

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

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 ears and long cheeks.

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

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

## SEQUENCE 55

FADE IN...

June 29, 1901

185. CUT TO: INT.: COURTROOM, DAY. Miac is being judged.

VOICE IN OFF

On June twenty nine the trial of Miac took place. Miac was charged with every possible charge they could imagine and his soul portrayed as an endless well of depravity. Then the prosecutor presented over and over the photographs of his alleged victims as if they were enough proof of his culpability while the judge glanced at Miac disapprovingly, severely, all the time. But the prosecutor didn't mention Gatito Inmeegrante at all.

Miac, who had looked so weakened the day he had been presented to the press, now seemed to have gathered all that was left of his strength and looked defiant again. He had been assigned a lawyer who never raised his hand to object anything the prosecutor said and Miac could not be seen talking to him even once. Then, tired, upset, Miac finally raised his hand to tell the judge that he was dismissing his lawyer and that he wanted to defend himself. The judge granted him the dismissal of his lawyer but he didn't let him defend himself so a defiant Miac began to insult the judge. And when he told the judge to go fuck himself, Miac was gagged.

(Miac is approached by guards and, after a brief struggle, he is gagged)

That same day the jury met to reach a decision and minutes later they returned to the courtroom after having found him guilty of all charges. To nobody's surprise, the judge sentenced Miac to Infamous Hanging, which would take place on July first in the yard at the back of the court building.

Then the session was adjourned and Miac was pushed back to his cell, where the immigration police would be able to torture him for two more days before his execution.

July 1, 1901...

186. CUT TO: EXT.: BACKYARD OF THE COURT BUILDING, AT DAY. Miac is brought to the platform of execution.

VOICE IN OFF

On July first many locals filled the yard to witness the execution. And, as this was going to be the second public Infamous Hanging and Governor Tancruarf was going to be in attendance, the immigration police took care of every detail of the macabre event. Thus, when everything was ready, the prisoner was brought to the improvised platform of execution erected on the yard to help the attendants watch the execution better.

Miac looked groggy and exhausted. It seemed they had taken turns to batter him during the last two days to the point that he

had not even been allowed to escape his torment in his sleep. Nevertheless, Miac somehow still looked defiant, refusing to let the guards push him in his way to the spot where the chains and the oil were waiting for him.

(The judge reads (inaudible) the sentence from the table he shares with Tancruarf)

Then the judge stood up and read the sentence again. But not even that was enough to tame the defiant Miac, who was now staring at the attendants. And then, as his eyes moved through the public with defiance, they stopped somewhere.

(PAN of the attendants and CLOSE UP of somebody who is wearing a hoody)

He recognized somebody despite the disguise that somebody was using. And Miac knew that that was not possible, that he was too far to notice that and, on top of that, that that somebody was in disguise. But he also knew in his heart that that somebody was him. Then the attendant on whom Miac's eyes had stopped, realizing that he had been recognized, raised his eyes to look back at him and nodded. Miac was sure. It was Gatito, coming to reassure him that he would take care of his family; nodding to let him know.

(CLOSE UP of Miac, whose eyes turn moist)

Then Miac's eyes kept moving to not bring attention on Gatito. And it was only at that moment that Miac let his defiance go and a tear rolled on his cheek.

JUDGE (approaching Miac)

Crying won't help you here! You should've thought better before you began your life of crime. (Turning to the executioner) Proceed!

Then the executioner puts the chain around Miac's neck and locks it.

187. CUT TO: EXT.: STREETS OF NAYAK, approaching some train station in Nayak. Gatito walks fast. He hides behind the hood that he's crying.

### SEQUENCE 56

September, 1901...

188. CUT TO: EXT.: STREETS OF ROUFF, at DAY. Two trucks and three buses are stopping at the side of the road and beginning to unload.

VOICE IN OFF

Then it came September. And the Dancing Doggies could not have chosen a worse moment to come back to Rouff. Kim had decided that, with Miac out of the picture, they had a chance to fill that vacuum with a message that violence could only bring more violence; that the time for their message consisting on presenting immigrants as cute friends had finally come in Rouff.

But it ended badly for them.

The march of the Dancing Doggies begins with Kim and Gustavo at the front but soon they find the old leader and many other residents standing up in the middle of the street.

MULTITUDE

"Get out of here! Leave! We're mourning our friend here!"

Kim pushes Gustavo forward.

GUSTAVO (to the old leader)

Shouldn't we leave that decision to the vote of the attendants who are watching us from both sides of the street?

MULTITUDE

Boo! Boo!

Then some attendants begin to throw some vegetables at them, impacting Gustavo and Kim.

KIM (whispering at Gustavo)

We better begin earlier the dancing march planned for Miyaff.

189. CUT TO: EXT.: STREETS OF MIYAFF, at EARLY AFTERNOON

ANGRY MULTITUDE

Gatito Inmeegrante! Gatito Inmeegrante! Gatito Inmeegrante!  
Miac! Miac! Miac!

Then a group of animals approach them.

ANIMAL

We're the Committee of Miyaff and you are not welcomed here. How can you try to discredit Miac when we're still mourning our friend, and especially you, who just months ago have been so soft with real gang members? Are you maybe on Tancruarf's payroll?

KIM (whispering at Gustavo again)

Let's better go to Mewow. These animals could turn violent.

190. CUT TO: EXT.: STREETS OF MEWOW, at MID AFTERNOON.

VOICE IN OFF

So, somewhat discouraged, Kim whispered Gustavo that it was better to take their chances in Mewow. Nevertheless, once in Mewow, they only found on their way sporadic, apathetic animals barely interested in their dancing march. Thus, more than an hour later Kim and Gustavo decided that nobody in Mewow was interested on them either.

(CUT TO: EXT. STREEST OF MEWOW. Kim calls some supporters, tells them to take their customes out and pose at the side of other marchers and to smile. The photographs are taken)

So Kim quickly made some marchers get rid of their costumes and pose as supportive residents for some photographs that were going to make it look as if the residents had been actually cheering the dancing march.

Once the photographs were taken, they packed everything in the trucks and left to Nayak.

## SEQUENCE 57

October, 1901...

191. CUT TO: INT.: AUDITORIUM, at NIGHT.

VOICE IN OFF

By October Rodolfo was attending a conference. Unfortunately he knew the drill too well for his own good; the same stupid

speeches of scholars who wanted to see their names on some paper but who would not move a finger to make something happen in the real world; the same shallow posers who saw in those events an opportunity to get connections in that world of barren and withering vanities. Nevertheless Rodolfo was conscious that he was moving in a world of hypocrisy and that he had to be wise at selecting his battles. Then an old dog approached him.

SMALL DOG (with a wide smile)

Do you remember me?

Rodolfo looks at him and then, after some hesitation, shakes his head.

SMALL DOG (chuckling)

My name is Francisco Aguosta. Come on, dog! You were with the Dancing Doggies some years ago, weren't you? Wasn't it you who was with them when they were still at the old office? I remember you! Kim never liked you... I left just by the time you came. Kim never liked me either.

RODOLFO (suspicious)

Hmm. Well, maybe I remember you. What can I do for you?

AGUOSTA

I have been moved by the martyrdom of Miac, by the leadership of this Gatito Inmeegrante. They are not like Gustavo and Kim. I want you to help me contact them. I am an old dog and I want to do something useful before I die, something that gives meaning to my life.

RODOLFO (pretending confusion)

But..., why me? I don't have anything to do with this Gatito Inmeegrante. I don't know if that Gatito Inmeegrante even exists or if he's something some immigrant activists of Miyaff have made out.

Then Rodolfo turns his attention to the stage and makes a long silence, inviting the old, fat dog to leave. But then Rodolfo hears him again.

AGUOSTA

Well, maybe some other time.

Rodolfo is concerned about the newcomer when he hears him once more.

AGUOSTA

I remember that you insisted on bringing information to the citizens of Nayak instead of believing that dancing stupidly could project a cute image of us, as Kim wanted... But maybe you have left all that behind you. I don't blame you.

When Rodolfo, uneasy, turns he can see that the visitor is leaving at last. Then some acquaintance approaches him with his hand extended and a false smile.

**SEQUENCE 58**

192. CUT TO: INT.: RADIO STUDIO, at NIGHT.

VOICE IN OFF

That night Tanbruarf gave his first interview at a radio show since the last elections. And this time Tanbruarf was taking some risk getting out of the realms of the friendly press he had always found in Nayak. This was a national radio station and he had to expect some unfriendly question.

And the interviewer was one of the best, a female dog of last name Rehm.

TANCRUARF

... When we took office we found that those three institutions were a nest of anarchy. And still we were patient and we invited them to make the necessary reforms but they never took this advice seriously, so at the beginning of our second term we had to take the problems on our own hands.

REHM

For instance, in the Nayak police department you didn't reform the department. You created a new police, the immigration police, and extended its power over the police department. Now even the Chief of the immigration police makes announcements on behalf of the whole Nayak Police Department and enforcement of immigration related violations now has a budget bigger than any other kind of law enforcement...

TANCRUARF (smiling)

I think there is a bit of exaggeration on that conclusion. Chief Hagel and Chief Kruorf work shoulder to shoulder. It's just that the delicate health of Chief Hagel has forced him to delegate more responsibilities on Chief Kruorf. That's why Chief Hagel has not even been able to attend some press conferences, sending his deputy to replace him instead. On the other issue, the fact is that in Nayak we found that most of the crimes are committed by immigrants. Nayak, before we took office, was plagued by gangs of criminal immigrants. That's why we have reinforced our immigration enforcement budget. And when you add immigration violations to crimes committed by immigrants, you have the budget you have mentioned before but the results speak for themselves. The fact is that now Nayak is a safe city to walk, even at night, while crime is still a problem in other cities... I mean in the cities that have resisted our reforms.

REHM

So immigrants are the only source of crime in your state, governor?

TANCRUARF

In most cases, in the overwhelming majority of cases, yes, that's unfortunately true. Our statistics show...

REHM

You purged the staff that used to make those statistics on the district attorney's office. When Chief Kruorf took over, he remade those statistics for the last five years and never explained

technically his reasons to change the methodology. Can we trust Chief Kruorf on that? Is he a statistician? Why did you choose him?

TANCRUARF (somewhat uncomfortable)

I chose Chief Kruorf because I trust him. Yes, I trust him and I chose him because he was an outsider who could think out of the box. The results show that I was not mistaken.

REHM

But what was his background?

TANCRUARF (more uncomfortable now)

I met him in my campaign for governor. He had no background in law enforcement if that's the point of your question but I followed my heart and gave him a chance and I was not mistaken. As I said, the results speak for themselves.

REHM

Hmmm... I've heard that you might be running for president in the next general elections. What is true about that?

TANCRUARF (scoffing, still lacking confidence)

We are studying that possibility but that's all. We are exploring the possibility. We have been successful in Nayak and we're studying whether we can do for the whole country what we have made for Nayak. But if we see that the problems of our country are way over our heads, I'll content myself with being a good governor for Nayak. So let's not rush to conclusions.

REHM

And what are the issues that you are studying, the ones that could incline you to run for president?

TANCRUARF

Well, we have dealt with Nayak, the most populated area at the north of the Southern Country. More, in addition to the administrative chaos we inherited, we are dealing with an unprecedented drought which has put our services to a test. And, to avoid a recession, we have dealt with the increasing flow of immigrants from the Northern Country and we have cut taxes and regulations, so our entrepreneurs have the way cleared to deal with the challenges our economy is still facing...

REHM

I'm sorry but I'll have to ask you to keep your answers on the issue of the question because our time is almost over. But now that you are at that point, is it true that most of the bidders who have won contracts in Nayak in the last years are your campaign contributors? It's true that some bid winners in the past have also been campaign contributors of governors and mayors in office but in Nayak those cases seem to be the overwhelming majority...

TANCRUARF (annoyed)

I think that that's simply not true. Anyway, I'm waiting for somebody to prove that some of my campaign contributors have won some bid illegitimately.

REHM

Well, the reporter Adam Greene has covered that issue extensively for a newspaper of the capital. Then I have to come to my last question. Immigration seems to have been the issue that has helped you win the office of mayor and then the governorship of Nayak. I think that it's '*enforcement by attrition*' how you call your strategy. That means to make their lives so unbearable, so desperate, that they will end up deporting themselves, right? My question is, then, what do you feel at the idea that some of them might end up killing themselves in their despair; that some of them may be innocent? Is that something that wakes you up at night?

TANCRUARF (grinning)

No, I have no regrets because my mission is to defend the citizens of the Southern Country. If something bad happens to an immigrant that should not have been here in the first place, I'm sorry for that but that's not my fault. It's the immigrant who should've stayed home who brought that on himself. Now, with respect to them committing suicide, *please...*, they are not like us. If you or I were subject to the '*enforcement by attrition*' strategy, and we will not because we are legitimate citizens of Nayak, I'd really be worried about the possibility of suicide or death but if you believe these immigrants, who come with little sense of dignity, to work in whatever job they can steal from legal residents of this country, are going to commit suicide, well that's because you don't know them.

REHM

Well, I hope that you're right. The problem is that we won't be able to reverse the result if you're wrong. And we haven't had time to talk about the deaths of immigrants at the border by exposure or due to gang activity. Unfortunately that's all the time we have. I wished we had more time. Thank you for your time and for your patience, governor. With you...

193. CUT TO: INT.: RODOLFO'S BEDROOM at NIGHT. Rodolfo turns the radio off, smiles.

VOICE IN OFF

He had noticed how Tancruarf had sounded less confident, or, even better, more arrogant, with every new answer. On the other hand, Tancruarf, with the complicity of the Examining Post and the Nayak Daily, controlled the information about immigrants so tightly that not even then the citizens of Nayak had been able to learn that the day Miac was captured most of his followers had been killed by the immigration police. Miac's had been the only

one capture of that day, no death had been reported. And nobody had raised questions about that. Did they just believe that the immigration police had showed up at his door with a warrant and that they had brought him to Nayak just like that after reading him his rights? There were rumors not only about extrajudicial deaths, like those of Miac's friends, but also about the countless deportees sent to die in the desert, and also about a growing number of suicides.

### SEQUENCE 59

October, 1901...

194. CUT TO: EXT.: SOME STREET IN MIYAFF, at DAY. Aguosta is opening the door of his new home, introducing himself to his neighbors; then attending the assemblies; then (OTHER STREET OF MIYAFF, at NIGHT) joining the *ronda* with a pipe on his hand.

#### VOICE IN OFF

October brought a new resident to Miyaff: Francisco Aguosta. The neighbors looked at him with suspicion at first but then, little by little, they let him participate in the *rondas*. He said he only wanted to participate, to give meaning to his life. And he didn't seem interested in the names of the leaders or in their places of meeting. So they began to trust him.

(CUT TO: EXT.: FRONT OF A SMALL TWO STORY BUILDING in MIYAFF, at DAY, the leaders of Miyaff as well as Gatito and his friends and the old leader representing Rouff are there)

October also brought the official birth of something Gatito Inmeegrante had proposed long ago: the study circles. Rouff's first and Miyaff's first would both be named after Miac.

Gatito then sees the black dog who had stayed with Miac's wife and son the night of Miac's capture. The black dog smiles at him and Gatito smiles back and nods. Then the old leader approaches and shakes both his hands. He could swear that that was the first time he had seen him smile since Miac's tragedy. For that dog Miac would never be a distant memory but an always present. Then he tried to imagine Groul and Meau in his place. But he didn't want to imagine Rachy in Giselle's place.

#### OLD LEADER (emotional)

Good to see you here, son. He'll always live in our hearts... He'd be proud of us gathering here in his name... and even more when we are gathering for this: the study circles. He was not precisely a library, Gatito, but he always wanted everybody... well, everybody else, to read. He believed that when everybody around here read, we would be closer to make the world better for the youngest among us, especially for his son. Oh! You know what I mean!

Gatito smiles and hugs him. Then he notices Meau screening the area with one scout.

#### GATITO

We will give both study circles our utmost support.

Then one dog and one cat enter the scene and put two big boxes on the table. The representative from Miyaff then approaches them.

GATITO

These are the materials we read when we began our study group. We have made a copy for Rouff and one for Miyaff. Do your best, write your questions down and, when you are ready, we'll get you the right animal to answer them. And we know that's when you will begin making new questions. That's how we began. We used the information in these materials to make the leaflets we shared with many of you. Those leaflets are the channels through which you can help bring the truth to Nayak and, maybe later, to other states. It will take time, but if we persist as Miac persisted, then we can harbor realistic hopes of defeating Tancruarf some day.

OLD LEADER (with moist eyes)

We will, son. We will... and we will find the motherfucker who betrayed Miac too.

Then Meau comes from behind and grabs Gatito's right arm.

MEAU

Gatito, it's time to leave.

GATITO (losing his smile, turning to the old leader of Rouff)

Maybe you remember our friend Meau. Sometimes he will be the liaison between the study circles and us.

The old leader nods and extends his hand to Meau, who reluctantly shakes it.

OLD LEADER (turning to Gatito)

Son, we are all angry here... because if you are not angry with the injustice made to us by Tancruarf, you don't have a soul. And we are all mourning somebody too... I just wish Miac had not been so hardheaded... but it's the memories of our loved ones what should make us use that anger to honor them, pushing for the changes for which they died. I have cried and cried and I've got drunk to not let all this shit harden my heart. But there's only one way they win and our loved ones die in vain: if the fucking Tancruarfs of this world harden your heart.

MEAU (somewhat annoyed)

That's why you are still trying to find the animal who betrayed Miac?

Gatito stares at Meau with disapproval.

OLD LEADER (calmly)

I never said I was perfect, son.

## SEQUENCE 60

Late December, 1901...

195. CUT TO: INT.: MIYAFF TRAIN STATION, at DAY. Leaflets are on the floor. The title is '*The truth about immigrants and the truth about Tancruarf.*'

196. CUT TO: INT.: TANCRUARF'S OFFICE. Tancruarf looks angry. He's reading a leaflet.

VOICE IN OFF

By the end of the year 1901 the immigration police had even made some of its members pose as commuters to find out who was littering several metro stations with literature exposing the lies Tancruarf had been saying unchallenged about immigration and about some other issues for a very long time. They wanted to find the source of those leaflets but the few who were captured didn't speak, no matter how much they battered them. And again, complaints from the gangs reached Tancruarf's desk but Tancruarf dismissed them and forwarded them to Chief Kruorf marked as a low priority in the short term. Where else would those gangs go for help after all? And yes, Tancruarf was having doubts about a presidential bid.

So the weeks following Miac's death marked the return of the gangs to Rouff but the *rondas* quickly reorganized and soon the gangs were expelled again. In Miyaff the gangs didn't have better luck either. Now the *rondas* were more numerous and their leaders, more protected.

When the leaflets reached his desk the first time, Tancruarf was furious. And he called Chief Kruorf.

CUT TO: INT.: TANCRUARF'S OFFICE'S DOOR opens and Chief Kruorf enters after saluting the governor. Tancruarf hits his desktop.

TANCRUARF

Who said you can sit down? How is it possible that you haven't been able to make any progress in all this time? I'm supposed to be in control of this shit and now I can't find anyone who has not received one of these!

(Tancruarf throws the leaflets on the desktop in front of Kruorf, who drops his eyes)

And where the fuck is that Gatito Inmeegrante? Do you know if that fucker even exists?

(Tancruarf stares at Kruorf severely)

Do you like your job, Kruorf? Do you realize I have to win the next elections, Kruorf?

Kruorf bows his head.

**SEQUENCE 61**

New Year Eve, 1901...

197. CUT TO: INT.: OLD LEADER OF ROUFF'S HOME, at NIGHT. Gatito, Rachy, the old dog, Giselle and her son are there. The kitten is already speaking his first words. Soon after, Rachy takes Giselle and the kitten with her to the first floor, leaving the old leader and Gatito alone.

OLD DOG

We are making progress, aren't we?

GATITO

I hope so but at what cost?

OLD DOG

Thirteen of our guys arrested in total, right? I also ask myself whether that's a price that is worth paying... but I believe it is. Different from someone caught working in a workplace raid or commuting in the train station, they went over there knowing the risks they were taking and still they loved that much what they loved that they were willing to take the risks... like that hardheaded Miac. What I mean is that they took that risk because they trusted us with taking care of their loved ones but also for a cause... that we will make it right for all of us this time.

GATITO (nodding, somewhat distant)

But it still hurts.

OLD LEADER (slightly shaking his head)

It still hurts. Injustice is a bitch. I didn't create the world. I just limit myself to live in it...

GATITO (after a brief pause)

You know? You remember the night we spent at Miac's house, when he introduced me to his wife?

OLD LEADER (grinning, remembering)

Yeah! The day you came to help us with the *ronda*. Or was it the day after?

GATITO (sighing and nodding)

He asked me to take care of Giselle and his son. The moment we were alone he asked me that and I've been so busy that I have been only able to send money... and letters.

OLD LEADER

If he could see you, Miac would be happy of having trusted you, Gatito.

GATITO

I've been this long with Rachy and she hasn't gotten tired of me. You know I can't marry her. And she knows I can't marry her and still she wants to be with me.

Gatito makes a pause and the old leader drops his eyes.

GATITO

What if she... gets pregnant? It's a matter of time before they get me as they got Miac. And then what about her? Have you seen Giselle? She looks like she will miss Miac forever...

OLD LEADER

She will miss Miac forever, Gatito... and still, if she had a chance to go back in time and meet somebody else instead of Miac and to have a quieter life, she would still choose to be Miac's wife. It looks to me that Rachy is like her, son. I had a wife once. She died. She was all the time complaining about me talking about politics and you know what? When I tried to talk about something else she always knew how to bring politics back. Politics was not that risky then but for animals like us it has never been nice, perhaps more disappointments than risks by

then but... What I mean, son, is that you would hurt her more by breaking with her than by letting her be part of your life. What can I tell you, son? That everything is going to be okay? No, at least this time I feel that we're in the right path but anything could go wrong even with the best plan. You know what? We can't control what's going to happen tomorrow with lives like ours. So why don't you try to make the best of every minute you two spend together instead?

Then the old dog stares at Gatito. Gatito has nothing to add. Then Giselle and Rachy begin to descend the stairs talking animatedly, their voices intermingled with the voice of Miac's son.

GISELLE

The table is set.

OLD LEADER

Okay son, we have to eat.

### SEQUENCE 62

January 2, 1902...

198. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE with white walls. Rodolfo pops up his head form behind the door where Gatito is.

RODOLFO (waving an envelope)

Happy New Year, Gatito. Donations... to make you happy...  
They put some extra in your envelope this time.

GATITO (grinning)

You look happy...

RODOLFO

I bet you won't guess who visited me today...?

GATITO (with a grimace)

Don't tell me that Senator Sanderf again?

RODOLFO (scoffing)

Well... yes, it's Senator Sanderf again but now there's something different. He has seen your fliers...

GATITO (skeptical)

Rodolfo..., this is not the first time we hand fliers...

RODOLFO

But now it's different.

GATITO (somewhat sarcastic, with a skeptic grin)

Now it's different...

RODOLFO

Yes, now it's different. I understand you though, cat. You feel the problem as an immigrant everyday but many citizens have also been affected by Tancruarf's policies. Not just the poor but also business owners, public workers, unions, public schools and services in poor neighborhoods... The list is long but the common denominator is that they're not organized or not organized enough and without the support of a friendly press, or at least an honest one... Well, to please his constituency and his

campaign contributors with contracts and lower taxes, Tancruarf needed to get money from somewhere. And don't get me started with the deregulation, which has pushed more costs on precisely those groups Tancruarf knows are not going to vote for him... He has already pushed out of business a lot of businesses that don't support him and served their carcass to the corporations that support him financially. Did you know that he has delivered good part of our rivers and forests to his campaign contributors as booty? Worse, they are fucking the Colorado River as it there were no tomorrow. They are polluting and depleting like never before? But, with a friendly press, he doesn't need to worry about how the nation is going to see all this because nobody is paying attention...or even learning what's happening here.

GATITO (somewhat embittered now)

And is that supposed to make us feel better? Are they also being pushed to the border to be killed, maimed and raped by the gangs?

RODOLFO (staring at GATITO, pretending surprise)

Come on, cat! Remember that I myself am only a pet! Anyway, Sanderf thinks that you might've found the formula to stop Tancruarf. If we make the rest of the nation aware of the realities of Nayak, we might not stop his reelection this year but we might still stop his bid for president. And that setback might be the beginning of his fall. Imagine the national press following the leads of your leaflets... Sanderf has asked me to tell you that he hopes you understand and forgive the many times... the meeting he promised you was... postponed.

He needs you to use your volunteers to bring information to other states, to other media that is not going to be as friendly to Tancruarf as the Examining Post and the Nayak Daily. He said that, anyway, even if you two had met, he would not have been strong enough to pass anything resembling immigration reform in Congress... If Tancruarf falls, on the other hand, that would be our chance. Besides that, Sanderf should be reelected and, if so, he will earn his prestige to push in Congress the kind of motions he still can't.

GATITO (sounding bitter again)

We have already lost thirteen immigrants in Miyaff, Rouff and Mewow handing those fucking leaflets, Rodolfo. In thirteen homes children have had to be told that they won't see their parents again. I'm tired of this shit! We are making progress, yes, maybe, but I can't take this shit anymore!

RODOLFO (dropping his eyes)

The only thing I can tell you, my friend is this: Think of Miac. Think of his son. Think of Rachy, all this time dreaming of the day you two can have a normal life. Don't give up now that we at

last seem to be in the right path! Come on! Do you remember the days when we still had to struggle with the Dancing Doggies to attract the attention of the immigrant community? You now even have the fucking study circles about which I was so skeptic...

GATITO

Well, enough of whining. I just had to get that off my chest. You just mentioned Rachy. Don't do it again. It's precisely thinking of what could happen to her what has me like this. She wants a child, you know? And she is right. She needs a normal life but she's not going to get that from me.

(Gatito then makes a pause before looking at Rodolfo with distressed eyes)

I myself would've wanted a child who could have a normal life, a chance to live a happy life. But I don't want her to end up like Giselle, a shadow of her former self...

RODOLFO (nodding, pursing his lips)

I wish there was something I could do or say to... but I can't. You deserve to be happy too, cat, and this fucking life seems to have denied you that right. On top of that, you are angry, and with good reasons, and you know you still will have to look strong for those who have followed you all this time... and all that makes you even angrier... The only thing I can promise you is my friendship, cat.

Rodolfo then drops his eyes and Gatito puts a hand on his shoulder.

GATITO

Well, I said what I had to say. Now, what's Sanderf's plan?

### SEQUENCE 63

199. CUT TO: INT.: CLASSROOM IN MIYAFF, at DAY. Aguosta is teaching some children.

VOICE IN OFF

Francisco Aguosta had patiently taught classes for the children of the immigrants of Miyaff, who could not attend public schools anymore. And pretty much Aguosta had volunteered to do anything they asked him, saying that it was his pleasure, that it gave meaning to his life. He had been volunteering since October and now the immigrant community of Miyaff felt more at ease with the new resident even though many still could not forget the case of a newcomer who some time ago had shown the same interest for the Rouff *ronda* only to betray Miac at the end. And, besides that, the children felt so comfortable with Aguosta that every day more residents were willing to give him a chance.

By February of 1902 Aguosta was even invited to the committee meetings, which were taking place at the back of a local store of Miyaff. That's when he began bringing books and papers, many of which were copies of the ones Rodolfo had brought before.

200. CUT TO: BACKROOM OF SOME MIYAFF STORE, at NIGHT. Aguosta is talking to members of the Miyaff Committee.

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE

These are similar to the ones Rodolfo brought us...

AGUOSTA

Actually I was at the Dancing Doggies before Rodolfo but I quit for the same reasons Rodolfo quit later, only to return when he left... But they were not serious. Worse, they were monopolizing the immigration advocacy while pandering to the same stereotypes Tancruarf was using to make our life a living hell, just trying to make us look friendly... That was Kim's stupid idea but Gustavo always did whatever Kim told him. I never could understand why but that was the reality in which we lived. Actually before I moved to Miyaff I contacted a friend you might know, Rodolfo, but he didn't remember me or... I don't know. I just told him that I was an old dog now and I wanted to do something good, so my life did not go to waste completely at the end; that I had learned that at last with Gatito Inmeegrante we were in the right path... But it seems he didn't believe me or just he didn't trust me. I don't blame him... especially after what I later learned happened to that Miac, the leader of the Rouff *ronda*.

Some members of the committee nod.

HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE

You have to be patient. You yourself have mentioned what happened to Miac and Gatito and his guys have been in this for much longer than us. You have no idea how frustrating and exhausting this could be... and they have been in this for years. Be patient.

AGUOSTA (nodding, somewhat saddened)

No problem. I understand. Actually I have been thinking... I have some ideas I'd like to share with you.

HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE (smiling)

Go ahead!

AGUOSTA (grinning, relieved)

Actually I know that the Dancing Doggies have mailing lists. It would be less risky to mail our leaflets than to send volunteers to the train stations...

The HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE nods, seems interested; then turns to the other members of the Committee.

HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE

I don't know you but I think that's a good idea. We thought once of that but we couldn't get a mailing list... And Rodolfo is so busy... But if you have it, especially now that we want to reach other states...

AGUOSTA

But the Dancing Doggies' list is only of Nayak.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE

And the mailer's address?

AGUOSTA (excited)

We can use any. We may lose some leaflets returned because the residents have moved or for whatever other reason but still... And it's true that the list is old but... still.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE

How old?

AGUOSTA (shrugging)

1896 is the last one I knew of but... I think I can call a favor and get an updated one from the Dancing Doggies without Kim knowing. I didn't try to get one updated before because I didn't know if you were going to like the idea.

HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE

Of course we like it. (Turning to the other members of the Committee) The worse we have had to go through is learning how some of our friends have been arrested. So losing a few leaflets as undeliverable mail...

Aguosta smiles.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE

So, you knew... or met Rodolfo when he was still at the Dancing Doggies. And did you meet Gatito Inmeegrante too?

AGUOSTA (humbly, ending with a somber tone)

No... I didn't have that honor, though I would like very much to meet him. Actually is because of him that I'm here... because I believe he has put us on the right path. Maybe if I look for my old contacts I could bring them to our cause... As I said, I'm old and I want to do something important with my life before it's too late and everything goes to waste *in my grave*.

HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE (chuckling)

You're not that old, my friend. There's no reason to be so dramatic. I see that you still have many years in front of you.

AGUOSTA (smiling, somewhat embarrassed, and then chuckling himself)

Old dogs get a bit dramatic with the years...

HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE (smiling at Aguosta)

Bring us that list updated and we could introduce you to Gatito Inmeegrante. After what happened to Miac *they* have a tighter security... We understand them... but you'll see that he is a great guy. He began the *rondas* here in Miyaff and that's how everything began... That's how we ourselves ended up believing that change was possible... if we joined the fight and here we are.

AGUOSTA

I won't let you down! I won't let you down, my friends! You'll see! Well, I have to leave. I have to prepare for my class and the children must be coming...

The Head of the Committee see Aguosta leave and smiles.

March, 1902...

201. CUT TO: BACKROOM OF SOME MIYAFF STORE, at NIGHT. Aguosta is talking to members of the Miyaff Committee.

VOICE IN OFF

And by March Aguosta already had the list.

AGUOSTA

I still had a friend at the Dancing Doggies. He asked me not to reveal his name though. I hope you will understand.

HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE (nodding)

Don't worry, my friend. We understand.

Then Groul enters the room and the members of the committee greet him with a smile.

HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE

Groul... Hi!

The other members of the Committee wave their hands or nod at him. Groul nods but doesn't smile back. Then Aguosta, smiling, approaches Groul.

AGUOSTA

Gatito Inmeegrante?

Groul, instead of answering the question, turns to the Head of the Committee visibly concerned.

HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE

Our friend here... I don't think I have had a chance to introduce you to each other... He's bringing the list I talked Gatito about.

Groul nods without looking at Aguosta.

AGUOSTA

I also think I could recontact some animals who may be useful to our cause. I believe Gatito has put us on the right path and I want to have the privilege of getting involved...

Then Groul turns to Aguosta, stares at him with distrust and, somewhat annoyed, turns back to the Head of the Committee.

HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE (in a conciliatory tone)

Groul...

AGUOSTA

I'm sorry... I think that I got carried away. It's just that it would be for me an honor to work at the side of Gatito Inmeegrante...

GROUL (answering Aguosta but his eyes still on the Head of the Committee)

I don't think that's going to be possible. We could use that list though.

Aguosta, saddened, drops his eyes to the floor.

HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE

Come on, Groul! Can you at least talk to Gatito...?

GROUL (with the same hardened expression)

I'll talk to him. Changing subjects... The new leaflets are going to be ready tomorrow. We'll bring them here. Gatito has to see something in Nayak with...

(Then Groul glances at Aguosta and corrects himself)

He could not come. This week we'll be... I'll tell you tomorrow, when I bring the leaflets. And there're some things Gatito wants to talk with you... in private.

HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE (sighing, nodding)

Okay Groul. Tell Gatito he knows where we are going to be.

Groul nods and leaves. Aguosta looks disappointed.

HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE (approached Aguosta)

Come on, my friend! Groul is a bit surly sometimes. Something that happened some time ago, when a friend of his was deported... I don't know for sure what but soon after that happened, Groul changed. But I know him from the time he worked in construction years ago. He's a good dog. It's just that he has received more than his fair share of pain in this life. Try to understand him, please... and after what happened to Miac....

Aguosta tries a sad smile and nods.

### SEQUENCE 64

202. CUT TO: EXT.: SOME CAFÉ AT DOWNTON NAYAK, at DAY. Gatito is waiting with some folders at a table he shares with Rodolfo. Gatito, who looks impatient, checks the time in his watch.

GATITO

Are you sure he's coming?

RODOLFO (somewhat embarrassed, nods)

Yes, my friend, his chief of staff personally came to the office where I work to suggest the meeting...

Gatito, uncomfortable, sighs and drops his eyes. Rodolfo turns and seems to recognize the animal coming. He looks disappointed. It's the Chief of Staff checking on the tables and then approaching them.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Rodolfo... (Then turning to Gatito and smiling)

RODOLFO (expecting)

Hi (Turning to Gatito) Gatito, this is my friend, the chief of staff. You...

CHIEF OF STAFF

Come on dog! My grandma's memory is now better than yours! Don't you remember that Gatito had to risk his ass coming to my office just because you didn't leave him your address, or because you forgot to leave him your address? Whatever... Gatito, wouldn't you prefer to work with my grandma instead of with this dog?

RODOLFO

Okay, okay, I had forgotten that... You took me by surprise. We were expecting Sanderf...

CHIEF OF STAFF (frowning)

Sanderf can't come today. He can't leave the floor, the Senate's floor. These assholes from the Patriot Party... you have no idea what they want to pass... Anyway, he asked me to reassure his

interest in you, Gatito. I think Rodolfo told you that after these elections he will have enough seniority to use his prestige... that's the name they give to the right to present a bill without depending on the speaker, and by the speaker I mean Ateh the Liar. He asked me to tell you that one of the first bills he's going to present on the floor when he gets his prestige is a bill for immigration reform. Nevertheless, the conditions have to be the right ones. Otherwise he presents the bill, they defeat it and that's the end of the story. I don't think you want that... I want to be completely honest with you. I liked what you did when you risked your balls visiting me at the building of Congress. Most likely even then the bill will be defeated but then we will be able to see the reactions and prepare a second coming for the bill. And then, knowing whose arms we have to twist, we will make sure that the bill passes. Okay?

(Gatito nods with a neutral expression)

Now I have to bring you some news that may not be good news... at least in the short term. Look, we are working at the office with some guys in something relatively new called polls. It's some stew of math, statistics and questionnaires of which I really know very little but those guys know their stuff. It's to have an idea how the population is thinking; something like that. You take a representative sample and then... well, you then do the stuff those guys do. The matter is that we polled the reaction to the leaflets. The population has read them. They even sympathize with them... But they still support that asshole Tancruarf anyway. Most probably he's going to be reelected. But these guys tell me that these reactions can change with time... In short, Senator Sanderf believes that he has to keep trying with this strategy; that we have to give it time but adjust if necessary, if something pops out that makes reasonable... to make that adjustment, of course.

Now, with respect to actions, Sanderf knows that Tancruarf is going to put something extra to unseat him so he can't get the prestige thing I talked to you about before. Besides that, Tancruarf knows that the other liberal senators are a bunch of sissies; that, with enough power, Sanderf is the only one who can make his life hard. That's why we believe Sanderf is going to be Tancruarf's priority target in these elections. Tancruarf has also been building a base in the neighboring three states but we believe he's going to put his weight on his own reelection here.

What we need from you is your help with the leaflets... and even your volunteers in the states where they don't risk arrest and deportation, as they risk them here, to distract Tancruarf. We want to work those leaflets together. They can't be only about immigration though. The good thing is that in those three states

the attitude towards immigrants is not as... problematic as here; that over there Tancruarf hasn't had enough time to poison the minds and hearts of the people, like here... That's why your guys can be much more effective there than here. Don't worry about the expenses. We have a... let's call it a '*secret fund*.' What do you say Gatito? Can we count with you?

GATITO (nodding)

I have to present the idea to our assembly and committee anyway but I think that won't be a problem.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Good. We'll be in touch.

The Chief of Staff leaves and a long pause follows.

RODOLFO

Well, at least we know why Sanderf didn't come.

GATITO

He never comes... But at least it seems we'll work something together this time.

RODOLFO

Yes, Gatito but, between us, don't bitch. I didn't like the thing about the polls but we're much better than six years ago.

GATITO (sighing)

Yes, and probably we could get something done in a few more years. I'm getting old, Rodolfo!

RODOLFO

I know, I know, my friend. Life's a bitch.

### SEQUENCE 65

May, 1902...

203. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE'S MAIN ROOM, at DAY. Gatito is addressing 20 of his guys.

VOICE IN OFF

When Gatito called an assembly to say that it was time that somebody else took the leadership of the group there were only twenty out of the total of thirty members in attendance, but they were enough to make quorum. Everybody opposed the motion though. Contrary to what Gatito, full of guilt because of his own motion, was hoping, some of them began to plea.

ONE OF GATITO'S GUYS (alarmed)

Gatito, how have we failed you? Give us a chance to make it right!

ANOTHER ONE OF GATITO'S GUYS (alarmed)

No, Gatito. How are we going to believe that we are making progress if you quit?

GROUL (seconded by Meau)

Gatito, you need at least a vacation, at least two weeks. We'll be in charge for those two weeks.

RAFAEL

I second the motion because Gatito needs to be with his girlfriend too. But we also have to assign two scouts to protect them, just in case.

Now the sorrowful mood yields to a more playful one. Some guys're even chuckling. Everybody raises their hands.

204. CUT TO: EXT.: PLAZA in DOWNTOWN MIYAFF, sat at a bench, waiting.

VOICE IN OFF

Thus, reluctantly, Gatito took his first vacation in six years. And now he was waiting at a bench at the small plaza in front of the non profit where Rachy, now in the payroll, worked.

Rachy approaches the bench smiling. Gatito smiles, waves at her.

RACHY

Show me your papers!

GATITO

Well, have you worked hard?

(Rachy nods pretending seriousness)

Then I'm buying you an ice cream cone and a balloon.

RACHY (suppressing a laugh)

I was afraid we were going to share the afternoon with a couple of your guys, the two hiding behind the trees... as if I had not seen them already.

GATITO (smirking)

Maybe some of them overact... but they do their best. They have just given me a two-week vacation '*because Gatito needs to be with his girlfriend too.*'

RACHY (laughing)

That's what they said?

Gatito nods.

205. CUT TO: ANOTHER BENCH OF THE SAME PLAZA. Each one has an ice cream cone, Rachy is staring at her balloon. Then Rachy gets into a more serious tone.

RACHY

You know? I have been talking to a lawyer. It's an immigration lawyer they recommended me at the office as the best. I told him about you. I didn't tell him that you were Gatito Inmeegrante of course, but all the rest, I did. He says that there's a loophole he could use to make you a pet if we marry. We can't marry in Nayak but he says that we can still marry in Miyaff. I need to show that I can make more than fifty thousand dollars a year but with what I'm doing here and what I can make pass as if my dad were paying me a wage at the store... What do you say?

Rachy looks somewhat anxious now.

GATITO

You want me to be your pet?

RACHY

I want you to be my husband. I want to have a family with you. I don't want to be afraid that the fucking immigration police could arrest you one day.

(TENSE PAUSE)

GATITO

I love you, Rachy... as you can't imagine. But I fear that making a pet of me could hurt irreparably what we have... I don't want that at some time in the future even the suspicion that I married you to solve my immigration problem emerges as a shadow. That would kill our love. And I want to love you, no matter how corny it may sound, forever. And I will still love you when your reason comes back to your head and you leave me as you realize that you're wasting your life at my side. And I will keep loving you even after that. I want to marry you, Rachy, but when we leave this nasty immigration issue behind us at last.

Gatito drops his eyes, his ice cream cone still on his hand. Rachy passes her arm around his waist and lays her head on his shoulder.

RACHY

Then this is the way we're going to live because I'm not leaving you.

GATITO (attempting a joke)

Stubborn doggy...

RACHY (reciprocating the joke)

Stubborn kitty... And I will cut your balls if you ever mention again that you want me to leave you!

Then they spent the rest of the afternoon watching the sunset from that bench.

**SEQUENCE 66**

June, 1902...

206. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE'S MAIN ROOM.

VOICE IN OFF

June brought Gatito back to the political work. Sanderf confirmed through his chief of staff that he would need them at the three neighboring states from late August to the day of the elections. He would pay for the busses that would take them there and other expenses but he still needed Gatito to assist him with drivers who could take them safely to their destinations.

GROUL

Of how many volunteers are we talking about here, Gatito?

GATITO

I think that... of as many as we can get. That could be two hundred.

GROUL

Won't it be too risky to move that many guys in busses from one state to the other?

GATITO

No that much because many citizens in Nayak are going to form groups that one way or the other are going to do the same, whether for Tancruarf or against him. Even the Dancing Doggies are going to do that inside Nayak. On the other hand, there won't be a significant risk of immigration police presence at the border between Nayak and those states, at least not at the beginning... before the election for governor. Nevertheless, I agree on something. Sanderf will have to provide a place for them to stay. It's less risky if they're not coming back and forth... We could try monthly schedules with two hundred on the field as our goal for October.

GROUL

Gatito, '*two hundred volunteers*'...? That means that we will have to rely on volunteers from Miyaff, Rouff and maybe Mewow...

GATITO (nodding)

'*Two hundred*' is an optimistic goal but yes, we'll have to recruit volunteers for this task. Besides that, in October we all will be more useful over there than here...

MEAU (looking uncomfortable)

The warehouse can't be left alone, Gatito, and...

GATITO

Well, yes. I mean most of us will be more useful over there...

MEAU

We will have to trust other animals. We'll have to work more tightly with them...

GATITO

Yes, but we had to take that risk when we launched the *rondas* too. Had we not taken risks, we wouldn't have made the progress we've made.

MEAU

But that was before Miac, Gatito.

GATITO (nodding)

I know but... do we have any alternative?

MEAU (shrugging)

Maybe we could go first to prepare the field, while others from our group train the volunteers here. Then you can send some of us to monitor them with each group by mid October. I don't think Sanderf is going to still need two hundred volunteers after November because nobody is paying attention to politics after that. After November it could be a less numerous, more constant, more consistent effort...

GATITO (nodding)

I agree. That's a good idea.

Groul nods but looks as uncomfortable as Meau.

SEQUENCE 67

July, 1902...

207. CUT TO: EXT.: STREETS OF MIYAFF at NIGHT. The *ronda* is fighting the gangs. Aguosta is waving his club from one side to the other as hard as he can. He then is cut in one arm by a gang member but the others reach him and give him a severe beating.

VOICE IN OFF

After that Aguosta was invited to be part of the Miyaff committee, appointment that he thanked with tears in his eyes.

208. CUT TO: INT.: GATITO's OLD WAREHOUSE in MIYAFF at NIGHT.

VOICE IN OFF

On the other hand, the meeting between Gatito and the committees of Miyaff and Rouff and the new committee of Mewow had been set for the second week of July. And the meeting was going to take place that same night, in the warehouse where Gatito's group had lived before.

HEAD OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE

Okay, I don't think we need introductions here... at least not between the Miyaff and Rouff committees... And I don't think we'll need many introductions at the Mewow committee... at least I hope not. Anyway, we are here with Gatito, Groul and Meau, who don't need further introductions either. Ah? Well... then I want to report that we have a new member in the Miyaff committee, Mister Francisco Aguosta.

OLD LEADER FROM ROUFF

We know you have never been good with words and that you have a hard head the gang members will never break with their clubs. Can we move to business now?

Many of the attendants laugh.

HEAD OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE (somewhat embarrassed)  
Very funny... Gatito, please take the floor.

GATITO

Senator Sanderf has contacted us through his chief of staff. In the last year Tancruarf has been very busy building a base for himself in three neighboring states. If he wins those states, Tancruarf could be president in two years. I don't have to explain you what that means. He would have the army. And we have to do something for our brothers and sisters who fled to those states after Tancruarf began his persecution against us in Nayak. But, even more important, that could give us room to expose Tancruarf for what he is, the room we don't have here because in Nayak Tancruarf's propaganda against us and against others has had more than enough time to take roots and because either the press has been at his service or has been too cowardly to challenge him. I have thought this all over and over and, even though I am as tired as you of being used and then ignored, I believe this is our best chance to stop Tancruarf. This is a two year plan. We begin now helping Sanderf and introducing

ourselves while the voters are still paying attention and then we'll have a two-year uphill battle in those three neighboring states.

MEMBER OF THE MEWOW COMMITTEE (raising his hand)  
So we have no guarantee that this senator is not going to ignore us at the end, like before...

GATITO

No, we don't. Nevertheless, this time I have his promise that he'll introduce an immigration reform bill using his prestige. He will earn that right if he wins these elections, so he won't have to wait for Ateh the Liar, the speaker, to schedule his bill, or for the cowardly liberal senators to support him. He can't promise me that the bill will pass but, if we create the right conditions, we'll get the bill passed at the federal level. Then Tancruarf won't be able to do anything against us.

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE (raising his hand)  
We are talking here of how many volunteers?

GATITO

The closest we can get to two hundred and, if possible, more. The idea is to show a number that can attract their local media over there. If we succeed in that, that could echo in the rest of the Southern Country. Ah! Sanderf is paying our expenses while we are there.

OLD LEADER OF ROUFF (raising his hand)

Gatito, you know there's something I have to ask. What are the chances those volunteers can be arrested by Tancruarf? You know what that means.

GATITO (smiling at the old dog)

Certainly there is a chance and I can't put a number on it but we can work to make it as small as possible because the risk is worth the pain. We'll use buses so we can choose the drivers and the routes from Nayak. Once there, the volunteers will stay one month or more. We don't see any need of going back and forth every day, so increasing the likelihood of detection and capture by Tancruarf. The service will be set in blocks of one month each, renewable if the volunteer so decides.

OLD LEADER OF ROUFF (nodding)

Giselle and her son send regards. He's getting as hardheaded as his dad.

Gatito smiles, turns to the members of the committees, waiting for the next question.

HEAD OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE

How are we going to work the groups of volunteers?

GATITO

That's where we want you to give us some flexibility. I'd like that Meau and Groul be in charge of forming the groups and making the schedules.

HEAD OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE

If you think this is the best we can do... so be it. You have my support. We wouldn't be here anyway if we had not paid attention to you before.

HEAD OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE

Raise your hands if you support Gatito's plan.

The support is unanimous. Then the members of the committees take a few minutes to socialize. Gatito is talking to the old leader of Rouff. The Head of the Miyaff Committee approaches them with somebody else by his side.

HEAD OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE

Sorry to interrupt but here is somebody who has died for months to meet you, Gatito. This is Francisco Aguosta, who has supported us with the schools, the study groups and even has moonlighted as member of the Miyaff *ronda*, where he got this nice cut you see here on his arm.

Gatito turns to Aguosta, who looks very emotional.

AGUOSTA

You don't know how much I have wanted to see some serious leadership since the moment I left the Dancing Doggies, just before you and Rodolfo came to their old office... But when I learned of the things you were doing here... I told myself that I had to join you, before the years took their toll on me. You don't know what an honor this is for me...

GATITO (smiling, somewhat suspicious)

I think you're exaggerating, my friend. Here we all have brought something. This would never have worked if we all were not supporting it.

Groul approaches the group and gives Aguosta a somewhat hostile stare.

GROUL (staring at Aguosta with suspicion)

We have to go...

**SEQUENCE 68**

August, 1902...

209. CUT TO: EXT.: PARKING LOT IN MIYAFF, at DAY. Meau and Groul are watching the busses leave.

VOICE IN OFF

And, soon after, the three buses were leaving Nayak with a total of one hundred and twenty volunteers. Each bus would go to a different state. To start, that wasn't a bad number.

(CUT TO: INT.: BACKSTORE IN MIYAFF, at NIGHT, the Miyaff Committee is meeting. Aguosta is talking amicably to the Head of the Miyaff Committee)

Nevertheless, in downtown Miyaff, despite Meau's protest, Aguosta was taking over from Meau as communications liaison with the three neighboring states.

As Francisco Aguosta was beginning to pop out from everywhere by now, Gatito remembered how, when Rodolfo came to visit by the end of July, Groul, like never before, had

asked Rodolfo whether he knew some Francisco Aguosta. To put his question in context, Groul had mentioned how Aguosta had said he had met him before at the Dancing Doggies.

210. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE in MIYAFF, AFTERNOON. Rodolfo is visiting Gatito and his group.

RODOLFO (frowning)

Some time ago one dog like the one you're describing approached me when I was... I think at a social activity. He told me that he had met me at the Dancing Doggies; that he, like me, was disappointed with the Dancing Doggies; that he wanted to be part of the movement of Gatito Inmeegrante. It was then, when he mentioned your name and was trying to connect me with you, that I decided to deny everything. He then left and that's the last time I saw him.

GROUL

But what do you think of him?

RODOLFO

Well, it made me feel uneasy that he linked me with Gatito like that, all of a sudden, when I didn't even know him, but, on the other hand, he said he had come to the Dancing Doggies just after Gatito and I left that shithole... although he also said he had been there before I came... I can't remember him but then there were some members of the Dancing Doggies I never met... That was Kim's system... That bitch. It was possible that we had met but then I weighed the benefits of adding another member and the risks, after what happened with Miac, and so... I denied everything. And then he left. I didn't stop him... But that happened months ago. Why?

GROUL

Because now that dog is part of the Miyaff committee. And he is the communications liaison with the three neighboring states where our volunteers are.

RODOLFO (frowning again)

If I were you, I would not accept new members right now...

GATITO (frowning too)

It's not me. It was the Miyaff committee."

RODOLFO

But did they have to make him member of the committee and communications liaison right now? Maybe he's clean but we have to be careful. His name is Francisco Aguosta, right? Let me see what I can find out about him. In any case, in the meanwhile, don't let him get close to here and ask the Miyaff committee not to give him your address for any reason because... he hasn't come here, right?

GATITO (dropping his eyes)

No. And I have already asked them that. What do they see in that Aguosta?

### SEQUENCE 69

Late October, 1902...

211. CUT TO: INT.: OFFICE IN NAYAK, Rodolfo is making phone calls, speaks with intensity.

#### VOICE IN OFF

By late August Rodolfo had prepared an emergency plan with a new unknown place for Gatito and his group to hide in case he found out something fishy about Aguosta. But everything seemed to fit in his story so, absorbed as he was by Sanderf's political campaign, he decided to move to other issues.

(212. CUT TO: EXT.: STREET FROM A NEIGHBORING STATE, at DAY. THE VOLUNTEERS address passersby and give them leaflets)

And by September the volunteers had been able to work for a month already in the three neighboring states without harassment. But despite their tireless effort, the press didn't seem interested on them. Meanwhile, in Nayak the leaflets were reaching their destination but the polls ran by Sanderf still didn't seem to reveal any change in the attitudes towards Tancruarf. Nevertheless Sanderf's strategy was working on one end: Tancruarf had to withdraw resources from his campaign against him to defend his positions in the neighboring states, tirelessly attacked by Gatito's two hundred and fourteen volunteers.

The press, involved in the political campaigns, giving itself too little time to verify the contents of the leaflets, only gave the immigrants and their leaflets marginal attention or left them for later, after November, for when the heat of the elections had already passed. On that end the results had been disappointing but somehow the existence of an alternative version of Nayak's reality had made journalists more skeptical about Tancruarf's statements about his record in his home state.

(213. CUT TO: INT.: OFFICES. Sanderf is frowning in his office and Tancruarf in his)

Thus, by October it seemed the political forces had reached a stalemate. Sanderf looked safe in his electoral district and it was evident that Tancruarf was going to be reelected, although without making gains or losses in the House or the Senate. And by mid October twenty one new volunteers from Gatito's group were ready to take the busses to the three neighboring states according to the schedules prepared by Groul and Meau. They were going to travel with another twenty one volunteers from Miyaff and Rouff.

(214. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE's MAIN ROOM, EARLY IN THE MORNING. Alfgau and other volunteers are waiting for news of the bus that is going to take them to one of the neighboring states)

And at that moment Alfguau was getting ready to leave with his group.

ALFGUAU

Okay ladies, I've put cake and treats in your backpacks. Try to not make me look bad. It's not tourism what we're going to do over there.

CAT VOLUNTEER (smirking)

You need a girlfriend, Alfguau, like Gatito's girlfriend, so you don't spend the whole day calling us ladies as if you really wanted to be our boyfriend.

ALFGUAU (with pride)

I'm married, you pussy.

The CAT VOLUNTEER laughs.

DOG VOLUNTEER

What he needs is a boyfriend like Gatito. You see? He's been married for years and still he's courting other males.

ALFGUAU

It seems I got me a volunteer to clean the bathrooms for when we are over there, eh, dog?

DOG VOLUNTEER (smirk)

Guess with whose towel I'm going to clean the bathrooms...

Somebody is knocking at the door. Then GROUL raises his hand in signal of alarm and whispers.

GROUL (frowning)

That's not the way Rodolfo knocks at the door.

Meau runs to the second floor and after a few seconds he came back to the first floor.

MEAU (startled)

It's that fucker Aguosta from Miyaff. Who told him where we are?

Gatito frowns, turns at Meau.

GROUL

And the scouts at the perimeter?

GROUL (upset, embarrassed)

Take positions to evacuate. I'm going to see what that fucker wants.

GATITO (nodding)

I'm going to have to talk to the head of the Miyaff committee.

Nobody else could've given him our address.

Gatito leaves with the rest to the evacuation exit.

GROUL (angry)

They trust that fucker too much!

When the rest is already in their way out, Groul goes to the door, determined to face Aguosta. Then Groul opens the door and sees Aguosta in front of him with a wide, friendly smile.

GROUL

What the fuck are you doing here?

AGUOSTA (looking afraid, stepping back, suddenly frowning)  
I... the Miyaff committee sent me with the list of our  
volunteers... to see Gatito...

GROUL (barking)

Gatito doesn't live here. I live here. I'll give that to him later,  
when I see him. (Snatching the list from Aguosta's hands) Now  
leave and don't ever come back to my house again. Do you  
understand?

(AGUOSTA, afraid, steps back again)

Ah! One last thing... If something like what happened to Miac  
happens to any of us, you have my word. I will kill you.

AGUOSTA

Groul, please..., I'm loyal. Give me a chance, just one chance...,  
and I'll prove it to you.

GROUL (yelling)

Leave!

Aguosta steps back once more, afraid, turns and begins walking briskly, almost jogging.

215. CUT TO: EXT.: NEW WAREHOUSE. Groul go straight to the guards of the first  
perimeter yelling. Aguosta doesn't turn though. He keeps walking.

216. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE. Rodolfo is visiting Gatito and his guys.

GATITO

We're going to need that place as soon as possible

GROUL (protesting)

Not as soon as possible. Now! I don't trust that fucker...

RODOLFO (overwhelmed)

Nobody is going to move a finger for me right now! We are less  
than three weeks from the election. Those guys over there are  
sleeping three hours a day!

GATITO (Turning to Groul)

Rodolfo is right, Groul. I don't like this either but we will have to  
take the risk... But immediately after the elections we'll have to  
move. (Turning to Rodolfo) Rodolfo, tell the chief of staff about  
this.

RODOLFO (frowned, nodding)

Does anybody in Miyaff know about the evacuation exit in your  
warehouse?

Gatito shakes his head.

RODOLFO

I am finally going to meet Senator Sanderf this afternoon and I  
am personally going to give him the document with guidelines  
for immigration reform you prepared for him in 1896... unless  
you want to make some correction before, of course.

GATITO (shaking his head again)

At least he didn't mention your name.

RODOLFO

The federal Congress is meeting in Nayak 3 days after the day of the elections in a joint session with the presence of the governors of the seven states of the union.

Gatito nods without much enthusiasm.

### SEQUENCE 70

217. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE's MAIN ROOM at AFTERNOON. Gatito, Groul, Meau and Rodolfo are talking sat at a table.

#### VOICE IN OFF

As they had foreseen, elections day brought no surprises. The positions seemed to have frozen in the stalemate of the previous weeks... At least that's what the guys making exit polls the day of the elections had said. Tancruarf kept the governorship as well as his allies in Congress but Sanderf also did. But now, as senior senator, Sanderf could invoke his prestige to move around Tayarih's tactics.

Meanwhile, at Gatito's warehouse the uneasiness left by the unexpected visit of Francisco Aguosta was still there and Gatito, Groul and Meau were counting the days to leave to their new place. Rodolfo had promised them that after the joint session of Congress he would have the keys and that they could move that same night if they wanted. But Rodolfo could see that his answer wasn't bringing relief to their faces. Until they moved, they would not be safe. Miac...

(218. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE's DORM, at LATE NIGHT. Gatito is having a nightmare.

219. CUT TO: INT.: SWEATSHOP, BLURRY, the immigration police is making arrests)

Then, on top of all that, that same night Gatito had a very vivid nightmare. He saw Rachy. She had been arrested in an immigration crackdown and handcuffed. And even when he knew well that she was a citizen by birth, that didn't seem important in his dream.

Rachy is begging not to be deported, crying. Gatito is an impotent spectator. Then the member of the immigration police begins pushing her to the truck. Gatito realizes that he can't even follow her out of his range of vision. Gatito looks desperate.

220. CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE's DORM, at LATE NIGHT. Gatito wakes up. The others are sleeping but Groul's bed is empty again.

#### VOICE IN OFF

And Gatito wondered whether some day Groul would get over with what happened to the gang leader? After all, he only had wanted to help their deported friends from the hell awaiting them. Gatito had never asked Groul but he was pretty sure it had been he who killed that gang leader. That's what it took to push somebody like Groul to kill with his own hands.

Then his mind came back to Rachy... What would she be doing at this moment?

GATITO (before closing his eyes)

Good night, Rachy.

**SEQUENCE 71**

221. CUT TO: NEW WAREHOUSE's MAIN ROOM. Everybody is busy packing the group's belongings. Gatito looks worried.

VOICE IN OFF

During the next two days Gatito and the nine members of his group who were still at the warehouse began packing. The busses would bring to Nayak the other twenty one who were still on their way back from the three neighboring states and all of them then would move that same night.

As Gatito was putting some personal items in a bag, it came back to his mind the way the head of the Miyaff committee had defended Aguosta, saying that he had even suffered a cut inflicted on him by one gang member during a *ronda* and that that proved his loyalty. Obviously Aguosta had done a good job at gaining their trust. That day reluctantly the head of the Miyaff committee had accepted not to send him again to the warehouse.

222. CUT TO: EXT.: BACKROOM OF A STORE IN MIYAFF, EARLY MORNING. An old dog, MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE, is walking as fast as he can. CUT TO: INT.: BACKROOM. The old dog enters the office and sees Aguosta putting the handset on its base.

AGUOSTA (looking increasingly saddened)

At least Rodolfo recognized me. I always knew Rodolfo was a good dog, since I met him at the Dancing Doggies. I don't know why Gatito is against me. It must be that Groul. He hated me since the very first time he met me. That hurts because Gatito is my hero, you know? You know that... And you have just seen me at the phone, right? I wish I had not taken that damn call. Maybe now even you're going to begin mistrusting me too.

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE (somewhat confused)  
No, Francisco, I don't' mistrust you. It's just that the head of the committee...

AGUOSTA

I'm a stupid fool! I swear I'm never going to pick up that telephone again!

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE  
But how Rodolfo knew that you were going to be here?

AGUOSTA

I told you, my friend. He recognized me the last day he was around here.

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE (still undecided)  
I still think that we must wait for the head of the committee to come back...

AGUOSTA (anxious and then pleading)

But by then the interview with Sanderf, for which Gatito has been waiting for six years, will be lost. (PAUSE) Okay, I guess it is my bad luck... Leave it like that...

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE

Oh, damn it! Okay, I'll do it! Joaquin has to understand!

AGUOSTA

Thank you! Thank you, my friend! I should've told Rodolfo to contact somebody else because of Groul's attitude towards me... but I was so ashamed of admitting that, that despite being the communications liaison and everything they don't trust me... Thanks, my friend. You won't regret it...

Then Aguosta shrugs. He seems depressed by his own words.

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE (trying to comfort Aguosta)

Let me trust you a secret, Francisco, my friend. Gatito Inmeegrante's real name is Joaquin Gatito Migran. You see. I trust you, my friend... I will have a word with Joaquin. It's not fair that he allows Groul to treat you like this...

AGUOSTA (begging, with a wide smile showing his gratitude)

No, no, no! That would ruin everything. Gatito would retreat because of Groul. You have to do it like I told you, as if you had taken Rodolfo's call instead of me!

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE (smiling back after one last hesitation)

Okay, but I'll see that you get the credit after all this is over.

AGUOSTA

Thank you, my friend! You won't regret it!

## SEQUENCE 72

223. CUT TO: EXT.: NEW WAREHOUSE'S FRONT, at DAY. Gatito's guys making guard let the member of the Miyaff Committee pass and Groul and Meau greet him as he get closer to the front door.

CUT TO: INT.: NEW WAREHOUSE'S MAIN ROOM. Gatito is sat at the table reading reports.

The member of the Miyaff Committee enters the room. Gatito stands up and smiles at the old dog. Rachy is at his side, her elbows resting on the table, with an expression both funny and bored.

GATITO

Hey! What's up?

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE

I was at the telephone and I got a message from Rodolfo. He said that he went to see Sanderf and that Sanderf said that he would meet you both at the tower in Freedom Plaza today at noon; that it was urgent.

GATITO (somewhat surprised)

At Freedom Plaza? But he's supposed to be at a joint session of Congress at that time...

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE

He said that that's part of his plan to present a bill for immigration reform; that he's going to be there at noon because they're going to make a recess at about that time. He said that you have to be there at twelve o'clock sharp; that Sanderf has questions about your document and that he is basing his bill on it...

GROUL

I don't like this...

MEAU

I don't either.

GATITO (hesitant for a moment)

But we've been waiting for this moment for years. If he's there and I'm not... we might lose our chance... after all the hard work and pain we all have put on this.

GROUL

We're going with you then.

Meau nods to second him.

GATITO

No. We have to move tonight and you have to be here to organize our friends when they arrive. Remember that the busses are going to leave them in Nayak and that from there they'll have to come to Miyaff by train.

MEAU

But Gatito, we...

GATITO

No. We have to move tonight.

RACHY (somewhat worried now)

I'm going with you.

GATITO

No, Rachy. I need you to help me here. We have to move tonight.

Rachy say nothing but seems to accept GATITO's decision reluctantly.

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE

Sanderf will meet Rodolfo and you inside the tower. There should not be visitors at that time. That's what Rodolfo said.

GATITO

Okay, that means I have to leave right now. I want to arrive with enough time to check the area. I'm going to the bathroom to make sure I look presentable.

Then Gatito leaves the room. Groul, Meau and Rachy look worried.

224. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE'S MAIN ROOM, SOON AFTER. The member of the Miyaff Committee is sat at the table and Rachy offers him some refreshment. Gatito, who is getting ready to leave, gives Groul final instructions as they cross the frame of the door. Then Rachy pulls Gatito by the jacket.

RACHY (somewhat afraid, kissing Gatito)

Good luck, troublemaker...

GATITO

I'll bring you an ice cream cone and a balloon in my way back.

SEQUENCE 73

225. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE'S MAIN ROOM, ONE HOUR LATER. Rachy is bringing refreshments to Groul, Meau and others, who are sweating due to all the work involved in the packing of their belongings. Then somebody knocks at the door.

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE

I'll open the door. Let me do at least that.

The old dog opens the door and sees Rodolfo in front of him, smiles.

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE

I gave Gatito your message.

RODOLFO (with a confused grin on his face)

What message?

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE (sharing now Rodolfo's confusion)

Your message, the one you left when you called this morning to Miyaff...

RODOLFO (alarmed now)

I have not called anybody this morning, dog.

Groul and Meau surround the old dog, who is beginning to look nervous and is now grabbing a chair as his legs look weak.

GROUL (excited, yelling)

Did you receive that message?

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE (broken, stuttering)

N-N-No... It was Francisco... but he swore that he had talked to you, that you had recognized him from the days you were at the Dancing Doggies...

RACHY (with moist eyes, panicking)

No! It can't be...! Rodolfo, please get him. Please, Rodolfo. I'm... with his child.

GROUL (yelling at the old dog)

What Francisco?

MEMBER OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE (sobbing now)

Francisco Aguosta. Francisco Aguosta...

GROUL

I'll kill that fucker...

RODOLFO (alarmed)

Groul, I'll go for him. Meau, we have to warn the others, those who are coming from the neighboring states. Groul, please, evacuate everybody right now.

MEAU (pleading)

I'll go with you, Rodolfo

RODOLFO

No, Meau. I might have to get inside some public buildings. I can move faster alone. Go see that the volunteers don't have a surprise at the train station.

MEAU (reluctantly nodding)

Then I'll help here a few minutes more with the evacuation before going to the train station.

RODOLFO (nodding)

And Rachy... Where is she?

CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE's MAIN ROOM. The door is open.

**SEQUENCE 74**

226. CUT TO: EXT.: MIYAFF TRAIN STATION. Rodolfo is arriving. He's panting. Rodolfo is panting and sweating when he reaches the Miyaff train station.

VOICE IN OFF

The guards had seen Rachy running in direction to the train station. Rodolfo concluded that Rachy should be in her way to Freedom Plaza. But by the moment he arrived, a train had just left, most probably with Rachy inside.

CUT TO: INT.: MIYAFF TRAIN STATION, PLATFORM. Rodolfo, impatient barks and moves from one side to the other of the train platform. Then he sees the light showing up at the end of the tunnel. The train is coming.

227. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE's MAIN ROOM. Gatito's guys repack what's most important in eight backpacks. Then Alfguau turns to the door to call the guards positioned at the perimeters when he hears somebody banging at the door.

VOICE OF GUARD (desperate)

It's me! It's me! Run! They're here!

That's when they hear the shots. Then they hear the yelling of the immigration police.

MEAU (to Alfguau)

There's nothing we can do for him! Run!

A small explosion follows and the door falls. The five of them run through a corridor towards the back room. Then Groul closes behind him one of the doors connecting the corridor with the back room.

GROUL (pointing with his hand to Alfguau as he speaks to Meau)

Meau, help him. I'll stop them here.

Meau doesn't pay attention and keeps running. Then they open the last door connecting the corridor to the back room and Groul picks up a sledgehammer.

GROUL (yelling at Meau)

Fuck! Do as I say!

MEAU (alarmed)

Don't be stupid! No!

GROUL

We don't have time, Meau. Help him!

Meau (with moist eyes) nods and grabs Alfguau's wrist. Then Meau closes and locks the door behind him. Groul returns to the corridor with the sledgehammer on his hands and hits the wall. The blocks of bricks and cement begin to pile at his feet. Soon after, another short explosion ensues, bringing to the floor the door of the corridor in front of him in the middle of a cloud of dust. Then tired, panting and dusty Groul sees before him many members of the immigration police coming from behind the dust, approaching him.

Groul picks up the biggest blocks of the debris piled at his feet and begins throwing them at the immigration police as hard and as fast as he could, impacting those who are closer to him. Now he doesn't seem tired anymore. And then Groul hears and simultaneously

feels the shots, 3 of which impact him in the chest. Groul falls on his knees as he looks at the door he had made his mission to defend. And soon he can't see any longer the members of the immigration police running around him. And when that happens he can only see Raul Aarf smiling at him, extending him his hand. Raul holds his hand pulls him as everything disappears before Groul's eyes.

#### SEQUENCE 75

228. CUT TO: EXT.: FRONT OF STORE IN MIYAFF. ONE OF GATITO'S GUYS, panting, falls before the Head of the Miyaff Committee.

HEAD OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE (alarmed)

What happens? (Turning to his assistants) Bring him water!

(Turning back to Gatito's guy) Come on, you come from

Gatito's, don't you? Come on! Breathe! Breathe!

A cat and a dog break into the room as they jump the stairs from the second floor.

GATITO'S GUY

Aguosta... Where is... Aguosta?

HEAD OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE

He's not here. I assumed he and the old dog had gone to take a break, to have something to eat. Has something happened to them?

GATITO'S GUY

Aguosta... Where is... Aguosta?

The cat brings him a pillow for his head but Gatito's guy refuses the pillow.

HEAD OF THE MIYAFF COMMITTEE

Please, answer. Has something happened to them?

GATITO'S GUY (with rage, bitterness, and moist eyes)

Aguosta has betrayed us... They're going to ambush Gatito...

#### SEQUENCE 76

229. CUT TO: INT.: WAREHOUSE'S BACK ROOM. Meau pulls the box behind him, hiding the secret escape exit just when the immigration police break into the room.

MEAU (with pained eyes, in his mind)

*Groul, my friend, rest in peace; at last, rest.*

230. CUT TO: INT.: DARK SEWERS. Meau guides the rest, making as little noise as possible. And finally he is outside the tunnel and can see the forest. He watches at his right first and then at his left and saw nobody.

MEAU (whispering to the rest)

Run to the forest!

They begin to run when they hear voices from behind them and voices from the members of the immigration police who are now emerging from behind the darkness and from behind the trees, pointing at them with their rifles.

IMMIGRATION POLICE

Freeze!

One of the members of the group tries to get back to the sewage system but two shots stop him. Now members of the immigration police are handcuffing them. Meau can see the truck coming for them and his fallen friend dragging his body to the entrance of the sewage only to receive a third shot on the back of the head.

#### SEQUENCE 77

231. CUT TO: INT.: BUS bringing GATITO's VOLUNTEERS to some train station in Nayak. They are chatting. They see that one of the buses bringing volunteers back to Miyaff has already arrived and that the volunteers are in their way to the trains.

CUT TO: INT.: LOBBY OF TRAIN STATION. One of Gatito's guys (female) notices that the train station is almost deserted and frowns. Then, as the second of the four buses is arriving to the station, she can see trucks coming from different directions, surrounding the other two buses that are waiting in line to get in front of the main door of the train station. Suddenly members of the immigration police are yelling at the buses, pointing their rifles to the drivers through the windshields and ordering the occupants to descend with their arms over their heads. The few who try to break the police cordon are beaten by the members of the immigration police with the butts of their rifles.

232. CUT TO: INSIDE TRAIN WAGON. Those coming in the first bus are trapped inside the train cars. And, as soon as the cars of the train stop and their doors are opened, a cloud of members of the immigration police storm over them, pushing them inside the cars, from which the volunteers only leave after being handcuffed and leashed.

CUT TO: EXT.: TRAIN STATION. The volunteers are pushed to the trucks that are waiting for them outside the station.

233. CUT TO: INT.: IMMIGRATION POLICE's TRUCKS. The immigrants seem disheartened or in shock.

#### SEQUENCE 78

234. CUT TO: INT.: MIYAFF TRAIN STATION. Rodolfo is impatient in his car at Miyaff station, cursing everything crossing his mind. Then he opens the window trying to see what is stopping his car. He extends his neck and part of his body, as much as he can but he can't see anything. Then he stands up and asks the other passengers (inaudible) and then returns to his seat.

SOME PASSENGER's VOICE (in Rodolfo's mind, BLURRY)

There must have been an accident.

At last the wagon begins to move again.

#### SEQUENCE 79

235. CUT TO: EXT.: FREEDOM PLAZA. Some residents of Nayak are walking their children, taking photographs, talking. Before Gatito's eyes the tower raises imposing above everybody and everything else. The spectator area seems equally innocuous. Then Gatito notices that some workers are testing the microphones at the luxury box, at the opposite end of the tower and at other minor boxes set in the spectator area. The workers seem indifferent to him. Outside the plaza the trees seemed equally indifferent to him as well as to the rest of the passersby.

The tower has a big clock. Gatito sees that it's ten minutes before noon. He then turns to the tower.

236. CUT TO: INT.: TOWER. Gatito notices that there's nobody else. Then he approaches the closest window and only then can see the immigration police coming towards the tower. Gatito panicks, then rushes to the main door, a thick metallic door, and locks himself inside using the door barricade bar. Soon after, he can hear the banging on the door.

VOICE BEHIND THE DOOR

Joaquin Gatito Migran, Gatito Inmeegrante, open the door!

The banging on the door resumes. Gatito screens the area. There isn't a way to the basement from that side of the tower. Then he runs upstairs to the top of the tower leaving behind the yelling of his persecutors. A few seconds later he's at the tenth and last floor of the tower. He is panting now. Then he leans out of the window and sees that the police cordon is dissolving and now there are dozens of members of the immigration police at the door of the tower and surrounding it at close distance.

Many residents of Nayak are now congregating at the spectator areas. Gatito now notices the microphone he has at his side and the speakers set under the window. The banging and yelling at the main door continues. Then Gatito notices that the door of the small room of the tenth floor where he is also has a barricade bar so he locks the door.

Then Gatito looks everywhere trying to find anything he could use. And then he notices the movement at the luxury box in front of him, at the other end of Freedom Plaza.

#### SEQUENCE 80

237. CUT TO: EXT.: NAYAK TRAIN STATION. Rachy, shaking, desperate exits the station, looks around for a second and begins to run on her four limbs. Seeing her despair, the passersby move at the sides of the street to not block her pass. She can't see their faces. Soon after, she looks exhausted.

#### SEQUENCE 81

238. CUT TO: INT.: TENTH FLOOR OF THE TOWER. Gatito hears somebody testing the microphones at the luxury box. He looks disheartened when he hears the voices of Tancruarf and Kruorf.

239. CUT TO: INT.: LUXURY BOX.

KRUORF (with his two assistants)

Bringing Migran was always part of the plan. More, the trucks of the immigration police will here in Freedom Plaza in a matter of minutes with Gatito's followers caged in boxes. We'll force the doors of the tower as soon as the boxes with the prisoners arrive and everybody will have to see that your victory is now complete, sir, before you leave for the joint session of Congress with the news of your triumph.

TANCRUARF (smirking)

So he is over there, at the tower...

Everybody at Freedom Plaza now can hear the noise of the engines of several trucks coming.

#### SEQUENCE 82

240. CUT TO: EXT.: SOME STREET OF DOWNTOWN MIYAFF. Rachy, exhausted, falls on her knees and cries without tears. Immediately she gets up again and begins to run again. But she falls again soon after. Her torn pants show her scratched knees. Her vision turns BLURRY for moments. She is breathing heavily now but begins to run again on her four legs.

#### SEQUENCE 83

241. CUT TO: EXT.: FREEDOM PLAZA. Tancruarf's voice begins to fill Freedom Plaza through the speakers. His assistants start recording the event.

TANCRUARF (solemn)

Dear friends of Nayak, our long war against the criminal immigrant gangs has finally come to an end as we are, at this

moment, surrounding the leader of those criminal organizations. With the arrest of Gatito Inmeegrante, the citizens of Nayak will at last be able to sleep in peace.

CUT TO: EXT.: TOWER. The immigration police break the lock of the main door and storm inside the building.

242. CUT TO: INT.: TENTH FLOOR OF THE TOWER. Gatito can feel the sounds of them rushing upstairs in their way to the tenth floor. And, a few seconds later, he can hear the voice of one of Chief Kruorf's assistants at the other side of the door. That's when Gatito can see from the window six trucks entering Freedom Plaza with several cages on their beds. And, soon after, he can see the prisoners in the cages.

#### TANCRUARF

This time we have hit this organization thoroughly. People of Nayak, in those cages you can see the lieutenants of this criminal, whose names are Groul, Meau, and Alfguau, just to mention a few, and the animals who followed them in their hideous activities. And from that tower, in front of us, soon our immigration police will be extracting Gatito Inmeegrante, who then will join his accomplices and finally face justice.

#### VOICE IN OFF

Thus, even though Groul was already dead by that moment, he was included in Tancruarf's list. The names, though, resonated in Gatito's mind. They knew who the members of his group were by name. They even knew their names. Then he wondered if any of his friends had been able to escape. And, as a merciless blow, another question assaulted him: Where was Rachy?

And now, from the luxury box, with a triumphant smile on his face, Tancruarf looked like a master of ceremonies announcing the numbers of his best show. His moment had at last come. And as Tancruarf was finishing introducing his friends to the public, an impotent Gatito could hear again the voice of the deputy at the other side of his door, calling him by name a few feet from there, just at the other side of the door.

#### KRUORF's DEPUTY

Migran, this is over! Open the door! I'm the deputy of Chief Kruorf. We have already broken into the warehouse. All your accomplices are on our hands. Look through the window! We even have the female of name Rachy and we're going to trial her as your accomplice. By the moment she gets out of prison, she will be as old as Chief Hagel... unless we decide to trial her for treason, of course. That's Infamous Hanging. We know about the *rondas* too. We know about the committee of Miyaff. We even know about your exit tunnel from the warehouse to the sewage system! Joaquin Gatito, accept it! You lost. You brought this on yourself.

Gatito, startled, has to lean on the frame of the window to stay on his feet. Then Gatito turns to the door. The police are trying to break the lock.

VOICE IN OFF

Thus, as he tried to move from the framework of the window, Gatito felt the floor disappearing under his feet. The faces of Rachy and his friends came to his mind in consecutive flashes. He imagined the children asking in vain for their fathers; the parents being told that their sons would never come back ever again... And all because one day they had made the terrible mistake of trusting some Gatito Inmeegrante, the same one who had once made them believe that everything could be different. He imagined Rachy in one of those cages, crying. Then the door distracted his attention. That door would fall any moment.

And it was at that moment that he came to a conclusion. It was too late for him and his friends but maybe not for Rachy.

Gatito tests a microphone and finds that it's working. He sees that the spectator areas of Freedom Plaza are full.

GATITO (at the microphone)

Tancruarf, you know I'm not a criminal; that those animals you have caged on those trucks are not criminals. Their only fault has been to have been born in the wrong country, in the wrong family, in the wrong caste... But I know that nothing I say will change our fate. At least leave the female, Rachy, out of this. I deceived her about who I am. She's guilty of nothing, not even of what you consider a crime. And she's a citizen. You don't need her...

At that moment the door finally yields to the pressure and falls. Gatito sits on the frame of the window facing the door and many members of the immigration police enter the room. Chief Kruorf's deputy raises an arm to make all his animals stop.

GATITO (still with the microphone on his hands)

You took my homeland, my family and my friends. I have nothing left.

Then Gatito closes his eyes, opens his arms and lets his body fall behind him.

VOICE IN OFF

A moment of horror ensued. He felt his feet abandoning the ironic safety of the window. He felt the wind mocking him and the air oppressing his body, pulling it down.

In an instant Rachy and his dreams of her were no more.

In an instant the frightened and hopeful faces of his parents saying goodbye from a train platform in the Northern Country were no more.

In an instant the committed, filled with illusions faces of his friends, who had trusted him so much for so long, were no more.

In an instant the afternoon he met Rodolfo years ago, the day they talked about Senator Sanderf for the first time, was no more.

In an instant that afternoon he saw Rachy holding her ice cream cone and her balloon, her naughty smile, was no more.

Then suddenly he felt the most unbearable pain, the worst he had ever felt.

And then even that pain was no more; just darkness.

Then everything went away.

And, as a small pool of blood began to surround Gatito's body in front of the tower, a female rushed in Freedom Plaza, desperately running in her four legs.

#### SEQUENCE 84

243. CUT TO: INT.: DOWNTOWN NAYAK TRAIN STATION, PLATFORM. Rodolfo exits the wagon and watches the clock. It's 12:35 PM. He begins asking others animals in the platform (inaudible).

#### PASSERBY

The immigration police have been making a raid against gang members. That's what the police have been saying anyway.

#### VOICE IN OFF

Thus Rodolfo realized that whatever had happened at Freedom Plaza, it had already happened. There was nothing he could do to change anything there, but Congress was close from there and, if he still had any chance to help, it had to be there. He knew that security at Congress was much tighter than at the offices of Senator Sanderf, where his friend worked, but he had no other alternative. So he decided to run to Congress and to call his friend, who at that moment had to be at the small office Sanderf had in the building or with the senator. Senator Sanderf had to be in the joint session. But he had to do something to get him out of there. This time Sanderf would have to do something or everything would be lost.

244. CUT TO: EXT.: DOWNTOWN NAYAK TRAIN STATION. Rodolfo exits the station and begins to run the twenty blocks that separate him from the building of Congress. He could see as flashes the faces of the residents moving out of his way, some of them somewhat startled, some of them laughing, all of them ignoring the anguish in his heart.

245. CUT TO: EXT.: CONGRESS. Panting, Rodolfo finally reaches one of the side doors of Congress, where the guards, alarmed by the way he looks, point their rifles at him.

#### RODOLFO (raising his hands)

I'm... friend of Sanderf's... chief of staff. Please... it's an emergency.

#### GUARD #1 (yelling)

Documents!

#### RODOLFO (carefully handing them to the guard)

I'm a friend of Senator Sanderf's Chief of Staff. This is an emergency, please. Give me with him.

#### GUARD #1

We heard you the first time.

GUARD #1 turns to the guard post with his documents. The other keeps pointing his rifle at him. GUARD #2, who is still pointing his rifle at him, seems almost amused eyes. Then GUARD #3 comes to the guard post from inside the building. Guard #1 comes back and makes a signal with his hand to Guard #2, who is still pointing his rifle at Rodolfo.

GUARD #1

He's good!

Then Guard #2 brings the sling of the rifle back to his shoulder.

GUARD #3 (handing Rodolfo his documents back with a severe expression)

He's coming... And next time, use the front door.

Rodolfo nods. Then his friend appears by the door.

CHIEF OF STAFF

What happens dog?

Rodolfo grabs his arm and pulls him a few feet away from the door and the guards and tells him what had happened (inaudible). The Chief of Staff looks incredulous first and then concerned and even grimaces.

CHIEF OF STAFF (trying to collect himself)

Okay Rodolfo, calm down! I think we can still fix this. Sanderf can always open an investigation about what's happening at Freedom Plaza and now that he has his prestige, Ateh the Liar cannot block the vote for an investigative commission. At least that would guarantee the lives of Gatito and his friends. He would have to move the session over there but... he will know that if he fails, everything for what we have worked so hard to build will be lost. Wait here!

The Chief of Staff is going to return to the building when Rodolfo grabs his arm.

RODOLFO

Dog, I have to go to Freedom Plaza! Anyway, there's nothing else I can do to help here. And Gatito's girlfriend might be already there. It's all now on your hands. I'll see you there.

CHIEF OF STAFF (dropping his eyes)

Be careful, dog.

Rodolfo then let his arm go and sees his friend rushing inside the building. And then Rodolfo turns his back on the guards and begins running towards Freedom Plaza.

**SEQUENCE 85**

246. CUT TO: EXT.: FREEDOM PLAZA. Rachy stops on her heels. Then, with desperate eyes, begins to run to the body surrounded by a pool of blood.

**SEQUENCE 86**

247. CUT TO: INT.: CONGRESS. The Chief of Staff approaches Sanderf and speaks to his ear. Sanderf frowns. He honestly had not been expecting something like this but he had to think fast, now. The suggestion of his chief of staff was good though and, at this point, it didn't look as if he had any alternative if he wanted to save Gatito, if it was still possible to save him. Of course, Sanderf didn't know that by that moment there was nothing he could do to save him.

SANDERF (standing up)

Speaker Tayarih, I request permission to take the floor.

Tayarih ignores him. Yet, the eyes of Sanderf's colleagues begin to turn to him because Sanderf refuses to seat.

SANDERF

Speaker Tayarih, I request permission to take the floor.

Tayarih offers the right to speak to some other senator.

SANDERF (raising his voice)

I invoke my prestige! I want to address Congress! It's my right!

Tayarih reluctantly nods.

SANDERF

Dear colleagues, hereby I salute the Congress of our beloved country and use my prestige for the first time. Right now there are events evolving in Freedom Plaza that are going to be fundamentally important for the future of our country. I invoke my prestige to put a motion to vote to move this joint session of Congress to Freedom Plaza and to extend that invitation to the governors here in attendance.

Then Sanderf stares at his colleagues.

TAYARIH (with an astonished face)

Is this serious, senator? We can't move a joint session of Congress to Freedom Plaza just like that, especially when you are not giving any plausible reason for us to do that!

SANDERF

Then I invoke my whole prestige here. If Congress passes a motion to censor me after this, I will lose my prestige. But this is a matter of such importance that I am willing to take that risk. I want a vote on my motion to move the joint session to Freedom Plaza now. I'll explain myself in more detail once we're there. There's no time to lose, dear colleagues, please!

TAYARIH (after some hesitation)

Senator Sanderf, I don't want you to make excuses later, to say that you feel persecuted or excluded because we rejected your motion so I myself am going to vote for it. But I don't need to tell you that if you're disturbing this session of Congress for no good reason, especially when we have among us the governors of all the states of the union, there'll be consequences.

SANDERF (nodding)

I do.

Then Congress votes for Sanderf's motion and Tayarih speaks to his assistants, yet he is staring at Sanderf with a smirk.

VOICE IN OFF

He would have to choose very carefully his words from now on, especially because he would have to convince enough senators and members of the house that an investigative commission on the abuses of Tancruarf had merits and that the prisoners required special protection outside the jurisdiction of the immigration police. He then would turn Gatito into a witness,

into the archetypical case of an immigrant who was the perfect opposite of the stereotypes Tancruarf had sold to everybody all this time to justify his manipulation first of the justice system and then of the whole government of Nayak. He then would call Chief Hagel to give testimony about the inexistent criminal record of Joaquin Gatito Migran and about the anarchy sponsored by Tancruarf at the border to get the gangs to do as he wished. He knew very well that immigrants were not a priority for anybody in that building. He knew that that was a suicide mission. But he had no alternative. He had to buy time for Gatito. He just had to find the words.

### SEQUENCE 87

248. CUT TO: EXT.: FREEDOM PLAZA. Rachy approaches Gatito's body with slow steps and incredulous eyes. She falls on her knees and hugs his body. Then she begins to wail and her wail somehow reaches all the attendants (PAN TO the contrite faces of the attendants), all the corners of Freedom Plaza, even those who were farther from her.

#### VOICE IN OFF

And, as this happened, in the spectator areas many animals remembered Tancruarf's declarations the day Tancruarf was interviewed by Rehm. He had scoffed and said that it was unimaginable that, under pressure, immigrants would end up committing suicide because they were '*not like us.*' And, as the animals in the cages over the beds of the trucks started to cry, the attendants began to show an uneasiness nobody had expected.

### SEQUENCE 88

249. CUT TO: EXT.: ONE ENTRANCE TO FREEDOM PLAZA. Rodolfo reaches Freedom Plaza at last and his moist turn moist. He stops on his heels. And then he notices the trucks where he guesses Gatito's friends are. Then he frowns and steps forward with increasing determination to one of the open microphones.

#### RODOLFO

Everything is lost! Everything is lost! Gatito Inmeegrante... Gatito Inmeegrante was no gang leader. He was a nice, intelligent cat who only wanted to live like you, love like you... His only sin was to have been born in the wrong country, in the wrong family. (PAN TO SPECTATOR AREAS, where many attendants are now turning to him. Rodolfo seems increasingly angry now and his voice breaks) What the fuck did he do to you...? I know he would've given you all his best if you had given him a chance to be happy and... instead you elected that monster because that monster seduced you, told you what you wanted to hear, lured you into believing that all your problems would somehow be solved if only you denied that cat the right to be happy, the right to at least live in peace... (Rodolfo is crying now and has to make a pause) You have now destroyed his life and the live of the female who loved him. I always loved this country and now... that I see your real faces, I damn you! I hope

you are happy with what your monster has reaped for you! (Then Rodolfo takes his fake documents, torn them before everybody and throw them to the plaza, which now stays silent) I risked my life everyday with those fake papers to give you my best despite your rejection. I don't want them anymore with me. I'm tired of you...

Then Rodolfo leans on the base of the microphone and sobs. Rodolfo stays there mumbling. Three members of the immigration police run to him and, once there, one of them pick up the pieces of forgeries from the floor as evidence and the other two handcuff him. The public begins to protest against the immigration police but Kruorf's animals pay no attention and drag Rodolfo to one of the cages over the beds of the trucks and push him inside. Still sobbing, his eyes lost, Rodolfo offers no resistance. The protest of the attendants increases its volume and Tancruarf has to make repeated calls to the attendees.

#### TANCRUARF

Dear friends, the police reports back my statement, Gatito Inmeegrante was actually a gang leader responsible of multiple crimes against the citizens of Nayak.

The protest grows only louder though.

#### SEQUENCE 89

250. CUT TO: EXT.: SPOT WHERE GATITO AND RACHY ARE. Rachy's eyes are fixed on Gatito's. Then she closes her eyes and wails again, penetrating every corner of the plaza in a continuous painful note.

CUT TO: INT.: LUXURY BOX.

KRUORF (pulling Tancruarf by an arm)

Sir, adjourn this assembly or whatever you were expecting it to be. They are expecting you at the joint session of Congress anyway.

Tancruarf looks afraid for the first time but finally nods. But at that exact moment the federal army is taking positions inside Freedom Plaza and some soldiers are clearing part of the spectator area for the members of Congress and governors who are coming to Freedom Plaza at Sanderf's request. That's when Sanderf sees Rachy leaning on Gatito's body. Then he is approached by his Chief of Staff.

CHIEF OF STAFF (disheartened, dropping his eyes)

Rodolfo has been arrested. He is in one of those cages. They found out that his documents were forgeries. Gatito... Gatito is that body at the side of the tower, the one over which the female is crying.

#### TAYARIH

Well, now that we are installed, Senator Sanderf can take the floor. But, as we have Governor Tancruarf with us, and as he, as governor of Nayak, is our host, I yield to him the conduction of this joint session. Senator Sanderf, please go ahead. Explain yourself.

Sanderf, saddened, turns again to the female wailing over her dead lover. Then he turns to Tayarih with determination. Tayarih is looking back at him with the same smirk.

SANDERF (sighing)

Citizens of Nayak, I'm Senator Sanderf. I represent the second electoral district of Nayak. I must confess that I was not expecting this. In my way here I was hoping I could introduce Joaquin Gatito Migran to you. Actually I have with me the document he prepared for us all. If you could read it, you could see how much he wanted to give his best to you, to live with you, maybe to share an afternoon with you at the park, looking at your children playing with his.

Still, all these years immigrants like him have been defamed by governor Tancruarf, forced into a mock trial before the public opinion without a chance to defend themselves, stripped of a chance to share with you all they are; all he was... Did you know that, no matter what Tancruarf has told you all this time, Gatito encouraged his immigrant friends to study to become better neighbors... for you; that he organized his immigrant friends to fight the gangs that preyed on them... and on you; that he taught them to love you no matter how many times you supported the governor who hated them?

Well, that governor, Michelle Tancruarf, in his sick obsession with immigrants like Joaquin Gatito Migran, didn't mind deceiving you, corrupting your institutions and even using the same criminal gangs that preyed both on you and on them. He stripped the Nayak police of its powers and created the immigration police on top of the legitimate Nayak police with a crony of his as its head. He purged the judiciary and the district attorney's office of all those who could oppose him. And, guess what, put more of his cronies in their place. He also created a black list for those business owners who didn't give money for his campaign and looked at the other side when his financial supporters violated every possible regulation in the books. And he ruined the political careers of those who didn't sign his pledges.

Worst of all, he poisoned your minds. He lured you into believing that if you put all the blame of everything that is wrong in your lives on those immigrants, you could quit on your personal responsibility because now you would have a scapegoat to blame instead. He bet that if he went after defenseless immigrants, you wouldn't mind because you had already paid for that delusion with your souls. And you know what? If you don't look right now at that female crying over the dead body of the male she loved and break with that evil spell, you'll live for the rest of your lives knowing that you preferred to live with a lie, pretending that the lie was true, and the memory of her tears will never let you come to terms with yourselves.

That's why in this moment I'm invoking my whole prestige to bring a vote for the motion to create an investigative commission on the crimes committed by Governor Michelle Tancruarf, the crimes that I have mentioned in my accusation, and to give the case on the crimes that may result from this investigation to a special prosecutor.

Sanderf then turns to Tayarih, who is scoffing.

TAYARIH

Well, Senator Tancruarf, you have here made a case for... I'd say instead that you have just shared with us your *opinion* of why you think that Governor Tancruarf's policies are polemic... in your opinion, but inquiring about policy based on a difference of opinion is not what investigative commissions are for. You have presented no specific charges or proof against Governor Tancruarf to merit a criminal investigation, a criminal investigation that is the only thing that could trigger an investigative commission. And you have presented no proof leading in that direction. As a senator who has spent enough years in the Senate to earn your prestige, you should know this very well. I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to apologize to this Congress and to the governors who are our guests here for your inexcusable behavior.

SANDERF (defiant)

I have made a list of specific charges: corruption, favoritism, cronyism, manipulation of our justice system... and I want a vote on my motion. And I can tell you already that I plan to summon Chief Hagel as a witness to the hearings.

TAYARIH (shaking his head condescendingly)

Investigative Commissions can only be formed to investigate, that's where their name comes from, real specific crimes and you have not given enough details of the crimes you want to investigate. You have just made a list of generic accusations. I'm waiting for your apology, Senator Sanderf!

## SEQUENCE 90

251. CUT TO: INT.: LUXURY BOX. TANCRUARF seems paralyzed.

CHIEF KRUFORF (talking to one of his deputies)

Remove that female and the body of that cat from the premises of Freedom Plaza. Now!

252. CUT TO: EXT.: SPECTATOR AREA. Deputy Jon can see the growing anguish on his boss's face, his moist eyes, as he hears the debate and the wailing of the female. But then Hagel raises his old eyes with some renewed determination and walks to the nearest microphone, grabs it with fury and takes it close to his lips. And for a moment no words come out of his mouth.

CHIEF HAGEL (closing his eyes, issuing a heartrending scream)

Enooooogh!

All the eyes at Freedom Plaza come to rest on him. And Deputy Jon, as he sees that the members of the immigration police are approaching the female from both ends of the plaza, calls the members of the Nayak Police Department at his disposal.

DEPUTY JON (yelling)

Protect the female! Don't let the immigration police take her!  
Now!

The members of the Nayak Police Department immediately run through the plaza and make a cordon around Rachy, who keeps wailing and hugging Gatito's body as if nothing else is happening in the world. When the immigration police arrives an argument breaks between the two forces, both unyielding, both pointing their rifles at each other.

CHIEF HAGEL

I've been a conservative all my life and I've been proud of it... until now. Now there's no bottom for my pain... and for my shame. And the worst of all is that I cannot forget the first day I allowed all this to happen, the first day I caved in to this monster, hoping to make things right later... And now I am an empty shell, a shadow of my former self...

I still can hear at night the gagged screams of those innocent young cats who were strangled and burned alive just to please the sadism of this monster... his frantic eyes before a spectacle that could only give pleasure to somebody like him... and I helped him with my silence.

(Now Hagel is struggling with his sobbing as he tries to resume his testimony)

I worked so hard to make of the Nayak Police Department something I could look at with pride in my old years... only to one day let this monster corrupt it and push aside all those who did not abide by his whims; only to look at the other side as he tortured for days that big black cat, Miac was his name, and then executed him with that Infamous Hanging, an aberration only a sick mind like his could have created. He was executed with no evidence; with nothing to justify it. In his case, as in the case of those poor cats, the police reports were fabrications! They were murdered... and I took part of it. I let him do this to them... and to me... and now there's no end for my shame...

Then Chief Hagel hugs the pole with the microphone and begins to cry. And the eyes of the attendants turn back to Rachy, still leaning over the body of his lover, whose pain seem to know no end, surrounded by the animals of the Nayak police and the immigration police still arguing around her. And that's when the attendants begin to boo the immigration police and Tancruarf.

253. CUT TO: EXT.: SPECTATOR AREA.

SANDERF

I demand the right to take the floor, Speaker Tayarih!

TAYARIH

You had your chance, senator, and I'm still waiting for your apology.

SANDERF (yelling)

I'm not finished!

TAYARIH

Oh, yes! You are finished, senator and now you are in contempt of this Congress! And now the officer in charge of the soldiers of our federal army will remove you from that microphone!

But the officer in charge of the federal army refuses to obey Tayarih's orders.

OFFICER

I'm afraid a vote is required to use force against a senator, Speaker.

SANDERF (without waiting for Tayarih to let him take the floor)  
I accuse Governor Tancruarf of using his powers to manipulate the administration of justice in the state of Nayak for personal purposes, as a result of what three deaths were caused, as we have just learned from Chief Hagel's testimony. This is a serious offense punishable by Infamous Hanging because as a result of this manipulation not just one but three deaths have been caused. So I'm putting to a vote a motion to form an investigative commission on the participation of Governor Tancruarf in these crimes.

TAYARIH (furious, yelling)

You're out of order, senator!

SANDERF (yelling)

You have to remember that you yourself accepted my amendment to the bill that created the Infamous Hanging. If the abuse of power results in an innocent death, the public functionary who committed the abuse, appointed or elected, will be subject to trial for aggravated abuse of power, which carries a punishment of Infamous Hanging, a paragraph you didn't mind to accept at that time because you might've thought you could use it one day only against your enemies, like the mayors of Miyaff, Rouff and Mewow... but now it's the tears of that female what holds you accountable. I put all my prestige on this! And I want a vote!

ATTENDANTS AT THE SPECTATOR AREAS (chanting)  
Vote! Vote! Vote!

TAYARIH

The death of an immigrant is not a valid condition for the application of that paragraph, senator!

SANDERF (yelling)

The paragraph makes no distinction between immigrants and legal residents or citizens, Speaker. Stop making excuses!

TAYARIH

As this session has degenerated into a riot that might put at risk the integrity of the members of this Congress, I feel compelled to adjourn this session...

SANDERF

You yielded the conduction of this session to the same animal I am accusing of terrible crimes, Tayarih. Have some decency! If you don't call the vote, I'll do it myself!

TAYARIH (afraid)

This session is adjourned!

But nobody moves. Then a governor raises his voice.

LIBERAL GOVERNOR #1

As you know I'm governor of one of the two liberal states that are left in our nation but we all share the same constitution and our constitution says that in a case like this, when the suitability of a governor is questioned and Congress can't reach a decision for any reason, a majority vote of the other governors can settle the difference so, as we seven governors are here, I'm calling to that vote and I'm casting the first vote. I vote for the investigative commission.

VOICE IN OFF

Then the governors of the two most conservative states, the two states at the south of the Southern Country stepped forward to cast their votes. They opposed the commission. And, as the two conservative governors were returning to their seats, the other liberal governor stepped forward to cast his vote.

LIBERAL GOVERNOR #2

I support the commission!

Then Charles and Duke come running to Tayarih and whisper at his ear.

TAYARIH

Governor Tancruarf's deputies have come to me with his vote. There is no rule in the constitution preventing him from voting, even if the charges are against him, so I cast the vote that has been brought to my desk by his assistants. He opposes the commission.

VOICE IN OFF

That was a lie and Sanderf, frowned, knew it. But he didn't want to protest before the vote ended. And if Tayarih wanted something, that was an excuse to disrupt the vote. So the smirk returned to Tayarih's face. Then another conservative governor, a moderate one, stepped forward. And Tayarih knew that the governor was part of the establishment. But even if he voted for the commission, the last governor to cast a vote was a very conservative one and he would never risk the wrath of his constituency voting for the investigation. So when the conservative governor voted for the commission, Tayarih's smirk was still there.

Now, as the last governor stepped forward slowly to cast the last vote, Tayarih kept staring at Sanderf with the same confidence. But when the governor passed by Tayarih's desk, he turned instead to look at the spot where Chief Hagel was still leaning on the pole sustaining the microphone with his eyes closed.

#### LAST CONSERVATIVE GOVERNOR

I am looking at my old friend, Chief Hagel, and it's heartbreaking to me. We were both born in Nayak and we used to hang out together a lot before I moved to the state of which I am now governor. I remember him as a proud conservative who took pride on his hard work, on his discipline and on his values. And I remember how even after life sent us through different paths he used to write to me about his achievements in the Nayak Police Department even more than he used to write to me about his family. And I have never known an animal with more family values than Chief Hagel. And I remember telling my friends that for me the word of Chief Hagel was a guarantee of truth because I've never known a more honest animal in my life. I've never known a tougher and more no-nonsense animal than him either. That's why it pains me to see him like that now. Maybe this vote is going to end my political career but I don't want someday to wake up feeling like him. Knowing him I know that that pain must be unbearable. And I need nothing else but looking at him to convince myself that there are merits for an investigative commission. So my vote is for the commission, Speaker. I yield the floor.

Tayarih seems now paralyzed, in shock.

#### LIBERAL GOVERNOR #1

As there are not precedents for a case like this, right now I'm going to invite my other five colleagues to meet in private with Senator Sanderf, the senator who brought the accusation to our attention, to decide the steps we're going to take...

#### SEQUENCE 91

254. CUT TO: INT.: LUXURY BOX. Tancruarf seems in shock.

KRUORF (yelling at Tancruarf)

Adjourn, imbecile! Adjourn! Adjourn!

Then Kruorf takes Tancruarf by the lapels of his suit, shakes him and pushes him to the microphone. Finally Tancruarf seems to react.

#### TANCRUARF

As I am still conducting this joint session of Congress, and considering the inappropriate circumstances that are preventing it from functioning normally, I adjourn this session and convoke a new session for tomorrow morning, when we will be able to address the interests of our nation with a clearer head and a better attitude. Also, as Governor of Nayak, I inform you that for security reasons we're closing Freedom Plaza for the day, reason

for which the attendants will have to leave the premises at this very moment.

255. CUT TO: EXT.: EXPECTATOR AREA.

TAYARIH

I endorse the governor's decision...

SANDERF

You are in violation of our Constitution, Governor Tancruarf, and, as Speaker Tayarih has disavowed himself by endorsing your position, I put a motion before the commission of governors for your immediate arrest and the arrest of Speaker Tayarih.

256. CUT TO: LUXURY BOX. INT.:

KRUORF (to his deputy)

Send the immigration police to escort the governors and members of Congress out of Freedom Plaza. Now!

But when the members of the immigration police arrive to the part of the spectator area where the commission of governors has met, SANDERF steps forward.

SANDERF (defiantly)

The governors have arrived already to a decision, four to two, to suspend Tancruarf, Tayarih and Kruorf from their powers and arrest them for several violations to the constitution and for as long as the investigation lasts.

The army then forms a wall between the immigration police on one side and the commission of governors and Senator Sanderf on the other, immediately proceeding to arrested the two deputies of who had been Chief Kruorf and to disarm the immigration police. Now Tayarih is being put under arrest. Then the federal army moves to the luxury box to arrest Kruorf, Tancruarf, Duke and Mayor Charles.

TANCRUARF (desperate, crying at Kruorf)

Do something! Do something!

But Kruorf drops his eyes and shows a bitter grin before closing his eyes. Tancruarf is shaking. Now the army bangs at the door.

OFFICER

Governor Tancruarf, open the door!

Then Kruorf opens his eyes and calmly opens the door. He sees as a blurry vision that an officer speaks to him (inaudible) while a soldier handcuffs him, Tancruarf and his assistants.

But the attendants turn again to see Rachy, whose wailing had become weak. Then they hold hands or leaned their heads on the shoulders of their loved ones. Many begin to cry. Then Sanderf puts a motion to let the immigrants captured by the immigration police, who were still in the cages, post bail and go home. And, one by one, each one of Gatito's guy is freed.

As soon as Rodolfo, Meau and Alfguau are freed, followed by the other members of Gatito's group, they respectfully approach the spot where Rachy is still leaning on the body of their leader and friend. Then Rachy stops wailing and turns to them with an anguished, confused silence. They are crying too. Meanwhile, other members of Gatito's group, sobbing as they worked, made an improvised stretcher where they put Gatito's body. At first Rachy resists but then her powerless arms let Gatito's body go and

Rodolfo, Meau and Alguau put it to rest on the stretcher. Then Gatito's group leaves Freedom Plaza in silence, bringing with them the body of their leader.

### SEQUENCE 92

257. CUT TO: INT.: RACHY'S FATHER'S STORE, at DAY. Rodolfo and Meau try to reason with Rachy but she only shakes her head. Gatito's body lies on her bed.

#### VOICE IN OFF

Nevertheless, in what was going to be their way back to Miyaff, Rachy insisted on taking Gatito's body to his father's shop. Yet, once Gatito's body was put to rest on Rachy's bed, she refused to let it go. Rodolfo and Meau tried to reason with her but she didn't let his body go. So Rodolfo and Meau asked their leader's group to understand Rachy's feelings and left. And only after all that they left the body of Gatito with Rachy and continued their way to Miyaff with the empty stretcher, which was still stained by his blood.

(258. CUT TO: EXT.: STREETS OF MIYAFF, A MULTITUDE gathers at both sides of the road while Gatito's friends march with the empty stretcher stained with blood. Three hours later the procession is entering Miyaff. By then the desolating news have already reached Miyaff and Rouff and hundreds of mourners begin to occupy the sides of the streets through which the procession moves forward. Then the best photograph artist of Rouff shows up with moist eyes.

CUT TO: A TUXEDO CAT brings a copy of the photograph Giselle took of Miac and Gatito and gives it to the old leader of Rouff and Giselle.)

And by the time the photograph artist joins the procession, a group of female mourners known as *plañideras* also arrived to present their respects with their singing. Then the old dog and Giselle, who approached the march with the photograph, attached the reproduction to the empty stretcher and the procession resumed. That's when the female mourners moved at the front of the procession singing not words but a constant note everybody could fill with the words that expressed the pain in their hearts the best; a note that excluded no accent or language.

#### PLAÑIDERAS

♪A aaaaa a aaaa♪

♪A aaaaa a aaaa♪

♪A aaaaa a aaaa♪

#### VOICE IN OFF

And even when the dusk approached, the *plañideras* kept singing. Nobody seemed tired. Their hearts were too heavy for that. And some animals brought other animals; and sons brought their parents; and parents brought their smaller children to tell them the story of Gatito Inmeegrante, the illegal cat whose strength seemed to rely only on his love for his female and on his dream that one day he could have a fair chance to be legal in the Southern Country. And in the different conversations at both sides of the street different stories of study circles, of love, of

politics, of friendship, of battles against gangs, of dignity, of hopes fighting against all odds began to shape the legend of Gatito Inmeegrante. For a moment there were no divisions and the only thing that counted was that you had a heart and true feelings in it.

### SEQUENCE 93

*Three days later...*

259. CUT TO: INT.: RODOLFO'S ROOM. It's dark. Rodolfo stares at the ceiling with moist eyes. He looks depressed.

#### VOICE IN OFF

And now on his bed Rodolfo couldn't even remember what he had done at the office during those three days. He just remembered that somehow he seemed to have lost track of everything happening around him and that he didn't care. And when his friend, Sanderf's chief of staff, came to visit him at the office where he worked to bring him news about the progress made by Sanderf on passing immigration reform; to tell him that Sanderf was now interested on having that meeting for which Gatito had waited so long, Rodolfo simply turned him down. He was not interested any more.

(260. CUT TO: EXT.: BUILDING IN NAYAK. Rodolfo is leaving and is intercepted by TWO BIG DOGS)

And then that afternoon, when he was leaving the office, two big dogs approached him. For a moment he thought they might be members of the immigration police; that now that they believed the effect of Gatito's death had waned they were coming back to arrest him. But he didn't care. He looked at them in the eye and waited defiantly for them.

#### BIG DOG #1

Sir... Mister Gustavo, from the Dancing Doggies, would like to have a word with you. He says that it's a matter of the utmost importance.

Rodolfo, angry now, follows the two big dogs to their car.

261. CUT TO: INT.: OFFICE of the DANCING DOGGIES. Rodolfo stares at Gustavo with the same defiance and resentment.

#### RODOLFO

Do you still think you can use goons? Times are changing, Gustavo...

#### GUSTAVO

Give me a couple of minutes and then you'll be able to tell me whatever you want.

Then Rodolfo notices the empty shelves, the boxes on the floor.

#### RODOLFO (yelling)

Gatito was the leader you will never be! He wanted to give so much..., we could have stopped the suffering of so many innocent immigrants... but you always had to do whatever that

bitch Kim told you to do. Are you happy now? His blood is on you! Fuck you and fuck that bitch Kim!

Rodolfo turns to the door ready to leave.

GUSTAVO (dropping his eyes)

Kim is not with us anymore... We had a conversation and she decided... to move forward, to try something different...

RODOLFO (staying by the door, giving Gustavo his back)  
I don't give a shit anymore.

GUSTAVO

I am leaving too. I think it's time for somebody who can do things... different around here. Aren't you curious about whom the new president of the Dancing Doggies is going to be?

RODOLFO (putting his hand on the doorknob)

I couldn't care less about who leads your shitty organization or organizes your choreographies. It's to tell me this that you called me here?

GUSTAVO

You are.

RODOLFO (scoffing)

Do you think I am going to be the new clown of your circus?

Then somebody knocks at the door and Gustavo tells the animal knocking to get in. It was the MOVING CREW.

GUSTAVO

It's not just Kim and me who are leaving. On my desk... your desk... you'll find the signed resignations of the members of the board. You can appoint a provisional board with whoever you want to appoint. My staff is also at your disposal but you can replace whoever you want. For some time you will be free to assemble the team that fits the best whatever you want to do. You can change even the name of the organization if you want. I know you never liked it. It's an idiotic name anyway.

RODOLFO (defiant)

And what makes you think that I'm interested in succeeding you?

GUSTAVO

What makes me think that is that you won't want Gatito's sacrifice to be in vain, will you? Tancruarf was the worst of them all but you know that he's not the only one enemy the immigrants have. Also, Sanderf is pushing for immigration reform based on the paper prepared by Gatito himself, the paper you yourself handed to him through his chief of staff, and that'll make a good immigration reform, but still Sanderf will need some grassroots support. And, after some time, when they don't feel that guilty any more, the same cowards who supported Tancruarf will try to sabotage the immigration reform based on

Gatito's dreams. And you are the best I can think of who can prevent that from happening.

Rodolfo is now looking at the door in silence.

GUSTAVO

Well, it's all set then. Good luck!

Gustavo leaves. Rodolfo is now alone in the office.

#### SEQUENCE 94

262. CUT TO: INT.: SMALL, DARK CELL, ANYTIME. Tancruarf is in his cell, sat at the bed.

VOICE IN OFF

And Tancruarf was wondering how he could reconnect with his loyal officers of the immigration police or with the officers he had by the balls because he had their signed pledges when, for the first time in days, he felt somebody knocking at his cell door. Then he heard the guard unlocking the door and opening it. And Tancruarf jumped from his bed.

The door is opened and six well dressed animals enter the cell.

VOICE IN OFF

He immediately recognized five of them. They were top leaders of his party. If they had come here, it was for a reason. He had all those pledges after all. And he now felt an overwhelming hope. They were coming to rescue him.

The six animals stare at Tancruarf with severity.

TANCRUARF (trying to keep smiling, frowns)

Dear friends, I knew you would come for me; that you would not leave a fellow conservative behind...

Then two ARISTOCRATS, two Collies, step forward.

ARISTOCRAT #1

Are you aware of what you have done to our party?

Tancruarf's attention is now fixed on the one he can't identify, the MAIN ARISTOCRAT, who is staring at him with indescribable hatred. The other five treat him with the utmost respect and deference.

ARISTOCRAT #1 (raising his voice)

Tancruarf, are you listening to me?

TANCRUARF

Y-Yes

ARISTOCRAT #1

Good, because we have no time to lose. We need you to sign a confession for the irregularities that led to the execution of that cat..., Miac, and of the other two. And you're going to declare that the Patriot Party was not responsible for or in any other way backed your actions.

TANCRUARF (smiling with sassy complicity)

Don't worry. I know how to work my way around words...

ARISTOCRAT #1 (upset, raising his voice)

Don't interrupt me! Listen! Sanderf is opening investigation after investigation. To save our party we'll have to support Sanderf on immigration reform and still we won't be able to save many of our leaders...

Tancruarf steps back and his expression changes, looks at the Collie in disbelief.

TANCRUARF

That's impossible! Give me a chance to reconnect with the people of Nayak! I can reverse what happened at Freedom Plaza if you give me a chance!

ARISTOCRAT #2

You don't get it, do you? The people have been revolting during these three days asking for your stupid head! As all the crap of your government is being revealed...

TANCRUARF (desperate)

I still have the Examining Post and the Nayak Daily!

ARISTOCRAT #1 (yelling)

The Examining Post and the Nayak Daily have lost all credibility. Today in Nayak they don't use them even to clean bathrooms! A national newspaper has extended his edition to Nayak and is kicking those two out of the market! You want to know how? They're reporting Sanderf's investigations in special editions. Your stupid pledges are leaked everyday to that newspaper! Your cronies' contracts are being audited! So you have also buried those two pieces of toilette paper that praised you day and night! Now pay attention! We've reached a deal with Sanderf. He will limit the range of his investigations in exchange of us supporting his bill for immigration reform and of you signing that confession. If you sign the confession, you'll go into exile. If you don't, we'll disassociate from you and vote with Sanderf to send your case to the prosecutor recommending that you be executed by Infamous Hanging. You'll be executed in a week!

TANCRUARF (his voice now turned into a broken whisper)  
Kruorf... Tayarih.

ARISTOCRAT #2 (scoffing)

Kruorf and his assistants have already signed confessions assuming responsibility but stating that they were taking orders from you. And Tayarih... he'll probably die in prison. Now you're going to write what I'm going to dictate you. We don't want you to screw this up too!

TANCRUARF (looking beaten, confused, in shock)

I-I can't.... my work...

The main aristocrat begins to growl outraged as he keeps staring at Tancruarf with infinite hatred and is going to speak when an aristocrat cat holds his hands and looks at him pleadingly, as if begging him to stay calmed.

ARISTOCRAT #1

This is business, Tancruarf! You're going to ruin many of our campaign contributors, of our future clients and employers! Fucking Sanderf is going to kill us with the same ammunition you have put at his reach! For your stupid crusade against immigrants you're going to make us pay a huge price! (Then the ARISTOCRAT #1 turns to the others annoyed before turning back at Tancruarf) You know what? It's useless... Well... then we have no more options. We'll try to placate Sanderf voting for immigration reform and... for your execution by Infamous Hanging even though he hasn't asked for your death. But we need to disassociate from you. Many of our leaders will be indicted because they let you drag them into your insanity and we may lose any upcoming election for a generation. Here we're trying to save our party for the next generation...

Aristocrat #1 then turns his back on Tancruarf and the ARISTOCRAT CAT bangs the door to call the guard. Then the guard opens the door and the aristocrat cat clears the way out for the main aristocrat.

TANCRUARF (desperate)

Nooooo! Please! I'll do as you say! I'll do it! I'll do it!

Then the group of aristocrats stays put by the door and Aristocrat #1 turns to him only after the main aristocrat nods dismissively.

ARISTOCRAT #1

Okay, Tancruarf. You're going to write this exactly as I am going to dictate it to you. One more trick, any trick, and I'll ask to be the one who sets you on fire while you hang with your own sadistic invention.

Then the Aristocrat #1 tosses a pen and a paper sheet on the table at Tancruarf's side.

ARISTOCRAT #1

Now seat! And write! 'Citizens of Nayak...'

## SEQUENCE 95

Three days later...

263. CUT TO: BACKYARD OF SOME MILITARY BASE, EARLY MORNING. Tancruarf is led by the guards to the back yard. For a moment he feels afraid and tries to run but the guards drag him and soon he sees Charles, Duke, Kruorf and his two assistants joining him. The sun hurts his eyes now. Then the judge comes out of somewhere behind the light that was blinding him with a piece of paper on his hand but at that moment the presence of the members of the Nayak Police Department who are going to escort them to the limits of the state call his attention even more. Then the police push him inside a bus.

264. CUT TO: DESERT WASTELAND. Tancruarf looks afraid.

OFFICER OF THE NAYAK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Get off of the bus!

Now Tancruarf can see in front of him the forty-feet-high fence he had promised to build in April 6, 1987.

JUDGE

You all, I don't think I need to repeat the sentence or the charges. Do I? The doors will open right now. You'll have five minutes to be out of the reach of the guards at the top of the towers. If they still see you around after those five minutes, they have orders to shoot you dead. If you ever try to come back, the guards have orders to kill you on the spot. We have prepared some bags for you with food and water, which is much more than what you did for the many immigrants you sent to their deaths from this door.

Then the judge turns his back on the condemned and disappears in the building behind the customs post. Only then, as they cross the gates, Tancruarf notices the other five. Then he feels the heavy doors closing behind him.

265. CUT TO: EXT.: SOME OTHER PART OF THE DESERT.

TANCRUARF (more confident now)

Chief Kruorf, I think we should find a safe way north. With the help of the gangs we should be able to find a place to rest while we think our next course of action.

KRUORF (smirking as his two assistants begin to chuckle)

You don't get it, do you? We're going south. We're going to make a detour and then make our way to the two states at the south of the Southern Country.

TANCRUARF (more humble now)

But that route may take two... three weeks. If we go north, we can find a safe place to rest in less than three days...

Now Kruorf and his assistants laugh at him. Charles and Duke, afraid, drop their eyes to the floor.

KRUORF (sarcastic)

It's three weeks and, yeah, I'm sure the gangs are going to be happy to see you now that you've fallen in disgrace, especially after all those times you humiliated their leaders and abandoned them when they asked you for support against the Miyaff vigilantes. We're going south because I have friends there!

So Tancruarf just walk in silence behind the group, accepting the humiliation. But soon the group is going uphill and Tancruarf demands a break. Kruorf and his assistants laugh at him again.

ONE OF KRUORF'S ASSISTANTS

Boss, why don't we just take their bags with food and water and leave them here? They are slowing us down anyway.

KRUORF (still smirking)

No. We may need food on our way south; some meat for once...

Tancruarf stares at Kruorf with horror. He sees the same horror on Charles's and Duke's faces. His assistants then turn to him seeking answers but Tancruarf only steps back and his voice dies in his mouth. Then Kruorf and his assistants see that Tancruarf, Charles and Duke have stopped following them.

KRUORF (turning to one of his assistants)

Relieve the governor from his bag with food and water!

The assistant strips Tancruarf of his backpack and Charles and Duke, resigned to their fate, turn their eyes away from their former boss and follow Kruorf and his assistants uphill.

Tancruarf stays still on his spot, petrified, looking at them in silence. They don't turn to look at him though. Then he sees them disappearing in the distance, at the other side of the hill.

VOICE IN OFF

But Tancruarf had decided that he was not going to die of exposure like an illegal immigrant. He would confess anything Sanderf or the Patriot Party wanted him to confess. He would beg for forgiveness. He would need only one chance to work his way out of this and he was good with words. He would spend the rest of his live in prison like Tayarih if there was no other alternative. But he would not die there. So he took the road back to Nayak as soon as he could. He now could imagine their faces accepting his apology, giving him another chance, letting him in again.

266. CUT TO: EXT.: WALL OF NAYAK. Tancruarf approaches the wall pleading with expecting eyes (inaudible) but the guards at the top of the wall and the towers point at him with their rifles. So Tancruarf begs louder and louder as he walks forward with his arms raised in signal of rendition. And that's when Tancruarf feels the bullets impacting the ground around him, getting closer and closer to him. So, afraid, Tancruarf steps back. A bullet almost hits him, tearing his jacket and leaving a thin stream of blood running over his arm. Then he runs away as fast as he can.

267. CUT TO: EXT.: SOME OTHER PART OF THE DESERT.

TANCRUARF keeps running until he finally stops, panting, thirsty. Then Tancruarf screens the landscape looking for a place to shelter himself but finds none. And then he sees the flies. But when he approaches the object over which the flies are gathering so frantically, he sees that it was the body of an unfortunate immigrant, an old one. His open mouth reveals the agony of his last moments. So he walks away until he sees a big rock and seeks the shelter of its shadow. He is panting now. And his eyes were moist. But at last he was under a protective shade now. And, after a while, with horror he can see the shadow slowly disappearing under his feet. He looks confused and after a few seconds he begins to cry. He looks desperate.

**SEQUENCE 96**

March, 1903...

268. CUT TO: INT.: BACKOFFICE at RACHY's FATHER's STORE. Rachy works with the books litted by a dim light. She looks embittered.

VOICE IN OFF

And Rachy, embittered, decided to reject visitors as well as tokens of repentance, no matter where they came from. She even turned down Rodolfo and Meau, who came to see Gatito's son. Rachy rejected any company but her father's. And her father could only hope that time would heal the wounds of her daughter's soul.

But by March Gatito's son, who looked exactly like him, demanded to be taken to play the park and Rachy could not dissuade him any longer.

### SEQUENCE 97

(269. CUT TO: EXT.: PLAZA IN NAYAK, where a statue has been erected to honor Gatito Inmeegrante)

But for some reason the statue didn't make Rachy feel uncomfortable. On the contrary, to be close to that statue with her son made her feel as if Gatito were somehow there with them too. So she kept bringing the young Joaquin Gatito to play there. Nevertheless, she always warned him about the mean animals of Nayak and forbade him to play with other children. She was always telling him that he should never trust the residents of Nayak, even the children.

And then one afternoon of late March, after the last snows of that winter had melted, she let herself get distracted for an instant with the flowers somebody had left over the snow piled in front of Gatito's statue. And, to her surprise, when she raised her eyes, she could see her kitten running away.

Rachy runs after her son, who keeps running despite all her calls and warnings. And then she can see that he is helping a small kitten who seemed wounded.

RACHY

Gatito, I've told you many times not to run away! And haven't I also told you not to get close to the residents of this city?

YOUNG GATITO (dropping his eyes)

But Mom... I just wanted to be like my dad.

The YOUNG GATITO turns to continue helping the wounded kitten. Rachy, moved by her son's words, walks slowly the short distance separating her from her son and then she gets on her knees and hugs her son and the kitten. And that's when Rachy at last cries. And the young Gatito hugs her mother.

VOICE IN OFF

And then something magic happened, something that had not happened anywhere since that day at Freedom Plaza. A passerby recognized her and put his hand on her shoulder. And the passerby felt her pain and cried with her. But this time Rachy let the hand stay on her shoulder. Then another passerby also recognized her and joined them, putting her hand on her shoulder to share her pain. And her pain was still overwhelming but the tears of the newcomer helped her another little bit. And soon a couple crossing the park stopped and joined them too, putting their hands on the shoulders of the passersby. So they also shared her pain and made it a little less heavy. And soon other passersby, attracted by the powerful feeling that seemed to be coming from that spot, also joined them and put their hands on the shoulders of those who were already there. And that's how, connected by that same growing feeling, the group got larger and

larger all over the park and their hearts could see what their eyes  
had not been able to see all that time.  
That day Rachy felt Gatito was helping her reconcile with life.  
And that's the day Rachy's heart began to heal.

FADE OUT

-----END EPISODE THREE

### SEQUENCES

- SEQUENCE 55: Miac is judged, executed (pp. 122-123)  
SEQUENCE 56: Gatito Inmeegrante! Gatito Inmeegrante! Miac! Miac! (pp. 123-124)  
SEQUENCE 57: *My name is Francisco Aguosta* (pp. 124-125)  
SEQUENCE 58: Rehm (pp. 125-129)  
SEQUENCE 59: *I never said I was perfect, son* (pp. 129-130)  
SEQUENCE 60: Tancruarf reads Gatito's leaflets (pp. 130-131)  
SEQUENCE 61: *It's a matter of time before they get me as they got Miac* (pp. 131-133)  
SEQUENCE 62: *I just had to get that off my chest* (pp. 133-135)  
SEQUENCE 63: *I won't let you down* (pp. 135-139)  
SEQUENCE 64: *I'm getting old, Rodolfo!* (pp. 139-141)  
SEQUENCE 65: *Because Gatito needs to be with his girlfriend too.* (pp. 141-143)  
SEQUENCE 66: Taking the battle to the three neighboring states (pp. 143-144)  
SEQUENCE 67: Aguosta meets Gatito (pp. 144-147)  
SEQUENCE 68: What do you think of Aguosta? (pp. 147-149)  
SEQUENCE 69: Aguosta pays a visit (pp. 149-152)  
SEQUENCE 70: Gatito has a nightmare (pp. 152-153)  
SEQUENCE 71: *You won't regret it!* (pp. 153-154)  
SEQUENCE 72: *I don't like this...* (pp. 154-156)  
SEQUENCE 73: *What message?* (pp. 156-157)  
SEQUENCE 74: *Run! They're here!* (pp. 157-158)  
SEQUENCE 75: *Aguosta has betrayed us...* (pp. 158-158)  
SEQUENCE 76: *Freeze!* (pp. 158-158)  
SEQUENCE 77: Trapped inside the cars. (pp. 159-159)  
SEQUENCE 78: The wagon begins to move again (pp. 159-159)  
SEQUENCE 79: Gatito arrives at Freedom Plaza (pp.159-160)  
SEQUENCE 80: Rachy begins to run (pp. 160-160)  
SEQUENCE 81: So he's over there, at the tower... (pp. 160-160)  
SEQUENCE 82: Rachy keeps running (pp. 160-160)  
SEQUENCE 83: No more (pp. 160-163)  
SEQUENCE 84: Rodolfo goes to Sanderf for help (pp. 163-164)  
SEQUENCE 85: Rachy approaches Gatito's body (pp. 164-164)  
SEQUENCE 86: *I invoke my whole prestige!* (pp. 164-166)  
SEQUENCE 87: Not like us (pp. 166-166)  
SEQUENCE 88: *Everything is lost!* (pp. 166-167)  
SEQUENCE 89: Too late (pp. 167-169)  
SEQUENCE 90: *Enooooough!* (pp. 169-173)  
SEQUENCE 91: *Adjourn, imbecile! Adjourn! Adjourn!* (pp. 173-174)  
SEQUENCE 92: Back to Miyaff (pp. 174-175)  
SEQUENCE 93: You are (pp. 175-177)

SEQUENCE 94: This is business (pp. 177-180)

SEQUENCE 95: The shadow slowly disappearing under his feet (pp. 180-182)

SEQUENCE 96: Embittered (pp. 182-182)

SEQUENCE 97: The end (pp. 182-183)