous stereotypes spread by Tancruarf. Besides that, in his heart he felt the each day heavier burden of leading those thirty animals, who not only had attached their dreams to his but also had become his responsibility. And because he could feel that burden inside him, he understood how overwhelmed Groul looked or how discouraged his guys were.

The months they had been more politically active, that burden had seemed more bearable. But since they had been reduced to inactivity, to retreat and react, that burden seemed to have grown

much heavier, to be eating them alive. This way, soon their morale would break and the group would disintegrate. It's true that the gangs and the extended powers of the immigration police represented a real risk but he had to do something if he wanted that his guys survived as a group. So he had to collect himself and think of something soon.

Then, he remembered another meeting with Rodolfo. Rodolfo had told him that he would be at the warehouse with whatever news he could get and that he would begin working on getting them an alternative place, even if it was only an emergency, provisional place to be used if something happened to their warehouse.

124. CUT TO: INT.: COUNTER OF NONPROFIT WHERE RODOLFO WORKS, Gatito's memory (BLURRY) of their past conversation.

GATITO (looking demoralized)

Thanks. I'll get two of my guys to meet you at the train station.

RODOLFO

That's not necessary. I'll walk.

GATITO

That's another thing I wanted to talk to you about. Knowing that the immigration police don't care about us and that the regular police won't do anything the immigration police don't let them do, the gangs have been preying on immigrants only. But recently there have been at least two citizens victimized by those pieces of garbage, two volunteers working for a private social services office in downtown Miyaff.

RODOLFO (raising his eyes to him)

Really? That's interesting... Let me see if I can find out something about that too.

Then they shake hands and with saddened eyes, Rodolfo sees Gatito leave.

125. CUT TO: INT.: TRAIN WAGON. Gatito notices the sign of Downtown Nayak Station through the window.

126. CUT TO: INT.: COUNTER OF NONPROFIT WHERE RODOLFO WORKS. Gatito notices that somebody else is at the counter.

FEMALE DOG

Rodolfo? He's on the field. He won't be coming back until after lunch. Any message?

GATITO

Ah? Yes... Tell him please that Gatito was here; that I have something urgent to discuss with him when he visits me this afternoon.

SEQUENCE 30

127. CUT TO: EXT.: MIYAFF TRAIN STATION, LATE AFTERNOON. Rodolfo recognizes two members of Gatito's group approaching him.

RAFAEL

Rodolfo?

RODOLFO

Yes. It's me. Gatito told me...

The two animals just nod and begin to walk without saying anything else.

128. CUT TO: EXT.: SOME STREET OF MIYAFF, poorly maintained. Rodolfo notices animals he hadn't seen before. These animals are in groups, loitering around the doors of the train station. And he sees no police around to protect innocent commuters or to intervene in case of some assault. It's then that he sees one of these groups follow a couple down the opposite street. They turn by the crossing with the next street and he loses sight of the couple as well as of the animals following them. Then Rodolfo notices that his two bodyguards are sweeping the streets with their eyes.

129. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE'S MAIN ROOM. Rodolfo is briefing Gatito.

RODOLFO

Raul was deported by the same point of entry as the other four. That's all I could learn about him. I come directly from my friend, the chief of staff. Now, with respect to the gangs, what he has heard is gossip, speculation, but it matches what you tell me is happening here. Tancruarf is preparing himself for reelection and guess on what issue he is going to run. He needs the immigrant menace victimizing citizens; he needs to show that in Nayak and the cities where he's strong that threat has disappeared but that in cities like Mewow, Miyaff and Rouff, where liberals, or what passes for liberals these days, that threat is alive and can come back to Nayak to prey on its citizens any time.

GATITO

Tancruarf doesn't need to go after us to secure his reelection. He must want something else.

RODOLFO

Whatever... It seems that immigrants are going to be again the target of his politics... and that may pass through increasing the gang activity in Miyaff. By the way, I have asked my friend, the chief of staff, to please help me find you an emergency place that is not in any of those three cities... at least until after November, when I hope Tancruarf leaves Miyaff in peace.

GATITO

Rodolfo, you know how much I thank you all you have done and are doing for us but we are tired of retreating and reacting. We need to do something these elections... The morale of my guys is at an all times low.

RODOLFO

You know? On my way here I was wondering why nobody has cracked down on your group yet. I reached the conclusion that that is because Tancruarf doesn't know you exist yet. If you finally succeed, he will know you exist and then Tancruarf might decide to make of your group an example and a priority. Just see how we are struggling to find an alternative place and that we

have no support. Are you ready to accept the cost that that might bring, maybe your whole group dead or deported? And what's going to be of the families of those who have families if the group is cracked down?

GATITO

I have thought many times over about that. What you say is true but here, just waiting for the tide to change by itself, with the Dancing Doggies making our situation even worse instead of better, I think we gain nothing hiding. And we might have a chance to succeed, no matter how slim, if we participate in these elections. Besides that, as I said, if we keep ourselves inactive, soon the morale will break and that will mean that any animal is by itself. And I don't think their families are going to be better off if that happens.

RODOLFO (dropping his eyes)

The gangs might actually know already that you are here in this warehouse. Are you aware of that?

GATITO (nodding)

We have discussed that this afternoon, before you came. As one of my guys said, it is better to fall under our own flag than to fall and be taken for one of those clowns, the Dancing Doggies. How much time has passed since we first met, four years? And what has improved since then?

RODOLFO (scoffing)

Actually it has been less. We met in February ninety seven. Don't ask me how I remember that. I just do.

(Rodolfo wants to smile now but he only gets a sad grin. Then he raised his eyes again)

Let me see whether I can get you something to do in Miyaff, some canvassing job like in those elections..., or in Rouff. In Mewow they are too afraid of Tancruarf to let you come back after all. Those cowardly shits!

Gatito smiles but then purses his lips. Then he puts his hand on Rodolfo's shoulder.

GATITO

It's very late right now. Why don't you stay here tonight and you leave tomorrow early with our guys who are employed or looking for a job? You can have breakfast with us before leaving. We wake up at five and the breakfast is at a quarter to six.

RODOLFO (smirking)

Will you give me a good breakfast?

GATITO

Yes...

RODOLFO

You are lying, aren't you?

GATITO

Yes. It's nothing fancy but edible. It won't kill you at least.

SEQUENCE 31

130. CUT TO: EXT.: GATITO's PARENTS' HOUSE in the Northern Country, DAY, FOGGY. It's a dream. Gatito is hurrying up to the door and then it's opening it with his own key.

131. CUT TO: INT.: GATITO's PARENTS' LIVING ROOM. His two parents and Mimi are there (even though his mother is dead already). Mimi tells him something (inaudible). Gatito says something casually (inaudible too).

132. CUT TO: INT.: KITCHEN, his two parents are sat at a coffee table, talking in a very low voice, whispering, and laughing discreetly, as if they were sharing some funny secret. Then Gatito stares at his mother, realizing that something is not right.

133. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE's DORM, NIGHT. Gatito wakes up. The others are sleeping.

SEQUENCE 32

Mid July, 1900...

134. CUT TO: EXT.: NEWSPAPER STAND, MORNING. Passersby gather. They read the covers of The Examining Post and the Nayak Daily: '*Unstoppable immigrant criminality in Mewow, Miyaff and Rouff*,' '*A rape and two murders in Mewow. When will this stop?*' '*Citizens of Nayak targeted by criminal aliens in Rouff in limits with Nayak City.*'

VOICE IN OFF

And both papers practically omitted the explanations given by the officers of those cities: With Nayak cutting funds to their police departments and with the several restrictions to their jurisdictions imposed by Nayak state and the immigration police, their local police could do very little to protect both citizens and immigrants from these gangs, which, by the way, were not conformed only by immigrants. Worse, new state regulations were forcing them to redirect their personnel and resources to support the immigration police. Yet, at the end both newspapers presented the crimes as committed by immigrants against citizens with the complacency of local police departments under inefficient liberal administrations. The letters repeatedly sent by the mayors of these cities asking these newspapers to rectify were ignored.

And by late July, Tancruarf's political appointee in the Nayak Police Department convoked to a press conference ignoring the objections made by Chief Hagel, who excused himself from the event saying that he was ill, sending his deputy Jon instead.

135. CUT TO: INT.: SMALL AUDITORIUM. Sat at the end of a table, DEPUTY JON smiles but his eyes show how uncomfortable he is.

VOICE IN OFF

The reason alleged by the political appointee to call a press conference was to report the results about cases that were actually still under investigation, cases on which Hagel could've made more progress had not been for the meddling of the immigration police.

CUT TO: INT.: SAME TABLE. CHIEF KRUORF smiles satisfied.

VOICE IN OFF

Also present at the press conference was Chief Kruorf, the chief of the immigration police and responsible for its innumerable abuses.

Then the POLITICAL APPOINTEE steps forward to the podium facing the journalists.

POLITICAL APPOINTEE

Another couple has been attacked by a gang in the city of Mewow. The male has been beaten so savagely that he won't be able to move his body again under his waist. His fiancée has been brutally raped and is still under psychiatric treatment in Nayak hospital. The attackers have been identified as immigrants.

CUT TO: INT.: SAME TABLE. Deputy Jon drops his eyes to the table.

DEPUTY JON (thinking)

How can he know they were immigrants, pets or citizens if they haven't been captured? Who has identified the attackers? He's letting everybody believe it was the victims. What do the local police of Mewow have to say? They must have been the first to come to the crime scene. And why they were not here? The political appointee simply omitted the point. (Glancing at the journalists) He knows the journalists won't make these questions, not these.

POLITICAL APPOINTEE

That's why we have commissioned the immigration police with the direction of the operatives. Only one thing I can promise you. We will find these criminal immigrants.

REPORTER FROM THE EXAMINING POST (raising his hand)

Do you believe the time has come to impose harder punishments on those foreigners who, far from being grateful with the legal residents of this land, re coming to murder them?

POLITICAL APPOINTEE

It's up to the governor to take that decision but I personally agreed about the need to increase the punishment to criminal immigrants.

REPORTER FROM THE NAYAK DAILY (raising his hand)

Isn't this proof that the liberal administrations of Mewow, Miyaff and Rouff have failed and that the state government needs to find a way to take over the police departments of those cities if their voters insist on keeping their liberal administrations?

POLITICAL APPOINTEE

I trust that the citizens of those three cities will make the right decisions in the upcoming elections and that such measures won't be necessary.

SEQUENCE 33

Early August, 1900...

136. CUT TO: EXT.: NAYAK, POLITICAL RALLY, at NIGHT. From a stage, Tancruarf is giving a message with Tayarih. A banner announces that Tancruarf is running for reelection.

TANCRUARF

Citizens of Nayak, my friends, in these two years we have made progress, progress indeed. The economy is more prosperous because the jobs of Nayak are now for the citizens of Nayak. Our schools are now better because they don't have to bear the burden of undeserving mongrels who before had been used to steal opportunities from our children. Today Nayak streets are safe because immigrants, used to a life of crime since the very first moment they committed their first offense by trespassing, by crossing the border illegally, have been arrested and deported. Now that they have been kicked back to the Northern Country, where they belong, our streets are finally clean and safe.

Today, because we have reformed the state government from top to bottom, the citizens of Nayak can finally trust their police department and enjoy the services they pay with their taxes. Today, free from regulations and taxes, the captains of our economy have put us in an unprecedented path of progress to be enjoyed by the legitimate citizens and residents of Nayak. Today you can tell your children that you are preserving the culture of Nayak from the mongrelization sponsored in the past by liberals. And today you can tell your children that they will inherit from you the Southern Country instead of the Northern Country.

Nevertheless, not everybody in Nayak state has followed us in this path to prosperity. Mewow, Miyaff, and Rouff have stubbornly preferred to stay in the past and that's why they are still poor cities, plagued by crime and immigrants. But because we have to protect the prosperity we are achieving, because we need to make clear to the voters of those cities that if they don't follow us, we will not tolerate the effects their leniency has on our citizens, we are here to ask you for your support to reelect me as governor of Nayak state for the Patriot Party for another term this November.

(The attendants cheer and Tancruarf makes a pause to let them show their support)

Now, there is something that has come to my attention. Those three cities have been deliberately exporting us their criminals, their immigrants, and that has to stop. For this second term I need your support to reform the judiciary, to increase the powers of Nayak state over cities that don't rise to our standards, and to increase the punishment for criminal immigrants. This has to stop!

(More cheering ensues)

Now if you share my vision, vote for the whole ticket of the Patriot Party this November. You know my record as governor.

Don't let anybody lie to you. Fortunately the press has been informing thoughtfully about my administration. If you are happy with that, vote for me. If you come from one of the three cities I have mentioned before, do something about that. Vote for the Patriot Party so those cities can catch up with the prosperity of the rest of the state. If you are voting for Congress, let's put a conservative in the seat of Senator Sanderf, who has done nothing but fight our path to prosperity all these years and has sympathized with the same criminals that are killing and raping our children. Vote for the Patriot Party for Congress, for the whole list. Either you are with your homeland or you are with the immigrants. Either you are with your homeland or you are with the liberals who oppose prosperity. Vote for the Patriot Party! Thanks! And this November, let's vote!

More cheering follows and balloons and fireworks take over the skies. Tancruarf follows from the podium the excitement of his supporters.

137. CUT TO: EXT.: STREETS OF MIYAFF, DAY (poor neighborhoods showing a declining economy)

VOICE IN OFF

Neither in Mewow, nor in Miyaff or Rouff liberals wanted anything to do with Gatito Inmeegrante and his group. Afraid of the relentless pounding by Tancruarf's conservatives, they had limited themselves to declare that they were for '*an immigrant system that was compassionate but, above all else, based on the rule of law and the interests of the citizens of Nayak.*' More, the mayors of those three cities didn't even issued a letter of protest. They were afraid of Tancruarf.

And in mid September two citizens of immigrant origin were arrested, their citizenship revoked and deported in a summary process that broke any judicial precedent. Nevertheless, neither the liberals nor the press seemed interested in their cases. And the Dancing Doggies, long discredited before the citizens of the whole state, far from exposing the arbitrary process followed against the two citizens, again invoked the public pity for those citizens of immigrant origin and their families, just as they had done before for the gang members. The Examining Post and the Nayak Daily answered by publishing another series of photographs of victims of gang crime, for which those newspapers routinely and indiscriminately blamed immigrants. Worse, the Dancing Doggies began to present '*honest immigrant families*' that told their stories to show that not all immigrants were criminals, with which they ended up making easier the work of the immigration police, which then rounded up the so identified families and deported them in the middle of the night.

138. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE's MAIN ROOM. Rodolfo is talking to Gatito and his friends.

RODOLFO (shrugged)

I have done everything I could. I have pulled every string. But no campaign wants to risk an association with immigrants.

RAFAEL

What a bunch of cowards, Gatito! That's why Tancruarf kicks their asses! Rodolfo disagrees?

Gatito shakes his head and drops his eyes.

RODOLFO (somewhat annoyed)

No, Rodolfo doesn't disagree but Rodolfo is as screwed up as you. If it were for Rodolfo, you would be in the place where those assholes and the Dancing Doggies are, but there's nothing Rodolfo can do about that.

GATITO

I understand your resentment with the Dancing Doggies. I feel the same but remember that Rodolfo was kicked out of the Dancing Doggies with us, that he could have accommodated himself to Kim and Gustavo and still he preferred to side with us, even though that cost him a long unemployment, and that he has helped us on everything he has been able to since then. But there are things Rodolfo can't control. He's also one of us, my friend.

RAFAEL (somewhat ashamed, nodding and dropping his eyes)
Sorry, Rodolfo... It's just that this is so unfair...! We should at least be able to defend ourselves and we have to be like the tail of the Dancing Doggies. Whether we like it or not, we end up represented by those clowns. We lose our friends and on top of that we're piled on the laughingstock with them, as if we followed them.

Rodolfo nods with understanding attitude.

GATITO

They don't want us. What do you suggest then?

RODOLFO

I'd suggest that you keep a low profile for now. With some luck, next elections might find Tancruarf in a weaker position. If you do something to call attention on you and you succeed, the immigration police will target you and they now can do pretty much whatever they want. You yourselves have seen that now not even citizens of immigrant origin are safe from Tancruarf's arbitrariness. I don't need to tell you what that may mean for you, your group, and your families. And if you don't succeed, you all will have risked your lives and families for nothing, with the additional problem that you may not end up bringing on you the attention of the citizens of Nayak but the attention of the gangs.

GATITO

I don't see it that way. It's true that it's going to be very difficult to separate our image from the Dancing Doggies' but if we fall into inactivity that probability is not going to be very low but zero. I agree that there is nothing we can do to affect these elections, not even in those three cities. We don't have time to change the way they see us but we gain nothing by going into hiding either. And it could be only worse later as the Dancing Doggies have always had an ambiguous language with respect to the gangs.

Rodolfo, once you told me about the Study Groups of the Muslim Kitty. And I decided to read a bit more about that. You were right about us needing to make the immigrant communities learn and understand as the only way to make them engage in this fight. Without that, we'll keep retreating until we have only the cliff behind us. There will always be risks and I am aware of them but without hope we are just waiting for the next crackdown. And only fighting can give us that hope. So, the best way we have before us to engage that community goes, elections or not, through expelling the gangs. We have to stand up to defend our communities. We have to organize the community against the gangs.

RODOLFO (scoffing, skeptical)

Do you realize that you would be fighting criminals protected by the immigration police; that just by waiting you could find in the future a more fertile ground to make the citizens of Nayak see the huge difference between you and the Dancing Doggies?

GATITO

I am just putting my idea on the floor but I insist: Falling into inactivity will only mean to accept our uselessness or to wait for our turn to be cracked down. And we have to begin now because now the citizens of Nayak are paying attention to politics. And even if we fail on that, the sooner the immigrants of Miyaff know us, the better.

As I said, I realize our chances of success are very low but if we retreat, that probability will be zero. After November everybody will be tired of politics and it will much more difficult to get anybody to pay attention to our message. That's why we have to try now! Besides that, what is right now on fashion is to label us as gang members, right? That's what's on the top of their minds when they think of us, right?

RODOLFO (frowning and shrugging before scoffing)

I don't know, Gatito... Wouldn't it be an irony that you called attention to you only for Tancruarf to arrest you and present you to the public opinion as a gang leader or something like that, with what you would end up helping his reelection?

GATITO

And isn't an irony that if we don't do something to bring attention to our message, we will definitely be packed and labeled with the clowns from the Dancing Doggies, no matter what we do to mark a difference between them and us?

RODOLFO (shrugging and nodding again)

Well, then you know what my opinion is and... count with me on anything I can do to help. I'm going to insist about the new place for you then.

SEQUENCE 34

139. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE's MAIN ROOM, at DAY. Some of Gatito's guys are piling pipes; other are training combat drills. Gatito supervises the works.

VOICE IN OFF

Gatito decided to enhance the guard at the perimeter of the warehouse, setting also guards in a second perimeter set at about nine hundred feet from the warehouse, in the routes that could be used to attack them. In case of an emergency, those guards would warn the guards of the first perimeter, giving the rest enough time to escape. An escape route had also been established through a hidden entrance to an extension of the Miyaff sewage system that had been abandoned after Nayak state, seeing that the city was being populated increasingly by immigrants, had lost interest in the project and the city had not been able to afford it. And the exit door was at just four hundred feet from the warehouse.

Also, they would need weapons and training. For training he had gotten the collaboration of the four members of his group who had been members of the Northern Country Army. And for weapons they would use pipes. He had dismissed using knives or attaching knives to the pipes because he didn't want another gang member killed. He just wanted a good beating, like those the community gave in his grandpa's stories to the criminals of his town to make them understand that it wasn't a good business to prey on his grandpa's town just because the police was corrupt. His grandpa had told him that they called their defense groups '*rondas*;' that every adult took part in parties that checked that everything was right in town and, if not, gave the alarm to the rest; that the *ronda* was the communal duty to keep the community safe.

So the previous week they had gone to talk to the immigrant community of Miyaff to invite them to participate in these new '*rondas*.' As expected, Gatito found skepticism and fear. Nobody wanted to get involved but, at the same time, most of them knew of somebody who had been victim of those criminals and wanted to do something about the problem. One unintended consequence of Groul's failed attempt of rescuing their friends was that the gangs thought they could make more easy money in the

immigrant community of Miyaff. So they would just have to give the example, the first step on which others could follow.

(CUT TO: EXT.: MIYAFF'S DESOLATED STREETS, NIGHT. Gatito's guys enter the night in two groups)

And tonight was the first *ronda* night. Only the twelve currently working were exempted. They split in two groups that would be in continuous contact to support each other in case of need. The first group was led by Gatito Inmeegrante. The second group was led by Meau Mickaw, after Groul declined. That was the first time Groul declined to do something Gatito asked him. But Gatito understood.

(CUT TO: EXT.: ANOTHER DARK STREET. Two startled residents stare at them and offer them money. Meau steps forward and introduces the group (inaudible))

Two hours after having left the warehouse, by ten, they had found only a few immigrants, hurrying up to their homes. Some of them had some money on their hands. They knew that some gang members would at least not assault them if they volunteered their money. Both groups had instructions of introducing themselves to the animal in their way and of informing him that they were the *ronda*, and what a *ronda* meant.

CUT TO: EXT.: SAME STREET. The two startled animals now smile, nod at them and leave.

140. CUT TO: EXT.: ANOTHER STREET. A RESIDENT is talking to Gatito when a scout, Rafael, comes running and approaches Gatito.

RESIDENT (asking Gatito)

Are you with the black cat too?

RAFAEL

We have spotted gang members moving suspiciously two blocks from there, Gatito.

GATITO

What do you mean '*suspiciously*'?

RAFAEL

They are moving tightly close to the walls, like us, following a female.

GATITO (looking worried now)

How many?

RAFAEL

Maybe twenty.

GATITO (turning to one of his guys)

Go for the others. We're going with the scout. Run!

Gatito now breathes more heavily.

141. CUT TO: EXT.: ANOTHER STREET, where two animals, a MALE and a FEMALE, walk fast, probably after realizing already that they were being followed. (CLOSE UP of the female) She is a white Labrador Retriever who looks more like a student than like an immigrant from around there. And she looks more worried than frightened. Her bag is not like the bags the females from around there used either.

(CLOSE UP of the male) The male is a cat with working clothes who probably is an immigrant.

142. CUT TO: EXT.: AN ALLEY. Six gang members are getting out of the alley. They block the pass of the male and the female. She then moves from the sidewalk to the road, trying to move to the opposite sidewalk, but some of the gang members are already moving to intercept her. Behind her, the other fourteen gang members are making themselves visible now, occupying both the sidewalk and the road.

The cat then steps forward and offers something, probably money, to one of the gang members who had intercepted them first, presumably the leader. The apparent leader takes the money with one hand and punches the cat with the other. The cat falls to the floor and seems unable to stand up. Then other two gang members hurry up towards the female, who hit the gang member closer to her with her bag as if it were a flail. The gang member hit by the bag falls to the floor. The other one steps back and mocks her.

143. CUT TO: EXT.: SAME STREET. Meau's group has already taken positions behind the fourteen gang members as Gatito's group is coming out another alley behind the group led by the dog who seems to be the leader. Gatito notices the female stepping back as the leader moves forward to her with a lascivious face and the others are forming a circle around her and the fallen cat, who still seems to be pleading to the leader from the floor. Then all the eyes turn to them. The leader of the gang looks at them too.

GANG LEADER (with a menacing demeanor)

Who the fuck are you?

GATITO (calmly)

We are tired of your kind preying in our neighborhood. Leave her alone and don't come back.

GANG LEADER (laughing first, then staring at Gatito with eyes injected with hatred)

If you don't leave right now motherfucker we are going to fucking kill you!

GATITO (getting angry)

Then *you* are fucked!

Then Gatito makes a hand signal to the others to focus on the female and the fallen cat and waits for the enraged dog, the gang leader who now is running towards him, getting ready to take him down. But at the moment of the impact Gatito contains him putting his hands on his shoulders and jumping backwards to avoid the take down. And when Gatito notices that the onrush of his attacker has lost power, he grabs his ears and pushes forward, impacting his face with his knees repeatedly until the gang leader falls to the floor semi unconscious. Then the other gang members rush to attack him but Gatito's group reacts immediately with fury to protect their leader, striking the gang members indiscriminately on their heads with the pipes. Then a dog from Gatito's group reaches the female, who, still confused and afraid, is threatening to hit him too with her bag. But at that moment the fallen cat, who now is getting back on his feet, raises his voice to ask the female to accept the dog's help.

FALLEN CAT

He is with Gatito Inmeegrante! He is good!

CUT TO: EXT.: A WALL, AGAINST WHICH SOME GANG MEMBERS HAVE BEEN CORNERED. Having lost their numerical superiority, they are waving their knives, trying to keep Gatito's guys away.

CUT TO: EXT.: SAME STREET. Gatito, with a bruise on the left side of his face, is now approaching his guys.

GATITO

Take these pieces of shit with you and leave and don't ever come back or it will be much worse next time. There won't be another warning for you.

Then the gang members help their friends to stand up and clean the blood on their faces as they get ready to leave. And then they hear the other animal yelling.

BIG BLACK CAT

I'm tired of your shit in my hood! Now you are going to get busy with me, you pieces of shit!

CUT TO: EXT.: THE OTHER END OF THE STREET, from where a BIG BLACK CAT with a group of about twenty black animals is coming. The big black cat, who looks angry and is armed with a pipe, moves decidedly towards Gatito. Gatito gets on guard, ready to counterattack. For a moment Gatito notices that the female, the cat and the dog he had sent to help them are all looking at him. Then the big cat swiftly raises his club and is ready to strike Gatito on the head but Gatito intercepts the big cat's club with his, inclining his club to the right at the last moment to let the ferocious strength of the strike pull the black cat forward and make him lose his balance in that direction. Thus, the big cat has to put his hand on the floor to not fall and that's when Gatito clubs him on the ribs. The big black cat fell to the floor and from there he is using the club as a spear to strike Gatito in the stomach as he approaches him. Gatito has to step back and the big black cat gets back on his knees immediately but still looks hurt so he raises his club to protect himself from another possible strike instead of getting back on his feet or attacking. But the next strike doesn't come.

SOME ANIMAL (yelling)

The police! The police!

The fight stops and both Gatito and the big cat call their followers to leave. As he leaves, Gatito can see once more the immigrant cat and the female dog, their startled eyes still on them, but especially her eyes on him. (CLOSE UP of the female). And then he runs away with his group.

144. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE'S MAIN ROOM, LATE NIGHT. It's late but there's still frenetic activity inside. And only now Gatito realizes that he is shaking. A medicine student is helping the wounded. The rest pretend not to notice. Then Gatito inbreathes deeply and calms down.

SEQUENCE 35

Next morning...

145. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE'S MAIN ROOM, EARLY MORNING. Gatito wakes up and touches the inflammation on the side of his face where he had been hit.

GATITO

Meau, send fourteen of our guys in seven groups to learn Miyaff's first reactions to the *ronda*. Send three to the train station and the other four to the houses of the immigrants we found yesterday. Just in case, keep the rest here if we have to react rapidly to something.

VOICE IN OFF

Fortunately this time the answer was positive. The fourteen came back with lists of names and the times when they could participate in the *rondas*. Even Groul, who had looked distant and disengaged since the day the gang member who betrayed them was killed, looked much better now. So they decided that the four former soldiers in their ranks would train the new volunteers too, but not in the warehouse. Thus, Gatito forgot the pain on his face and found himself running from one spot to the other, making schedules, coordinating activities, receiving feedback and his group seemed to have found at last the path they had been looking for all this time. Even the air in his lungs felt better. And for a moment Gatito forgot about the big black cat although not about the female.

That afternoon Rodolfo came to visit.

RODOLFO (looking amused)

Yeah, it seems the police was tipped by the gangs but that was the regular police, called at the last moment by the immigration police to assist them in a crackdown of last minute. In short, it seems that Hagel doesn't have control of the fucking police... at least, in cases like this or in cities like Miyaff.

About the big black cat, I don't know anything for sure but the police reports are now being censored more tightly by the immigration police... Anyway, give me a few days to see if I can find out something more.

Come on, cat, show daddy that little face... Who struck you that hard?

(RODOLFO makes a pause to give his sandwich another bite)

Now, about the female, I have heard of many citizens coming to Miyaff, Mewow and Rouff as volunteers... working for non profits giving legal aid... help in general to immigrants. Nevertheless, since the gangs began targeting citizens too, most of those citizens gave up and left. Now, if you asked me what a female like that could be doing there at that time of the night, I don't know. When are you going to do the *ronda* thing again?

GATITO (before swallowing the food in his mouth)

Tonight.

RODOLFO

Isn't that too soon? I don't think you will catch the gangs off guard again...

GATITO

No. Ten immigrants have pledged, volunteered to be part of the *ronda* tonight. We haven't trained them yet but with growing numbers...

RODOLFO (nodding and after giving a sip to his cup of coffee)
Maybe I was wrong. Maybe this time you can succeed, Gatito.

(Making another pause to give another bite to his sandwich and then frowning as he looks Gatito straight to the eyes)

That means that this time you can get famous. I don't need to tell you what that means... Remember that they have even deported naturalized citizens...

(Rodolfo sighs)

I don't know why I try to put some sense in your head... I might get soon the new place you want, the one you need in case you have to run away in a rush from here... I might get new donations for you too.

GATITO (grinning, skeptical)

New donations?

RODOLFO

Yes, donations, money animals sympathizing with you send you because they like you.

GATITO

I know what a donation is but if they are sending it to me is because they know who I am, right?

RODOLFO (scoffing but still frowned)

They don't know you. The donations are for a crazy cat who does the things you do, a stubborn pussycat I don't know what I've done to deserve... If I am warning you about the dangers of getting famous too soon, I'm not going to be the one to expose you, right?

GATITO (grinning)

Just kidding.

RODOLFO

You're kidding me? Cat, that's an improvement.

GATITO

Another coffee, dog? Don't worry. We'll escort you to the train station. Those bad gang members won't take advantage of your innocence... again.

Rodolfo stares at him, amused again.

SEQUENCE 36

August, 1900...

146. CUT TO: EXT.: STREETS OF MIYAFF, at NIGHT. Another clash between the *ronda* and the gangs.

VOICE IN OFF

The rest of August brought sporadic clashes with the gangs, which finally seemed to realize that preying on Mewow and Rouff was easier. Though Gatito could not count with the immigrants of Miyaff all at the same time, by late August about five hundred of them had already pledged to take part in the *rondas*. And by late August Gatito and his group had decided to get pledges from immigrants of Mewow and Rouff too, Mewow and Rouff, after he offered them the example of Miyaff, of how

Miyaff was getting rid of the gangs. The *rondas* were not a solution to the main problem but could be used as a platform from which he could offer solutions to the main problems, which the Dancing Doggies had been reluctant to address seriously.

(CUT TO: INT.: PLATFORM AT MIYAFF TRAIN STATION, AFTERNOON. Gatito is exiting the train wagon)

And the afternoon of that last day of August Gatito was coming back from Nayak, getting off the train, when something sucked all his thoughts off him. Right in front of him, at the platform, there she was the female Labrador Retriever he had rescued that night from the gang. For a moment he wanted to smile but then he realized that that could bring risks to what had turned to be the mission of his life just when it seemed to be at last flourishing. So he decided to pretend that he didn't know the female. Nevertheless, somehow something kept him there, at the platform, in front of the female, as if despite the calls from his reason he wanted to be recognized. And she did recognize him. She smiled and stepped forward to him. For a moment he felt guilty. He realized that he should have pretended not to know her and walk away fast to the nearest exit. But he stayed there.

FEMALE (with a naughty smile)

I know you! You are the cat who saved me from the gang that night, aren't you?

GATITO (nervous)

You must be taking me for somebody else...

FEMALE

Bullshit! It was you!

GATITO (clumsily)

Are you a volunteer?

FEMALE (giggling)

A volunteer? Ah! You mean if I work for a non profit?

GATITO

Well... yes.

FEMALE

Yes, I do.

GATITO (trying to calm down)

There's no non profit around there...

FEMALE (turning her eyes to the exit door)

You want to talk here?

Gatito nods and follows her.

147. CUT TO: EXT.: STREET OUTSIDE THE TRAIN STATION.

FEMALE

No, there is not. I work for a non profit in downtown Miyaff, one working on immigrants rights... if there're still any. That night I had gone to a house ten blocks from where you found me. (Then she stops smiling) A couple had been deported and their children

had been left alone at home with their older brother. The cat who was with me was the uncle. It was three children. We had to take the three children to his house before the immigration police could find the house. That was something we could not leave for the day after and we're now pretty shorthanded at the non profit. He, the uncle, was walking me to the train station when those thugs intercepted us.

GATITO

At least you are not with the immigration police...

FEMALE

With those fuckers?! Hell no!

GATITO

And... if you let me be curious.... How did you take down that gang member... when you hit him with your bag?

FEMALE

The bag? Ah! (Then she giggles) Two bricks... Two bricks I picked up in my way to the train station.

Then Gatito laughs discreetly.

GATITO

That was a crazy night. Then we had to fight another gang led by a big black cat...

FEMALE

The big black cat? He is not a gang member. I've heard that his name is Mac, Miac or something like that. For some reason he went vigilante too, like you, just a week before, in Rouff. I don't know him. It's just that I've heard of him. Hey! You want to have coffee with me? You saved me, after all. Inviting you coffee is the least I can do...

(GATITO looks a bit uncomfortable and is about to say something)

Besides that, if you don't have coffee with me now you won't get to have a date with me. Ah! My name is Rachy Corry, and yours?

GATITO (dropping his eyes and laughing)

Joaquin Gatito Migran.

RACHY (giggling, repeat solemnly)

Joaquin Gatito Migran.

Gatito laughs too.

SEQUENCE 37

October 1900...

148. CUT TO: EXT.: STREETS OF MIYAFF, PARADE OF THE DANCING DOGGIES, DAY. Gustavo and Kim are at the front waving with their hands.

VOICE IN OFF

October brought the march of the Dancing Doggies in Mewow, Rouff and Miyaff. The Dancing Doggies had prospered during the last years with the donations given to them by enough

animals to allow them to leave their old office for a new modest though more spacious building.

In the last two days the Dancing Doggies had been on the streets of Mewow and Rouff dancing and offering samples of typical dishes. But this time the answer they were getting was cold at best. So Kim made sure the photographs they used to attract donors were taken before it got even colder. She was beginning to worry though. They had scheduled Miyaff for the third day. And when they got there she could see that the reception was not just cold but openly hostile. Gustavo and Kim were at the front of the march like in similar occasions, waving their hands and smiling. Nevertheless, this time they had to deal with something they had not seen before. Miyaff had organized a committee and their first study circles. And now the committee and representatives of the study circles were standing up in front of them. And they didn't look happy.

CUT TO: EXT.: SAME STREET. A group of animals block their pass with annoyed faces. Then one of those animals steps forward, in front of Gustavo and Kim.

ANIMAL

How many immigrants have you saved today with your dancing, Gustavo... or should I say Kim?

GUSTAVO (looking more confused than annoyed)

My friend, this is an authorized march and you are blocking it...

ANIMAL (turning to Kim)

I am a member of the committee of Miyaff. Okay, Kim. I'm done talking to your puppet. I'm here exercising my right to speak freely. You, on the other hand, have taken over the representation of immigrants and have played with our lives irresponsibly...

GUSTAVO (raising his voice)

Sir, I think you are out of order.

ANIMAL (turning to the attendants)

I call to an assembly right now. Do I have your support?

(Almost all the attendants cheer up and raise their hands. Then the member of the committee retakes his question)

Now we have an assembly. Again, how many immigrants have you saved with your dancing today?

Kim looks worried.

GUSTAVO

Sir, let us first finish with our march. Then we can have an assembly later... And I don't know from where you get that we have misused...

ANOTHER ANIMAL (talking to Gustavo)

Don't play with us, Kim. We know that the last time you spoke effectively in favor of an immigrant, it was a gang member. We know that you've gotten donations and connections in our name and never been able to make a proposal to actually help us. We

know that you have never spoken against Tancruarf and his minions, who have made of the state police the bodyguards of the gangs and defunded our local police. We know that you have never spoken against Tancruarf and his minions, who have left the border to gangs that rob, abuse and kill our friends and relatives... And we know that you blocked Gatito Inmeegrante when he wanted to help us working with you through your shitty Dancing Doggies.

GUSTAVO (nervous)

My friend, I think you don't have complete information... We have been making progress...

Then Kim pulls Gustavo's arm and whispers at his ear. After that, Gustavo turns his back on the members of the committee and the study circles.

GUSTAVO

Dear friends, for safety reasons beyond our control, I am forced to cancel the march. To our assistants, call the trucks to pick up the equipment.

Then Kim directs some of their assistants and a fence of bodyguards isolates Gustavo from new uncomfortable questions. As the Dancing Doggies leave, the immigrants of Miyaff begin to chant "Gatito Inmeegrante! Gatito Inmeegrante! Gatito Inmeegrante!"

SEQUENCE 38

November 1900...

148. CUT TO: EXT.: TANCRUARF'S OFFICE, at NIGHT. Tancruarf is lying on his tall chair, thinking with dreamy eyes.

VOICE IN OFF

November nineteen hundred brought no surprises. Tancruarf was reelected and he remained the regional power that even won more seats in the House for the Patriot Party, winning districts they had no won before in Nayak. And Tancruarf was pleased because he knew all that would give him additional leverage with Speaker Ateh Tayarih. With all that additional leverage he would not need to trust Ateh the Liar, especially now that he was planning to extend his power to other states because many members of Congress, especially the new ones, were now more loyal to him than to Tayarih.

His plan for the next two years was to expand his majority in the House and to launch his own candidates for the Patriot Party Senate primaries, as well as getting himself reelected once more as governor of Nayak, before trying the presidency in four years. If his model had worked in Nayak, there was no reason it should not work in the other states. And now he had four years before the next general elections to make it work.

But not all have been good. He had wanted so much to have Senator Sanderf defeated. And he had been reelected. He had survived. Many of the other senators were in his pocket. He had their pledges. But he would have felt much better without

Sanderf in his way. His defeat would have given Tancruarf more prestige inside the Patriot Party and would have eliminated a critical voice inside his own state. Another nuisance was that the mayors of Mewow, Rouff, and Miyaff had barely retained their seats by proposing an additional tax on immigrants before the elections.

(CUT TO: INT.: BACKROOM, NIGHT. The committee of Miyaff debates. Gatito and Groul are there)

Actually, realizing that their fate would be much worse with a Patriot Party mayor, immigrants engaged in the electoral process in record numbers. This happened especially in Miyaff, where immigrants were much more organized. The committee of immigrants of Miyaff, born to fight gangs, had to catch up with the challenge almost immediately. So they looked for every animal who could vote and made sure it did. Gatito had presented the committee the options and persuaded it that any alternative to participating in the elections would be much worse.

(CUT TO: INT.: MIYAFF MAYOR'S OFFICE. Rodolfo opens the door and introduces Gatito and other animals to the MAYOR)

And, as this happened, Rodolfo had been there to reassure them that he would do anything in his power to help them. And it had actually been Rodolfo who facilitated the first meeting between the mayor of Miyaff and the committee and it had been both Gatito and Rodolfo who put on the table the idea of the additional tax in its first draft, before the elections, and helped get it passed. So by November everybody could see that the surtax worked and that the immigrants of Miyaff were at least a new source of revenue for the city. Compared to a Patriot Party mayor, the small surtax was a small price to pay indeed.

And, afraid that Tancruarf's campaign might end up with him losing, the mayor came to a secret negotiation table. The compromise had been that if the mayor lost, the records of the immigrants registered to pay the additional tax would be destroyed. The mayor had an additional petition though: he didn't want them to make open demonstrations of support for him as they might end up being capitalized by his rival. Though that was unnecessary because everybody was aware of Tancruarf's campaign, the immigrants agreed.

On the other hand, if an additional tax was something not easy to sell to an immigrant community impoverished by Tancruarf policies, Gatito, the committee and the study groups used their prestige to present this alternative as the lesser evil compared to that of having a Patriot Party mayor.

The compromise was a pact born out of desperation but worked for both sides. The mayor of Miyaff won comfortably telling the citizens of Miyaff about his plans for the city with the new

revenue collected from the immigrant tax, as it came to be known. And the mayors of Mewow and Rouff followed Miyaff's example just in time to be reelected, though by razor-thin margins.

And by December the state attorney announced that he was planning to challenge in court the immigrant tax as unconstitutional. Nevertheless, realizing that the three cities were not going to renounce to that new source of revenue under pressure and that he didn't have enough power in the state supreme court to guarantee a decision in his favor, Tancruarf abandoned the idea. December, nevertheless, brought to the state House a bill Tancruarf had sought for a long time. And to make sure his bill received a favorable answer, he just needed one previous step. But that was not going to be a big problem because it was something he needed the gangs did for him and the gangs wouldn't dare to oppose his wishes.

SEQUENCE 39

Early December, 1900...

149. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE'S MAIN ROOM. Gatito shares the table with Groul and Meau. The table faces a dozen of his guys.

GATITO

I know we can't notice yet a real change with respect to what matters the most for us, a real chance at legalization, but we have made progress. We have organized the community of Miyaff and challenged the Dancing Doggies inside the immigrant community. You know me. I have been always truthful to you. And there's still a lot we have to do in Miyaff and beyond. But we're in the right path now.

ALFGUAU (raising his hand with a smirk on his face)

I put a motion for our friend Gatito Inmeegrante to inform the assembly about the female he has been dating close to Miyaff train station.

Gatito looks surprised. Meau begins to chuckle and even Groul is smirking.

GATITO (stuttering)

My friend, I-I don't think... the-the assembly should...

MEAU (the smirk still on his face)

I support the motion. This assembly should see into this important matter. This cat is in love (turning to Gatito with a serious expression now) and I believe this assembly needs a report.

GATITO (embarrassed)

Okay, guys... Enough of jokes! We have important things to discuss...

RAFAEL (smirking)

Yes, Gatito but we have to vote the motion first.

Rafael is chuckling now and Meau is calling to a vote.

MEAU

Okay, all in favor of the motion raise your hands!
Most raise their hands.

MEAU

Okay, as those who are working don't count for quorum, we have approved the motion.
Gatito's guys, smirking, with expecting faces, are waiting for Gatito to present his report. Some can't help it and begin to cracking up.

GATITO (embarrassed)

Come on, guys! Let's be serious!

RAFAEL

It's the rules, Gatito. You have to present your report.

GATITO

That's personal, guys!

RAFAEL

But Gatito, you have told us to always follow the rules. We have voted and we are waiting for your report.

GATITO

Okay, but this stays here. Damn it, Meau! Well, her name is Rachy...

Gatito's guys have happy faces. They're happy for Gatito. Then Rafael raises his hand again.

RAFAEL

I have to present another motion, Gatito. We have to invite Rachy to the warehouse to address the next assembly.

GATITO

Ah? No. That can't be.

MEAU (looking serious)

I believe that motion is important. I second it. Vote?

Gatito's guys, laughing again, raise their hands to approve the motion.

MEAU

Motion approved...

GATITO (embarrassed again)

Well, I'll implement it when the security conditions make it possible. Session adjourned!

SEQUENCE 40

Mid December, 1900...

150. CUT TO: EXT.: SOME WAREHOUSE IN ROUFF, EARLY MORNING.

VOICE IN OFF

Mid December found Gatito, Groul and ten members of his group, including the four former members of the military, going to Rouff to support their local *ronda*, which after a pretty chaotic start was trying to find its own path. Now the thirty volunteers of Rouff were in front of them standing at attention.

And after a brief introduction, Gatito left them with the four instructors who were going to train them in combat techniques.

The second day was a simulacrum. And the second night they left at ten in three groups.

151. CUT TO: EXT.: SOME STREET in ROUFF. GATITO is talking to an OLD DOG.

GATITO (somewhat hesitant at first)

Have you ever heard of a big black cat of name Mac or Miac?

OLD DOG (grinning amused now)

That cat! His name is Miac and yeah, he is a very unruly cat. He got tired of us and created his own patrol weeks ago, even before you created yours, full of big cats and dogs, all black like him. Nevertheless, he wanted to be the boss. He didn't want volunteers with schedules but a permanent unit; his unit.

(Now the old dog is chuckling)

He is a very brave cat. I know him since he was a kitten but he did get my attention when he alone fought five gang members with a pipe, rocks and at the end with his bare hands, but had not been for other immigrants who ran to help him, the gang members would've killed him probably. Why are you asking?

Gatito speaks (inaudible). (CLOSE UP of the old dog laughing)

OLD DOG (still amused)

He must've been following a gang and took you for members of the gang. Miyaff gangs those days were crossing daily to victimize our community and he must've been following them... You said he got beaten? I would've liked to see his face at that moment... What happens is that both Miac and the gangs are not used to the kind of fight your instructors have taught us here.

(The old dog laughs again)

I would've liked to see that cat's face...

152. CUT TO: ROUFF STREETS, at NIGHT. The Rouff *ronda* begins to patrol the dark streets and to introduce themselves to the passersby.

GATITO

Even even the old and the handicapped have found ways to participate. They watch through their windows with the lights off and, if they see something revealing gang presence, they use pots and whistles to bring the attention of the *ronda*. Not just that, they use a different string of sounds to reveal the presence of the police. They have become our eyes and made of the *ronda* an omnipresent entity.

OLD DOG (nodding approvingly)

I'm taking note. You have made a friend in Rouff for life, Gatito.

Then a scout, a hound, interrupts their conversation and whispers.

HOUND

Somebody is trying to surround us, Gatito

GATITO (frowning)

Send the other scout for help. Warn the others. We have to take a defensive position and find routes of escape just in case.

Sounds, steps and thuds, make evident that somebody was taking positions. Gatito remains alert but calmed. Then Gatito checks the time in his watch. And then he sees somebody at the other end of the street.

CUT TO: THE OTHER END OF THE STREET. It was the big black cat, who was now being surrounded by the members of his group.

MIAC

Gatito Inmeegrante? Are you Gatito Inmeegrante?

GROUL (stepping forward)

Who is asking?

MIAC (dismissively)

I'm not asking you, doggie.

GROUL (snarling)

But it's me who is answering, pussy.

Then Gatito steps forward and puts a hand on Groul's shoulder. When Groul turns to him, he can see a smirk in Gatito's face. Groul looks confused now.

GATITO (whispering)

No problem, Groul. It's Miac. (Turning to Miac now) It's me!

Behind Gatito the local leader can barely refrain himself from laughing out loud.

MIAC (smirking, his eyes fixed on Gatito)

So you're the pussycat who caught me by surprise the other day in Miyaff? Welcome to my hood, Gatito Inmeegrante. My name is Miac. So you're the famous Gatito Inmeegrante? Let my guys give your guys a tour while we talk.

Groul looks at Gatito with alarm but Gatito nods.

GATITO

It's okay, Groul. Replace me at the front of the *ronda*.

MIAC (now closer to Gatito)

First of all, that day we were following those motherfuckers who had beaten and cut a friend of ours after robbing him his wages of the whole week. Is it true that you beat unconscious that motherfucker gang leader? Yes, you did. I know that. That makes you my friend. Miac...

MIAC extends his hand to Gatito. Somewhat astonished Gatito offers him his and both shake hands. Miac smiles now.

OLD DOG

Always cocky, Miac Tony.

MIAC (turning to the old dog)

Who invited you to this conversation, ma'am? Go prepare coffee, light a candle or inspect the pavement. Make yourself useful.

OLD DOG (laughing again, this time even louder)

I know what you... ha, ha, ha, ha... track the gang leader and... ha, ha, ha, ha... beaten by Gatito Inmeegrante.

MIAC (somewhat embarrassed)

You are so funny, you old joke! Any real animal can make a mistake! At least I have been trying. So far you have been just making poses only.

But the old dog keeps laughing and Miac turns to Gatito with a smirk on his face.

MIAC

Do you see what I have to deal with here? I swore that I would help the animals of my community and that no motherfucker gang would prey on them if it depended on me with just one exception... That exception is this old joke.

(Miac points with his hand to the old dog, who keeps laughing)

If a gang preys on him, I might even help them.

(Then Miac seemed to adopt a more serious tone. The local leader understands and stops laughing)

You've been cracking up at my expenses old timer, but have you told him more about me?

(The local leader shakes his head)

Come to my house tomorrow at noon, Gatito Inmeegrante. I'll invite you dinner. Bring the old timer too if you want. He knows where I live.

Then Miac gets back to his group without saying goodbye and they leave together.

SEQUENCE 41

Next day...

153. CUT TO: EXT.: A HUMBLE HOUSE, NIGHT. The old dog knocks at the door in a particular way. After a few seconds, Miac himself shows up at the door with a wide smile.

MIAC (smirking)

So you didn't get lost, old timer.

OLD DOG (smirking too)

Have you made a decent meal for your guests, fatty?

MIAC

I hope you brought your false teeth, you old timer. Come on! Get in before somebody thinks I'm running a museum here illegally! Gatito, get in! Feel yourself at home!

GATITO (trying to suppress a laugh)

Thanks.

OLD DOG

Can you believe that I know him since he was a kitten, when I still thought he was going to be smart?

BLACK FEMALE CAT (coming from another room)

It's been a long time... Why haven't you come before? Has it been because of this quarrelsome cat?

(The FEMALE then hugs the old dog. Miac is laughing behind her. Then she turns to Gatito with the same spontaneous smile)

And who is our guest here?

MIAC

Remember I told you about the cat I found that night in Miyaff...?

OLD DOG

The cat who beat him.

MIAC (pretending to be annoyed)

The cat who got me by surprise.

FEMALE (turning to Gatito)

So you beat my husband?

Gatito seems somewhat embarrassed, trying to articulate an answer. Then a small tuxedo KITTEN shows up by the door from where the female had come. Miac practically jumps in front of the kitten and raises him over his head. The kitten giggles. Then Miac turns to Gatito with the kitten on his arms.

MIAC (proud)

This is my son Miac.

The local leader approaches the kitten with his arms extended and a smile on his face. The small kitten smiles back. Miac then turns his back on the old dog with the kitten still on his arms, as if denying his requested.

MIAC

Have you got disinfected of old germs and all?

Then Miac turns back to the old leader and puts his son on his arms. The kitten giggles again.

FEMALE (glancing disapprovingly at her husband and extending her hand to Gatito)

And I'm Giselle. This cat has no manners

KITTEN

Daddy crazy...

The kitten begins to giggle again.

OLD DOG (his kind eyes on the kitten, who now is playing with his ears)

He's smart.

MIAC

Giselle, this old timer here's asking me if we have a decent meal for him.

OLD DOG

You didn't let him help, Giselle, did you?

GISELLE

Of course not. I want my guests happy and asking second helpings.

The old leader laughs. The kitten, uninterested of the others, keeps playing with his ears. And Miac turns to Gatito.

MIAC

You see what you get when you get married, Gatito? (Turning to Giselle) Hey Giselle, before I forget, take me a photograph with Gatito!

OLD DOG (serious now)

I don't think it's a good idea to have photographs of us running around...

MIAC

Come on, old timer! I'll be careful! When I want something hidden in a good place, I ask Giselle to hide it for me, right my love?

GISELLE nods with resigned expression.

MIAC

Oh, Come on, Giselle! You'll hide it for me. I won't take it with me outside... I promise! Old timer...

154. CUT TO: INT.: MIAC's LIVING ROOM. Miac brings Gatito to his bedroom. The muffled sound of the old dog and Giselle talking comes from behind the door as Miac closes it behind him.

MIAC

You are a bit stiff but I like you, Gatito. I'd like we could do something together. Besides, those gangs have retreated from Miyaff. Though I don't think they have gone for good.

GATITO

Of course, I'd also like we could do something together. Now that we know each other...

MIAC

The problem is that I don't like taking orders. I wouldn't take orders even from you, Gatito Inmeegrante and all.

GATITO

I don't give orders. It's just that they trust me over there in Miyaff. We have assemblies and everybody speaks his mind. I just execute what everybody has already decided and... they trust me. Why don't you give the *ronda* we're helping create here in Rouff a try?

MIAC (smirking, skeptical)

Do you think I can do a good job?

GATITO

Of course I do! The cats and dogs who follow you, they trust you...

MIAC

But you know I'm hard headed, don't you? I've argued with everybody in the Rouff immigrant committee, everybody but the old timer.

GATITO

Miac, I've fought many so-called leaders too. I'm an undesirable at the Dancing Doggies' offices...

MIAC

The Dancing Doggies are assholes! I hate those assholes! They've done nothing but making us look like fools before everybody! That's why nobody takes our suffering seriously in Nayak!

GATITO

As a leader you first have to learn to listen. You won't always like what others do and sometimes you'll have to reach compromises... and live with those compromises and it won't be easy. And if you need a motivation to stay calmed when you would like to explode, think of those you love. Think of your family.

(Miac grins)

Come on! Give the *ronda* a try. If you need help, I'm close, at Miyaff...

MIAC (his expression turns from playful to a bit somber)
I don't know why but I trust you, cat. Maybe it's because of all I've heard about you... You know what my nightmare is? That someday something happens to me and my wife and my kitten are left on their own. I've heard that when your friends were deported, you took care of their families. I respect that. Can I ask you something?

(GATITO nods)

If something happens to me, please see that my wife and kitten don't have to go hungry or homeless.

GATITO (dropping his eyes)

Miac, look...

MIAC

Promise, cat! If somebody like you promises that to me, then I know I'll feel better, more at peace.

MIAC (nodding)

Okay, I promise. You have my word. Will you...

MIAC (more confident now)

The Rouff *ronda*? Sure! Now lets' go see if the old timer needs a diaper change.

SEQUENCE 42

155. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE'S DORM, LATE NIGHT. Gatito is lying on his mattress.

VOICE IN OFF

That night in Miyaff Gatito was thinking about Mimi and Rachy; about Miac and his fear for his family. Mimi was now just a vanishing painful memory but what if letting his relationship with Rachy go further could put her at risk? He then turned from one side of his mattress to the other, unable to sleep. And then he remembered Rodolfo's words. As soon as he got some notoriety, Tancruarf and his minions at the immigration police would put their eyes on him. The gangs could even target Rachy.

Everything had felt so different when he kissed Rachy for the first time. It was as if for a moment nothing else existed; no Tancruarf, no immigration police, no gangs. Was that happiness? When he was with her, he felt as if he had a home, like the home he had with his parents when he was a child. No worries, no injustice coming to knock at the door; just them talking, laughing, telling stories ...living in peace. And what could he expect from this new year with Tancruarf at the top of his power? Maybe it was for the best to renounce to this dream of her right now. And Gatito sighed.

Gatito then notices that a few feet at his right Groul is awake on his mattress.

GATITO

Did I wake you up?

GROUL (shaking his head)

You know? This afternoon we have been talking about your girlfriend. We are happy for you because since you are together you look better. We worried about something though. We worried about her safety so we have decided to put two more guys checking on her security... something discreet, of course. We don't want her to feel uncomfortable, as if we were surrounding her with bodyguards. I just wanted you to know.

GATITO (smiling, his eyes on the ceiling now)

Thanks, I guess...

SEQUENCE 43

Late December, 1900...

156. CUT TO: EXT.: NEWSPAPER STAND, EARLY MORNING. Passersby are watching the covers of the Examining Post and the Nayak Daily: *'Resurgence of gang violence against the citizens of Nayak,' 'Gang violence is direct result of the liberal victories in Miyaff, Mewow and Rouff,' 'Immigrants attack another couple of citizens in Nayak City, close to the limits with Mewow. The female was raped and the male so savagely beaten that he is still in Intensive Care; the doctors can't say whether he'll survive.'*

157. CUT TO: INT.: SMALL AUDITORIUM, at NIGHT. A banner announces: *'Press conference convoked by the immigration police on behalf of the Nayak City Police Department.'*

VOICE IN OFF

Again chief Hagel sent his deputy Jon, who was now sat at the table with Chief Kruorf of the immigration police as well as with his two deputies. Jon didn't like to be there either but he had seen how all this had been affecting his boss, impotent to stop the way Kruorf was corrupting his beloved police department. So Jon didn't object his boss's request.

The journalists were again gathering in front of their table, ready to take notes and make the usual questions. As the elections had passed, Jon had expected that the gangs would turn to prey exclusively on immigrants. Nobody cared when the victims were immigrants after all. Nevertheless, something must have been happening at the top because there they were having another press conference about crimes committed against citizens of Nayak City.

The political appointee then joins them at the table and Chief Kruorf stands up.

CHIEF KRUORF

Well, we are beginning with the press conference programmed for today. As I think you know, two citizens of Nayak have recently been beastly attacked by gang members in Nayak City, close to where the jurisdiction of the Nayak police ends and the jurisdiction of the Mewow police should've begun. Governor

Tancruarf has made clear in the last months the state of disarray in which the police departments of those three cities, Miyaff, Mewow and Rouff, are and the way they have resisted our help. Our first priority is the victims though. We have decided not to reveal their names to respect their privacy. The male is still in Intensive Care in Nayak Main Hospital. The doctors don't know whether he'll survive or, if he survives, whether he will have to deal with some permanent disability. The female was savagely raped. She remains in the psychiatric unit of Nayak Main Hospital. The doctors don't know whether she'll be able to make a full recovery. We'll bring you updates on their condition as soon as we have news.

Coming back to our relationship with those three cities, Governor Tancruarf has informed me that he will be addressing the citizens of Nayak tonight about the package of measures he has prepared to deal with the epidemic of immigrant violence in our neighborhoods.

REPORTER FROM THE EXAMINING POST (raising his hand)
Do you have anything on which you could give us an advance, sir?

KRUORF (shaking his head)

You'll have to wait for Governor Tancruarf's press conference tonight.

REPORTER FROM THE NAYAK DAILY (raising his hand)
Why Chief Hagel is not here? Are you receiving enough collaboration from his department?

Deputy Jon can see the smirk on the face of one of Kruorf's deputies.

KRUORF

We are all together in our mission to protect the citizens of Nayak. As the last wave of immigrant violence against the citizens of Nayak has proved our warnings right, time has also proved wise the decision of our governor to restructure the police department of Nayak. Now I'll let Deputy Jon, who is here representing Chief Hagel, give you his impressions about your question.

DEPUTY JON (uncomfortable, shaking his head, worried)
I have nothing to add.

158. CUT TO: INT.: AUDITORIUM, at NIGHT, behind a podium.

TANCRUARF (giving a furtive glance to the journalists)
My friends, when I first ran for office I wanted to bring the weight of our values over those who had betrayed their constituents and their party, over those who had let illegal aliens run over our citizens, rob our citizens, rape our citizens, kill our children. And we also brought sanity to our finances, eliminated suffocating regulations, cut taxes and heard the voice of the

people. But that's not the reason I've called this press conference.

Anyway, the people of Nayak spoke in November and we made a series of reforms, which the people of Nayak have endorsed through their vote because they have worked. Nevertheless, some cities in our state have stubbornly refused to hear the voice of the people and now they are trying to reverse our achievements for mean political ends. I won't repeat again the name of those three cities but you know of whom I'm talking about. How could you not? One of our sisters has just been brutally raped and she might never recover from the trauma. As far as to our brother, who was brutally attacked by these immigrant gangs as he tried to defend his female, he's still in Intensive Care and, if he survives, he might have to spend the rest of his life with a paralysis from the neck down.

I say that enough is enough! I say that we have been patient enough but there's a limit for everything. That's why I have decided to bring to the state legislature a piece of legislation that, one, will create the Immigration Tribunal, with jurisdiction over all criminal matters relating immigrants, what will imply a deep reform in the internal structures of the judiciary and of the offices of the district attorneys, as deep as necessary to protect the citizens of Nayak.

And, two, we are creating a new punishment for atrocious cases like the tragedy that has unfortunately convoked us today. The new punishment will be named *Infamous Hanging* and we hope will deter many of these cowards from preying again on our citizens. I've heard that Senator Sanderf has said that all I want is to frighten innocent immigrants and political enemies. So, here you can see who is with you and who with the criminals! Senator Sanderf, so you can't make excuses, I here accept your amendment to also subject to *Infamous Hanging* those whose abuse of authority ends up in an innocent's death. Now I dare you to vote for the bill! My conscience is clean. And if I have some regret is that the criminals who committed the crime that has motivated this bill will not be punished by it because their crime preceded the law. These are some of the frustrations my administration has had to bear to respect the sanctity of law so nobody accuses us later of arbitrariness.

Well, that's all I can say for now. We'll bring you the details during the week. And thanks for coming, my friends.

159. CUT TO: INT.: DEPUTY JON'S LIVING ROOM. Deputy Jon (in civilian clothes, frown) turns the radio off.

VOICE IN OFF

At his home, Jon tried to keep control of his facial expressions to not frown. With the police submitted and now, with the judiciary

and the district attorneys following the same path, there was no way to say where the power of Tancruarf would stop. He didn't need anybody to tell him that unsympathetic judges would see their budgets cut and then, later, would be defeated in the next elections for being incompetent. Unsympathetic district attorneys would be reassigned to places where they would literally rot to make room for more sympathetic ones. Actually only the federal government would be able to challenge Tancruarf after this but, afraid of the growing influence Tancruarf was gaining nationwide inside the Patriot Party, it was very unlikely that they would move a finger. He would have to think of a nice way to bring Chief Hagel the news.

SEQUENCE 44

New Year eve...

160. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE'S MAIN ROOM, at MORNING. Gatito and some of his guys are talking.

VOICE IN OFF

That New Year eve was the first Gatito didn't spend with his guys since they formed their group, which for some reason had always remained unnamed. When Gatito, stuttering, tried to explain the reason to his friends, Alfguau raised his hand to ask Gatito with whom he was going to spend New Year eve. Gatito had to confess that it would be with Rachy's family. Then Alfguau, looking as serious as always although others were already beginning to crack up in laughter, put a motion to vote.

ALFGUAU (pretending to be serious)

My motion is that Gatito should be allowed to spend New Year eve with his father in law if he brings us something for breakfast tomorrow morning.

Laughing, everybody raises their hands.

GATITO

Okay, guy, whatever. You think this is funny?

ALFGUAU

In that case, you'll bring ravioli. Vote?

Laughing, everybody raises their hands again.

GATITO

Guys, I don't have a father in... Guys, please, you know I can't afford ravioli...

RAFAEL (smirking)

In that case, you'll bring us a photograph of you with your bride Rachy.

VOICE IN OFF

That day, after having dinner with Miac and his wife in Rouff, Gatito had decided to break with Rachy. He didn't want to find himself one day in Miac's position, fearing that one day his female could end up being collateral damage in an attack against

him. Worse, he didn't want Tancruarf, the gangs, or anybody, targeting Rachy just to hurt him. Nevertheless, once he had her in front of him, he just couldn't. His relationship with Rachy was getting deeper and deeper. And now she had insisted on him spending New Year eve with her family.

161. CUT TO: EXT.: NAYAK, NIGHT OF NEW YEAR EVE, at the side of Rachy's front door.

GATITO

Does he approve of me...?

RACHY

Yeah, he trusts my judgment.

GATITO (somewhat afraid)

What I mean is... does he know that I am...?

RACHY

Illegal? Yes, I told him. He looked worried but I told him more about you and he understood. He supported me. What? Are you afraid of him? (smiling naughtily now) He's going to be waiting for you with *Tancruarf* at the table for messing up with his daughter.

162. CUT TO: INT.: RACHY'S HOUSE. Rachy introduces Gatito to her FATHER and both shake hands.

VOICE IN OFF

But the end of the year nineteen hundred also brought sorrow to the families of the five immigrants who that morning were arrested in a parking lot as they waited for work.

SEQUENCE 45

January 6, 1901...

163. CUT TO: INT.: SMALL AUDITORIUM, at NIGHT. A banner says: '*Nayak Police Press Conference.*'

VOICE IN OFF

January six brought a new press conference. And again Jon was representing his boss. Chief Kruorf was presenting the five suspects of the attack of late December 1900 in front of the couple to whom Tancruarf had referred in his last speech. The five looked badly bruised and their eyes were fixed on the floor, ignoring the sea of murmurs that surrounded them. Then members of the state police, at the order of Kruorf's deputies, forced the five prisoners to raise their heads for the photographs the journalists were going to take them.

Chief Kruorf stands up and everybody keeps silence.

CHIEF KROURF

It's obvious that we don't convoke a press conference for every arrest we make but this case has moved so deeply every nerve of our society that I thought we owed you this update. On the night of December thirty first we arrested these criminals as they were hiding, ready to prey on another couple in the vicinity of Nayak

train station. With the description provided by the victims of their previous attack we launched a patient but relentless investigation that led us to these individuals. And on the night of December thirty first we followed them to their gathering point, close to Nayak train station, where they were getting ready to commit another infamous crime. We are currently investigating other crimes that might be related to this gang and we'll be bringing you updates soon... as we see that those releases won't hurt our work...

Then one of the five prisoners, the youngest, interrupts Chief Kruorf.

PRISONER

That's not true! That's not true! We are innocent! They arrested us in the morning, in a parking lot while we were...

Immediately, one member of the police gags the prisoner.

CHIEF KRUORF (scoffing)

Can you see the audacity of these criminals? The prisoners have been presented to both victims and both victims have recognized the five prisoners as the gang that attacked them. We could fortunately get the notarized testimony of the male just before his death at Intensive Care. As you already know, despite the good efforts of our doctors the male died two days ago due to the traumas inflicted on him by these beasts. We are now putting these criminals and our investigation at the consideration of the district attorney and the judiciary. Once these criminals meet justice for their heinous acts, we'll be able to say that the people of Nayak have restored their trust on the authorities... on which it trusted its safety.

CUT TO: INT.: AT THE TABLE. Deputy Jon, who frowns, turns to see (PAN of the police removing the prisoners) the police pushing the five prisoners out of the conference room.

VOICE IN OFF

And Jon couldn't help thinking of the young immigrant prisoner who had interrupted Chief Kruorf. He didn't want to think of what they were going to do to him once they were away from the sight of any possible witness. Anyway, he couldn't imagine the Examining Post or the Nayak Daily reporting on the words of that young immigrant, as he would confirm next day, and much less investigating his plea. They would just take the version of the police reports and add the photographs. Nevertheless, he knew that the time of departure of the interrogators and the notary didn't match the time of death of the victim. Actually Kruorf had rushed to send them when he learned that the male had entered in coma and that the male would not survive to deny the testimony the notary stated he had given. The female, on the other hand, with her mental health maybe beyond repair, would have testified anything her interrogators would have led her to

believe. Why only the youngest prisoner had dared to challenge Chief Kruorf's version? Was it that they had not only been battered but also threatened by their captors? But that's all he could learn because the file was sent to the offices of the immigration police, in whose growing and unclear jurisdiction he had no part.

Jon sighed.

SEQUENCE 46

Early February, 1901...

164. CUT TO: EXT.: NEW WAREHOUSE'S MAIN ROOM, EARLY MORNING. Rodolfo is opening the door with his key.

VOICE IN OFF

That February six the dog who officiated as judge humiliated and yelled at the five prisoners before sentencing them to death by hanging. The youngest one still wanted to say something but the guards didn't need to gag him this time because his own sobbing was drowning every word he uselessly was trying to get out of his mouth.

(CUT TO: EXT.: GALLOWS, NOON, the prisoners are placed in front of the nooses)

That same afternoon the five prisoners were brought to a platform, where nooses were fixed around the necks of every one of them.

CUT TO: EXT.: BACKYARD, FIRST ROW. In a line of tall back chairs Tancruarf, Kruorf, his deputies, Jon and other animals sit in front of the platform. From there they can hear an officer reading the death warrant.

165. CUT TO: EXT.: PLATFORM OF EXECUTION. The platform is opened and the five prisoners fall to their deaths.

CUT TO: EXT.: BACKYARD. Between the public, Rodolfo is watching the execution.

CUT TO: EXT.: BACKYARD, FIRST ROW. Deputy Jon turns to Tancruarf.

CUT TO: EXT.: BACKYARD, FIRST ROW. Tancruarf watches the execution with frantic eyes.

166. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE'S MAIN ROOM. Gatito and Alfguau greet Rodolfo. Then Gatito frowns and drops his eyes dropped to the floor.

RODOLFO

There was nothing anybody could've done for them, Gatito.

GATITO (with some bitterness)

Anything any of us could've done? Of course not, but what about those like Senator Sanderf, who could've actually done something?

RODOLFO (shrugging)

What can I say, my friend?

Rodolfo puts his hand on Gatito's shoulder. Gatito nods.

GATITO (somewhat discouraged)

We are alone, Rodolfo...

RODOLFO (sighing)

We are, indeed.

SEQUENCE 47

March 1901...

167. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE IN SHAMBLES, LATE NIGHT.

VOICE IN OFF

And March finally brought the meeting the gang leaders had been seeking with one of Chief Kruorf's deputies. The meeting took place in an isolated warehouse near a pier in Nayak.

GANG LEADER

Sir, we have supported you on everything you have asked us, sir, but we need your support here, sir...

DEPUTY

Don't bother me trying to sound articulate, you fuck shit. Just tell me what you want.

GANG LEADER

Sir, there is some Gatito Inmeegrante that is screwing up our business. He has organized the immigrants against us and even killed one of our leaders. If it were just this Gatito Inmeegrante, we would not ask your help but they have organized the immigrants of Miyaff with that black cat Miac from Rouff and now the immigrants of Rouff are doing the same. Even the immigrants of Mewow say they are going to do the same. That's too many against us, sir, and we have served you well, sir.

DEPUTY (staring at the gangster impatiently, annoyed)

Gatito Inmeegrante? Miac? Are those the leaders? Are those their real names? Are they immigrants? Do you know where we can find them?

GANG LEADER

Sir... I'm sure we were close to find out but then the immigrants organized... *rondas* they call them, and now we are not allowed to get close to Miyaff or Rouff. They are armed with pipes and stones. They have even killed one of our leaders...

DEPUTY

Yah! Yah! I heard you the first time. You already told me. So you don't know shit.

GANG LEADER

Miac is the leader of the Rouff *ronda* and Gatito Inmeegrante is the leader of the Miyaff *ronda*. Well, not exactly, there is a committee, but it was that Gatito Inmeegrante who gave them the idea.

DEPUTY (annoyed, raising his voice)

That Gatito Inmeegrante *is or is not* the leader of the Miyaff *ronda* and what the fuck is a *ronda*? No, no! Wait! I have no patience for your stupidity. I'm sending you tomorrow one of my assistants to make sense of all that fucking shit you've spilled here tonight, okay? He'll try to make sense of all this so we know who this Gatito Inmeegrante is and who this Miac is and

why are they fucking with us... if they are not the same animal after all because I can't get anything clear from your bullshit tonight. You'll wait for him here tomorrow night, at this same time. Do you understand?

GANG LEADER (ashamed, dropping his eyes)

Yes, sir.

Then the DEPUTY stands up and leaves without saying goodbye. CLOSE UP of the GANG LEADER, who sees the deputy leave with resentment.

May, 1901...

168. CUT TO: INT.: TANCRUARF'S OFFICES, at NIGHT. Chief Kruorf approaches Tancruarf's office through a corridor.

VOICE IN OFF

By May Chief Kruorf had a pretty good idea who Miac was and where he could find him although he had not been able to find out whether Gatito Inmeegrante was a name or an alias, where in Miyaff was his center of operations and whether there was a connection between the two. In the case of Miac, that had not been that difficult because the immigrant community was less organized and easier to infiltrate, not to say that that Miac was much careless than that Gatito Inmeegrante. Besides that, Miac had insisted on personally commanding the *rondas* in the field. And it seems he himself had beaten many gang members to the point that some of them had actually ended up in the local hospital. In fact Chief Kruorf had had to ask his deputies to erase from their books the hospital report as it was now a hospital obligation to report immigrants seeking their services. So Chief Kruorf brought the issue to his next meeting with Tancruarf, who by then was feverishly busy trying to extend his base beyond Nayak.

TANCRUARF (growingly annoyed)

So I have to understand that there is some rival gang which is trying to take the streets from them and that they're trying to get us involved in his gang war? Are you aware of how busy I am right now in other states? Who the fuck do they think we are, their impact force?

KRUORF

No, no, sir. It's not another gang. It's a vigilante group. It began in Miyaff and then it spread to Rouff. And now it seems to be spreading to Mewow. The leader seems to be some cat named Gatito Inmeegrante but we are not sure about whether that is his real name. And we have made no progress on that, no matter how much pressure we have put in our interrogatories. It seems they have a committee in charge but nobody has been willing to talk, no matter the pressure we put on them... Well, I said that already.

We have broken some of them under pressure but then the stories given by some seem to contradict the stories given by others. It's like they have in them some new motivation we have not seen before. We have not even been able to identify the members of the committee. In Rouff, on the other hand, we have been luckier. We have identified some Miac, who is the leader of the vigilante group of Rouff, and we believe he's the Miac we're looking for. We have not cracked down on him yet because we want to see whether he can lead us to this Gatito Inmeegrante... And the gangs have been there for us every time we have asked them to do something, sir...

TANCRUARF (looking hesitant)

How long do you think you need to see whether there is a relationship between the two, an active relationship?

KRUORF (stuttering)

I don't know. You never know in these situations...

TANCRUARF (raising his voice)

Two weeks, three weeks?

KRUORF

Possibly...

TANCRUARF (sighing and then with an arrogant tone)

Make your best in the next three weeks. If you can't get this Gatito Inmeegrante too, get at least that Miac and make him talk. Make this a priority for you. Is that clear?

KRUORF (nodding)

Yes, sir.

TANCRUARF (hesitant again)

Now, this is what I want the gangs to do for us in a week...

CLOSE UP of Kruorf's face as he hears Tanruarf speaking. He looks shocked.

SEQUENCE 48

Mid May, 1901...

169. CUT TO: EXT.: NEWSPAPER STAND, MORNING. Passersby gather around to read the covers of the Examining Post and the Nayak Daily: *'two small children raped and murdered; their bodies left in an alley. Alien criminals must be stopped!' 'Governor, swift action against immigrant gangs is needed! A crime like this is beyond the good nature of any legal resident of the Southern Country.'*

170. CUT TO: INT.: SMALL AUDITORIUM. Chief Kruorf is giving a press conference.

CHIEF KRUORF

It is the top priority for the Nayak police to find the criminals responsible for this terrible act...

171. CUT TO: INT.: GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, at NIGHT. Tanruarf is giving a press conference too.

TANCRUARF

I trust the Nayak state police can deal with the situation...

172. CUT TO: INT.: SMALL AUDITORIUM. Chief Kruorf is giving an update on the case.

CHIEF KRUORF

We are following the leads brought to us by a witness who, attracted by the cries of the small children, approached the crime scene only to see two cats over the bodies of the children. The two cats were presumably immigrants because when they looked at the witness, afraid as they realized that he was a citizen, ran and jumped over a fence.

VOICE IN OFF

But nobody in the press questioned the obvious holes in the story. Besides the widespread caricature of immigrants living in fear of the citizens of good race, how the citizen could know the two cats looking at him and subsequently jumping the fence were immigrants? Why had he not yelled for the police to come at that same moment if the immigrants were already on the run? Then there were the contradictions. At some moment the witness had said he had come to the alley when the cats were killing the children and, when asked why he had not cried for help, as that might have still saved the children's lives, he rectified his testimony to say that the children were already dead when he showed up at the crime scene; only to rectify his story later saying that he didn't scream because he was at first frozen by panic even when he had said before that, instead of calling for help, he had decided to step forward in the alley alone to face the criminal immigrants.

On the other hand, the crime should have taken place over several minutes, minutes during which the children must have been crying for help, cry he seemed to have noticed only at the last minute despite it having been a quiet night. And he could not give a good reason for him being there since he did not live in the area. And, of course, nobody asked about his relationship with the office of the governor, where he worked, or about his long time support for the political career of Michelle Tancruarf.

(CUT TO: INT.: SAME SMALL AUDITORIUM, the prisoners are presented to the press)

And by next week Chief Kruorf presented to the press two bruised young cats. Some make up seemed to have been applied on their faces to make the inflammation less noticeable. Again Kruorf was flanked by his two deputies and Deputy Jon was sat at the end of the table in representation of the Nayak police department.

CHIEF KROURF (behind a podium)

The two prisoners were captured precisely when they were on the tracks of another child. They have been positively identified by the witness of their alleged previous crime...

CLOSE UP of Deputy Jon, who frowns

VOICE IN OFF

Deputy Jon was aware of the holes in the story, of what had happened to those cats and of what still was going to happen to them before their execution. But he knew there was nothing he could do about that. For a moment he thought of the face of his boss when he briefed him. At least, fortunately, nobody was paying attention to him at that moment so he could focus his attention on some point in the background and disconnect from reality for a little while.

SEQUENCE 49

173. CUT TO: INT.: TANCRUARF's OFFICE. Tancruarf is inviting Chief Hagel to sit.

TANCRUARF (smiling)

Some time I have not seen you, Chief Hagel...

HAGEL (dropping his eyes)

My health, sir...

TANCRUARF (smirking)

Your health? Hmm... Is it not a nuisance that your health seems to weaken every time we have a press conference or an execution?

CHIEF HAGEL

Sir... I have really...

TANCRUARF (with an accusatory expression)

Are you really with your governor, Hagel?

CHIEF HAGEL

Yes sir, you know I am.

TANCRUARF (staring at him with distrust)

Then I want you to be there representing your department next time we have a press conference or execution or whenever I need you to be there. I don't want to learn you have sent your deputy again. Is that clear?

CHIEF HAGEL (nodding with his eyes still dropped)

Yes, sir.

TANCRUARF (smiling, satisfied)

You're a good conservative, at least you have the reputation of being a good one, but if you don't have the strength to do this job anymore, I hope you are honest with me so I can appoint a successor. (Hagel nods in silence, his eyes dropped in shame) Fine! Then we are good again, Hagel. And raise those eyes! Cheer up! You can leave...

SEQUENCE 50

Late May, 1901...

174. CUT TO: COURTROOM, AT NOON. The JUDGE is yelling from his counter.

VOICE IN OFF

It came to nobody's surprise when by late May the two cats were found guilty and sentenced to the new Infamous Hanging. The two cats had no lawyers to assist them and their request to interrogate the prosecution witness themselves was denied. The

two cats swore that they had been at home with their relatives when the crime was committed but that were afraid of calling their relatives to testify as they did not want their loved ones to be subject to retaliation. So they asked for some guarantees for their witnesses but these were denied too. At the end, the judge made a long rant about the depravity of those cats who had come from a foreign country only to prey on the innocence of the children of Nayak, about an immigrant race that had lost its moral compass, about the need to show these criminals that the people of Nayak was tired to their abuse.

(CUT TO: INT. COUTROOM. The two prisoners hold hands)

When they saw the judge ready to sentence them, the cats held hands. And, no surprise, they were sentenced to die in the new Infamous Hanging in two days. Nobody said they would be tortured during those two days but they were afraid of that too.

The next two days would confirm their fears.

(CUT TO: EXT.: BACKYARD, EARLY AFTERNOON. The gallows have been erected. The two prisoners are led to the platform of execution. Then the executioner tights a chain around their necks and the chains are pulled upwards. The prisoners, limping, their faces swollen, see the poles, pulleys, cans and chains waiting for them and look afraid. Then one of them, the one lagging the other condemned, is pushed by the guards escorting them, trips and falls. Nobody is moved when one of the guards kicks him as he orders him to stand up. But as he can't get up, the others lose patience and drag him to the platform, only to drop him at the side of the other cat. For a brief moment the cats turn their heads to look at each other, afraid, seeking strength. The guards then push them, making them face the table where Tancruarf has the main place at the center, surrounded by the sentencing judge, Chief Kruorf and his deputies and Chief Hagel. At that moment the judge stands up and reads the sentence again with a solemn tone (inaudible). Tears begin to roll from the cats' eyes. Hagel closes his eyes when he hears their vain attempts, cut by the chains that were strangling them, at saying something, at breathing; and then the truncated words that were now trying to escape through their desperate eyes)

The Infamous Hanging had been designed, according to Tancruarf, by social scientists who were never identified. The prisoner would have a chain around his neck instead of the regular rope. The chain would be pulled up enough to start asphyxiation, up to the point where the prisoner's feet could barely touch the floor.

(Then the executioner begins to pour the liquid from one can on both prisoners)

After the first minute or so, with the prisoner still hanging, struggling for air, the executioner would pour oil or gasoline on his fur.

(The condemned are set on fire and their bodies pulled up higher. And, as the chains pull them up, Hagel closes his eyes even tighter)

Then the prisoner would be set on fire and the chain pulled up high enough for everybody to see the body of the prisoner

burning. After the execution, his body would be trashed at an undisclosed location of the public garbage dump.

(Then Hagel opens his eyes and turns to Tancraurf, only to see him following the execution with frantic eyes. Tancruarf seemed to be having an immense pleasure with the spectacle. Hagel finally drops his eyes again and makes an effort to not cry)

SEQUENCE 51

175. CUT TO: EXT.: GATITO's WAREHOUSE, LATE NIGHT. A dog, one of the guys making guard at the outer perimeter comes running to the warehouse followed by another dog, an old dog, opens the door and asks for Gatito. Groul immediately comes to the door.

GROUL (frowned)

What happens?

The guard shows him the old dog coming with him.

GUARD

We found him approaching the warehouse. We stopped him and he said he had something important to say.

GROUL (turning to the old dog)

You are...?

OLD DOG (still panting)

I'm the old leader from Rouff. Gatito knows me. We were together at Miac Tony's home last year.

GROUL (nodding)

Wait here...

Soon after, Gatito shows up at the door with a sleepy face.

GATITO

Ah! It's you! Everything is okay?

OLD DOG (struggling at first to find the words)

They have Miac, Gatito. They have him!

Then the old dog begins to sob.

SEQUENCE 52

176. CUT TO: EXT.: ROUFF, LATE NIGHT. The members of the immigration police are cordoning Miac's neighborhood.

177. CUT TO: EXT.: ROUFF. Sound of some banging on the door and a sleepy Miac approaching the door.

MIAC (whispering)

Giselle, take our son to the back. Hurry up!

MIAC (grabbing a club and asking through the door)

Who the fuck is there at this hour?

ANIMAL (desperate voice)

Miac, it's me! The immigration police is rounding the neighborhood! They're sweeping in this direction!

Miac opens the door. There are a BLACK DOG and a BLACK CAT in front of him, both with anguished faces.

MIAC (turning to the black dog)

Take my wife and my son to where you know. You answer to me for them with your life.

BLACK DOG (with moist eyes, nodding)

With my life, Miac.

MIAC (turning to the black cat and beginning to run with the black cat)
Where are the others?

BLACK CAT

They have killed and captured many of us already, I don't know how many. They're setting on fire the shacks they leave behind as they tighten the circle around your house. The others are trying to defend the neighborhood with stones, with whatever they can, to hold a bit longer. There's panic in the whole hood, Miac.

MIAC (panting)

Is the way through the sewage still free?

BLACK CAT (panting)

I think so.

MIAC (somewhat irritated, raising his voice)

You think?

BLACK CAT

Everything is happening too fast, Miac. It was, the last time I checked...

MIAC

Then we have to move fast.

VOICE IN OFF

And the two cats kept running, Miac following the other cat to the spot where the rest of his group was trying to slow the immigration police down. But Miac would never leave them behind. Then they saw three members of their group running in the opposite direction.

BLACK CAT

And the others?

BLACK DOG (panting)

Dead. There's nothing we can do...

MIAC

To the sewers! Now!

VOICE IN OFF

Thus, the five of them ran as fast as they could. Once there, the one who could first reach the entrance they had disguised behind some boxes pushed the boxes out of their way. Then, with multiple bruises and scratches, they kept running through the dirty waters to the exit they knew. The sound of the dirty water, splashing at the contact of their feet, splashing over their open wounds, was getting on their nerves but they didn't know whether the immigration police knew about this escape route so they had to get out of there as soon as possible. The immigration police could already be at the entrance, ready to follow on the noise of their splashing, that damn splashing whose sound they

would have given anything to suppress. Finally Miac could see the end of the sewer. Soon they would be in Mewow. Then they would hide and think what to do next with a much clearer head.

178. CUT TO: EXT.: EXIT OF THE SEWERS. As soon after the five leave the sewer they found themselves in the middle of a circle of light.

VOICE

Freeze!

From the opposite direction another light came to draw a smaller circle over them.

MIAC

Break!

The other four black animals get ready to run in different directions, two around the lights and the other two took the opposite direction, back to the sewer. Miac stays there and grabs his club with the left hand and a stone with the right. By then the two who had tried to escape going around the lights are being pushed back to the circle of light. Miac throws the stone to one member of the police who is trying to grab one of his fallen friends but many more members of the immigration police run towards him. Miac still has time to club another one in the head, who falls at his feet, before the others members of the immigration police grab him by the arms, disarm him and push him to the ground, where they are already handcuffing his other two friends. Then some other members of their force come out of the sewers with the other two, already handcuffed. One of them is bleeding from the forehead. Then these two prisoners are also pushed to the ground, at the side of the other three.

OFFICER OF THE IMMIGRATION POLICE (seemingly an officer, yelling)

Who of you is Miac?

BLACK DOG WITH MIAC (with arrogance)

I'm Miac! Who the fuck wants to know?

Then the officer who has made the question returns to the darkness behind the light of his flashlight and whispers a question to some other animal, one who had just arrived, as he blinds Miac and his friends with the light of his flashlight. Then the officer approaches the fallen black dog, the one who had just spoken, and kicks him ferociously in the mouth.

BLACK DOG WITH MIAC (still defiant)

Sissy!

OFFICER OF THE IMMIGRATION POLICE

Who of you is Miac Tony?

THE OTHER FRIENDS OF MIAC (shouting)

I am!

OFFICER OF THE IMMIGRATION POLICE (annoyed, yelling)

Fuck this! (Turning to the animal who had just arrived) Hey, you! Come here!

A CAT steps forward shyly, either frightened or ashamed.

OFFICER OF THE IMMIGRATION POLICE (yelling)

Who is Miac?

Miac stares at the cat. Now he seems to remember.

CAT (pointing at Miac)

That one.

OFFICER OF THE IMMIGRATION POLICE

Okay, we don't need the rest.

Then two members of the police pull Miac up while a third one punches him in the jaw repeatedly. Defiantly, Miac spits at him blood and saliva. But now Miac, in the middle of his struggle, Miac can see how four other members of the immigration police are putting their feet behind the neck of his fallen friends as other four are raising their rifles only to violently strike them on the back of their heads with the butts of their weapons. Miac begins to scream and, as he feel the tears on his eyes and starts to fight again, he sees the members of the immigration police repeating the procedure.

A pool of blood is forming around the immobile bodies of his friends and the members of the immigration police who had stepped before on their necks are now retiring the handcuffs from them. A semi unconscious, beaten Miac is dragged to a truck.

SEQUENCE 53

179. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE's MAIN ROOM. Gatito is talking to the old dog.

GATITO

His family?

OLD DOG (raising his eyes from the floor)

They're safe. A black dog from his group brought them to my house. That same dog updated me just when I was getting ready to come here, Gatito

GROUL (turning to the rest of Gatito's guys)

Wake up! Wake up, everybody! We have an emergency. Rafael, go warn the guards at the perimeter.

GATITO

We'll provide for them.

OLD DOG

We all will do.

GATITO

Groul, ask those who have to leave in the morning to work to use an alternative route and to leave earlier. Also send two scouts to the house of one of the members of the committee of Miyaff to see whether he knows something else. And send somebody to Rodolfo's house to ask him to find out anything he can about Miac.

(Miac's face and Rachy's keep coming to his mind)

MEAU (coming back from checking on the perimeter guards)

How can we be sure that nobody in Miac's group is going to talk?

OLD DOG (outraged, stand up)

Because they are all dead, because they're fucking dead and Miac would never talk. That cat may be a bit stupid but he would never betray anybody. Never!

Meau turns at Gatito as if asking him to calm the old dog down.

GATITO

We need to keep our heads cool or we're lost.

The moment when Miac asked him to take care of his family comes to his mind now.

GATITO (turning to Meau)

I know Miac would die before betraying anybody. He is that kind of cat, Meau. We have nothing to worry from him.

(Groul enters the room and Gatito turns to the rest as if ready to address the group)

Nevertheless the immigration police knew where to find him. For what you say, they didn't lose time and at every moment they seemed to know where to go...

OLD DOG (with bitterness)

There has to be a fucking traitor! I'll do everything in my power to know who he or she is!

GATITO

It has to be somebody who had recently joined your *ronda* or has been making activism for you in Rouff only in the last weeks; somebody no one of you knew enough...

OLD DOG (hesitant, trying to remember and then standing up abruptly)

Three faces come to my mind... Some of them could've died or been captured in the fight though. I need to come back!

MEAU

Do they know where you live?

GATITO

That's important. Do they know where you live?

OLD DOG (paying attention, hesitating now)

I don't know... but Miac's wife and son are there. I have to come back.

GATITO

It's okay. We'll come back. (Turning to Meau) I need four scouts, four smart and fast ones. Our friend from Rouff is going to make you a map right now, while you select the scouts. They will take them from his house and bring them to our old warehouse for tonight. If nobody tries to stop or follow them, we are good.

Meau nods and leaves the room immediately. Then Gatito turns to the old leader, who still seems confused.

GATITO (turning to the old dog)

We need that map!

The old dog nods and begins to draw on a piece of paper as fast as he can. Then Meau comes back with Groul and the four scouts.

GATITO

Good, I'm going with the first two scouts.

GROUL (protesting)

No! I was with you in Rouff and I remember the city. I'll go with the first two scouts!

GATITO (annoyed)

I've said that I will go with the first two scouts!

MEAU

No! We have decided that we can't afford to lose you. Groul will go with the first scouts and I'll stay here.

GATITO (irritated, yelling)

What's the meaning of this? This is not the moment for this kind of shit!

GROUL

If you insist, we'll bring this to a vote. You want to lose another vote? If this is an ambush, we can't afford to lose you, Gatito. That would be the end!

GATITO (frustrated, mumbling)

Fuck!"

Gatito drops his eyes to the floor and nods. Then Gatito turns to the old dog and notices that he is looking at them with moist eyes.

180. CUT TO: EXT.: STREETS OF ROUFF, AT NIGHT. Groul and two SCOUTS are walking fast the almost deserted streets, screening the streets as they move forward. Groul is panting. Then they approach a house. One of the scouts knocks at the door.

SCOUT

We come on behalf of the old dog who is a leader of the Rouff Committee.

VOICE BEHIND THE DOOR (afraid, somewhat nervous)

What old leader? There's nobody here with that description...

SCOUT

Cut the crap! He came to Miyaff and told us that you are with Miac's wife and son. We don't have time to lose!

After a few seconds a black dog, Miac's friend, opens the door. The scout can see the long knife on his hand but ignores it. The scout steps forward and the black dog let him in, after what he closes the door behind the scout. Then the scout looks at Giselle, who has her son on her arms. She looks alarmed.

SCOUT

Don't worry Giselle. I'm with Gatito Inmeegrante. The old leader reached us at Miyaff. We are taking you out of here because it might not be safe for you.

(The scout turns to the black dog, giving him the piece of paper on which the old dog wrote names)

We need you to get us information about these three names. We need that already! Urgent!"

BLACK DOG (nodding, more relieved now)

When is the rest coming?

SCOUT (losing patience)

I'll stay with them. You leave now! We need that information by the time we leave from here!

Again a bit hesitant, the black dog looks at Giselle, who nods at him. Then the black dog turns back at the scout.

BLACK DOG (anguished)

If something happens to them, I'll find you and I'll kill you before I die, no matter where you hide.

The scout seems not interested in the threat though. Hesitant still, the black dog looks at the scout once more and then looks at the door before looking at Giselle one last time and at last leaving reluctantly.

A few minutes later Groul is knocking at the door and the scout let him in. Giselle looks nervous, hesitant. She hugs her son. The kitten looks confused.

They stay in silence until they hear another knock at the door.

OLD DOG (voice)

It's me!

Groul, relieved, opens the door immediately to let him, Gatito and the two scouts in. Now Groul is looking furious at the scouts.

GATITO (turning to Groul)

Don't blame them. I insisted.

Giselle approaches Gatito with her son on her arms, crying at last. Gatito hugs her in silence.

OLD LEADER

And the black dog who was here?

GROUL

We sent him with the names you gave us. I'll wait for him here with one of the scouts while you leave...

Then they hear somebody knocking at the door. They startle at first.

BLACK DOG (voice, panting)

It's me! (And once he's inside the house) Of the list you gave me, two died defending the line. The other one, nobody has seen him since.

GATITO (hesitant at first)

We have to get back to Miyaff tonight. The gangs might be aware of what has happened. Groul, you take the first group with Miac's friend and two scouts.

Groul accepts reluctantly.

OLD DOG (angry)

So we have a name... Don't worry. That piece of shit never came to my house...

GATITO (nodding, turning to the rest)

We have to be very cautious now.

OLD DOG (with moist eyes)

He said he admired Miac and that he had come from Mewow, from fucking Mewow, to learn and open a branch in that fucking place. We were rushing to train the *ronda* and could never check his story. We were careless. We never checked it. That's the fucking traitor. I want him dead!

GATITO (noticing the anguish returning to Giselle's face, turning to the old dog)

He must have come from Mewow. The immigration police must have covered that end even if you never checked it but I don't think he's in Mewow now. Right now he must be in Nayak, getting ready to leave to some other state. But now we have to worry about Giselle and her son. We also need news about Miac.

Then the first group leaves. Then Gatito turns to the old leader and sees him crying.

OLD LEADER (crying, mumbling)

That stupid cat! That stupid cat!

SEQUENCE 54

181. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE's MAIN ROOM. Gatito is sat at the table, thinking.

VOICE IN OFF

Next day there was no public announcement about the crackdown in Rouff. That could only mean that they were interrogating Miac. And most probably they were interrogating him about the whereabouts of some Gatito Inmeegrante. Gatito decided he needed to see Rodolfo but then remembered he had already sent somebody to Rodolfo's house, that he had said that he was coming as soon as he could learn something. And for a moment all the thoughts and facts and faces seemed to mix up in his head. He felt so tired... And then he remembered he had to pick up Rachy that afternoon from her office so he called one of his scouts.

GATITO (calling one of the scouts and pulling him apart)

I need you to make me a favor.

(Then Gatito writes in a piece of paper and shows him the photograph of Rachy)

Please, escort her to the train station. She must be leaving her office at five. Explain her that I can't meet her today.

Gatito sighs and the scout nods and puts the piece of paper on his pocket. Then one member of his group enters announcing that Rodolfo is at the warehouse. Gatito rushes to meet him. They hug each other. Rodolfo sighs, he looks worried.

RODOLFO

I was fearing the worst, Gatito.

GROUL (leaving the room)

I'll bring some coffee.

GATITO (anxious)

Miac...?

RODOLFO (nodding)

With Tancruarf's last reforms, the friends on whom I relied for information have been purged from the judiciary, the district attorney's office and from the Nayak Police Department. Anyway, I have brought you the best I've been able to get. It seems they, inside the immigration police, had been planning that crackdown without giving notice to justices, prosecutors or even to the Nayak local police. In the state police they just learned about it when the immigration police returned to headquarters with one prisoner, a big black cat, who, I guess, is your friend Miac. Neither the Nayak Daily nor the Examining Post has reported on the crackdown because they have been asked by Tancruarf to hold the news. And I'm sorry for your friend but that means that they are going to try to make him talk as hard as they can before they decide what to do with him. That also

means that he wasn't the real target. They are expecting him to lead them to their real target and I'm afraid the real target is you. They haven't been able to find you, otherwise they would've already been here, but the real target must be you. Today I have brought you the keys and the address of a new place here in Miyaff. This place isn't safe anymore...

MIAC

Miac is not going to talk.

RODOLFO

Gatito, right now they must be torturing him and they will keep torturing him for days, until he breaks. All these animals depend on you. It's the warehouse I talked to you about the other day. It's a bit farther from the train station but is safer.

Gatito, with pained eyes, nods.

RODOLFO

Another rumor I've heard was that one of Tancruarf's assistants, though most probably it must've been somebody from the immigration police, has had a meeting with some gang leaders some time ago. It seems they were complaining about vigilante groups that had expelled them from Miyaff. Some agreement must've come from that because just after that, gang activity began to spread in three states on which Tancruarf is interested for his expansion... possibly a presidential bid.

GATITO (a bit skeptic)

Do you mean that Tancruarf planned this crackdown in secret, far from even the judiciary and the district attorney, just to reward the gangs?

RODOLFO (shaking his head)

Tancruarf doesn't give a shit for the gangs. He despises them. He has gone through all this planning because he wants to motivate the gangs while keeping them in line... to direct them to where he wants to expand politically. He's planning ahead.

GATITO (still unconvinced)

That could explain the crackdown but that doesn't explain the Infamous Hanging. I don't know... Why didn't he just hang them and that's it? If he knows about me, he must also know that the Miyaff community is organized now and that Rouff and Mewow are making progress.

RODOLFO

So Tancruarf is a sadist... What's new? So he hates immigrants and has given years of his life to create a stereotype of them that makes his '*enforcement by attrition*' strategy more palatable to the citizens of Nayak... Nothing new on that either. What is more important for him, his presidential ambitions or making your lives a living hell? I honestly don't know, but the result is

the same. He wants both things and seems determined to get them.

GATITO (dropping his eyes and making a pause)
What do you think of his possibilities... as a presidential candidate, I mean?

RODOLFO

I don't know... I guess he's going to try in other three states what has worked well for him here. Maybe that's why he's exporting gangs to other states, to then *save* them from those same gangs by, you guess, targeting the immigrants over there. Nevertheless, over there he doesn't have a friendly press, immigrants are not that numerous and the establishment of the Patriot Party is not going to be happy to see his advances but he has time to solve that problem. It could work.

Gatito sighs. Moments later the scout returns with Rachy.

SCOUT (upset)

I couldn't convince her, Gatito. She is too stubborn. She threatened to begin to scream if I left her at the train station. She doesn't listen, Gatito. I don't want you to send me to escort her again, Gatito. She doesn't listen. She made me stop to call her father too.

Rachy, worried but defiant, stares at Gatito straight at his eyes.

GATITO (dropping his eyes)

That's okay, my friend. I'll take it from here.

The rest leave the room. GATITO sighs once again.

RACHY (with hurt eyes)

I've learned of a crackdown in Rouff; that they might be after you. And you wanted me to go home? I want to know what's happening, Gatito?

Her moist eyes keep looking at him. Gatito drops his eyes.

GATITO

Rachy, you knew from the beginning that something like this could happen; that some day I could bring problems to your life. They have been trying to track me and, on their way, they have arrested a good friend of mine and I think that..."

RACHY (protesting, raising her voice)

You know that that's not what I mean! Don't make it look as if I were blaming you for '*bringing problems to my life.*' What hurts me is that you're in trouble and you seem to think that that is a reason to expel me from your life! I am your female or not? How could you think that I could go to Nayak without worries knowing that they are after you?

GATITO (pleading)

Rachy...

RACHY (raising her voice even louder)

No Rachy this time! Listen! I am an adult and I decided to be part of your life. If you are in trouble there's no other place in the world where I want to be but at your side and I want to be with you no matter what you go through. You understand? I love you!

Rachy begins to cry.

GATITO

I could never forgive me if something happens to you, Rachy!

RACHY

And I could never forgive me if I'm not there with you if something happens to you.

Gatito hugs her tightly, then kisses her eyes and let her head rest on his shoulder.

Early June, 1901...

182. CUT TO: EXT.: NEWSPAPER STAND, EARLY MORNING, passersby are reading the covers of the Examining Post and the Nayak Daily: '*Important gang leader captured, has the blood of many Nayak citizens, children included, on his hands,*' '*trial is expected by the end of June, when the police was expected to hand the prosecutor a final draft of their report.*' Miac looks weakened though still defiant in the photographs.

183. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE'S MAIN ROOM. Gatito enters the room and sees Giselle tearing the pages and wrinkling the pieces on her hands as tears roll over her cheeks. Then she, furious, her lips pursed, begins to pronounce confusing words.

GISELLE

How... How can they throw *mud* on my husband on top of all they had done already, disgracing him *even more* before the innocent eyes of his son? How?

OLD LEADER

I think it's safe for us to return to Rouff, Gatito...

GATITO

You know you can stay here for as long as you...

OLD LEADER

I have to reorganize the *ronda* of Rouff. I can't let it die. Besides that, I still have to find the coward who betrayed us. Some day his head will pop out somewhere and we will find him.

184. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE'S MAIN DOOR. The door opens and the old dog and GISELLE with her son on her arms are getting ready to leave.

VOICE IN OFF

That same afternoon, the old dog left with a silent Giselle, her son on her arms, the kitten, who still didn't seem to understand what was happening around him, and two scouts. Then Gatito saw them crossing the entrance while the rest was getting ready to move to their new place.

Giselle looked broken, beaten, empty. And Gatito thought that one day Rachy could be crossing that same door looking exactly like her.

FADE OUT....

-----END EPISODE TWO

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