

A COMMON TALE ABOUT AN UNCOMMON FAMILY

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. A MEAT PACKING PLANT / BREAK ROOM - NIGHT

The national news playing on an old 90's Tv set.

A well dressed Tv news anchor (30) is SPEAKING.

THE TV NEWS ANCHOR

The mysterious figure, the "king of shadows", the supposedly leader of the most powerful syndicate crime would be involved in a series of murders taking place in Morocco. What can we say about this new mystery? Does it really have something to do with the "king of shadows" or are we making him responsible for all the unsolved crimes? Today our special correspondent in Casablanca, Steve -

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The channel SWITCHES to the "Jimmy Fallon's Tonight show".

JIMMY FALLON has a guest, the famous screenwriter PIERRE DE L'AUBE (65). A physically massive french, a genuine person.

JIMMY FALLON

People say you are asocial. Is that true?

PIERRE

No... well not really. Maybe. Probably?

Jimmy Fallon GIGGLES.

JIMMY FALLON

What?

PIERRE

I hate notoriety. I'm not even supposed to be famous. I'm the most famous screenwriter, which doesn't make any sense since screenwriting is a profession from which you don't get any notoriety.

JIMMY FALLON

You hate to be famous and that's why you are asocial?

PIERRE

No. That's why I hate interviews.

JIMMY FALLON

You hate interviews because you hate being famous?

PIERRE

No because I hate talking to people.

Jimmy Fallon GIGGLES.

JIMMY FALLON

You hate talking to people. You hate interviews. That's bad for me.

PIERRE

No worries, Jimmy Fallon. I don't hate you.

JIMMY FALLON

Good for me then?

PIERRE

The point is that I just hate people in general. That's why I hate talking to them. And since I'm famous I have to talk to people. Therefore I'm asocial.

JIMMY FALLON

But what about me? Aren't we in the middle of an interview?

PIERRE

I told you... Everybody loves Jimmy Fallon.

The audience APPLAUDS.

JIMMY FALLON

God, I'm embarrassed.

PIERRE

T'es le meilleur Jimmy!

PIERRE

(English subtitles)
You're the best Jimmy!

The audience BURSTS INTO APPLAUSE AND CHEERS.

The channel SWITCHES again to the interview of the democratic presidential candidate, DAVID SIMMONS (47). A man of stature.

DAVID SIMMONS

Absolutely! My top priority in that campaign is to stop any form of corruption and --

THE INTERVIEWER (O.C.)

Oh, I see. You truly are the white knight.

We move backward to reveal a break room. Round tables, a microwave, a fridge, a sink and the old 90's Tv set.

Sitting at a table, dressed in an antibacterial uniform J.J DE L'AUBE (17) a "gothic-punk" girl handles the Tv remote control.

DAVID SIMMONS

How could you be the leader of the world's only superpower and not being absolutely free of suspicion? Today we are living in a financial dictatorship. People are suffering and money has become a rare artefact. The USA in these hard times need a leader above all suspicions, charismatic, a respectable figure, someone who's honest.

THE INTERVIEWER (O.C.)

Ladies and gentlemen, David Simmons the democratic candidate, our new white knight.

DAVID SIMMONS

A white knight? Yes, I can be this white knight serving American interests. You can give me any names you want, it doesn't matter. I'm here for the Us nation and what matter most --

The door SWINGS OPEN on an overweight boy, COLE (22). J.J turns off the Tv.

COLE

What are you doing here? Did you know I was looking for you?

J.J

What do you want?

COLE

Are you kidding? I'm your boss. You need to show me more respect.

J.J

I don't need to show you shit. Yes, technically you are my boss. You are paid twenty cents more than me to tell me what kind of sausage I have to make. Your only responsibility.

Cole points his finger at J.J triumphantly.

COLE

The very reason why you need to --

J.J

However in reality you are a little man with no future. You are not smart. You are overly proud of yourself. Your job is easy and you're not good at it. You are very annoying. I don't like you.

COLE

Still my name is Cole and I'm your supervisor. Behave yourself!

J.J rolls her eyes at Cole.

J.J

Why? You supervise sausages.

COLE

I'm your supervisor, for Christ's sake!

J.J

Well you are 40 something years old. This job is the center of your ordinary life. I presume --

Cole angrily points his finger at J.J.

COLE

I'm 22.

J.J

22? But what happened?

COLE

What? But nothing happened. I'm 22 and that's it.

J.J
But you are so fat?

COLE
And?

J.J
I thought you were older.

COLE
Twenty years older? Seriously?

J.J
I know, right.

COLE
Your first day in the company and
you are already fired.

J.J
No I'm not.

COLE
Yes you are.

J.J
No. I'm not.

COLE
Yes. You are. And by the way it's
not your break time. I know you
were watching Tv.

J.J
And? I've just finished my shift.

COLE
Really?

J.J
Doh!

COLE
It doesn't change anything. You are
fired.

J.J
One. You don't have the authority
to fire me. Two. I'm not a bad
worker -not that difficult-. Three.
I leave the company in two days.

COLE
 You can't decide when you will
 leave the company.

J.J
 Why that, fatty?

Cole raises his hands in the air exasperated.

COLE
 I'm your supervisor. You need to
 show me --

J.J
 Are you going to fire me because I
 called you fatty because you are
 fat or because my intention is to
 work here for only two more days?

COLE
 You just go "fruit" yourself. Do
 you got that?

J.J
 "Fruit"? Really? But what's the
 point?...
 (frowning)
 Why?

COLE
 The carving room in five minutes!

J.J
 Yeah, I've just finished my shift.
 You remember?

Cole storms out SLAMMING THE DOOR behind him.

J.J turns on the Tv. David Simmons is still on the screen.

DAVID SIMMONS
 I told you it doesn't bother me, on
 the contrary, I take it as a
 compliment. Against corruption,
 absolutely I can be that white
 knight of yours and...

The Tv TURNS OFF.

INT. DE L'AUBE FAMILY HOUSE / LIVING ROOM - DAY

A high standing house. Money is not a problem.

A vast living room exclusively dedicated to cinema with a home theater system and super comfy sofas.

A massive staircase in the background.

Twenty empty snake tanks are all around the room.

Pierre De l'Aube is casually pacing back and forth across the living room. SIPPING from a mug.

CLICKING NOISES from the front door.

Pierre stops and leans forward to inspect one of these empty snake tanks.

J.J De l'Aube comes inside. She's holding a pack of pencils and a big note-pad.

J.J
Hey daddy. How was your time in
L.A.?

J.J goes to her father.

PIERRE
Boring as usual.

J.J leans forward and gives her father a KISS on the cheek.

J.J
Mum?

PIERRE
Yep.

Pierre stands up straight. J.J takes a close look at the empty snake tank.

J.J
A new opportunity?

PIERRE
Yep.

J.J
With... snakes?

PIERRE
Apparently. Roberto brought them
yesterday.

J.J stands up straight.

J.J
Mum is such an evil person.

PIERRE
She is.

J.J
I love her.

Pierre points at the note pad and the pack of pencils J.J is holding.

PIERRE
How was your first day at school?

J.J
Boring as usual. Same shit,
different year.

PIERRE
Just one year and you're done.

J.J
I know.

J.J moves toward the staircase.

J.J (CONT'D)
Is mum home?

Pierre TAKES A SIP from his mug.

PIERRE
Nope. I'm not sure we'll see her a
lot with what she's up to. Same
shit, different place.

J.J
It makes sense.

J.J CLIMBS UP the stairs.

PIERRE
What about your experiment on my
student jobs?

J.J stops in the middle of the staircase.

J.J
Next is the cleaning company. I'm
still looking for a job. But, you
know... it won't be long.

PIERRE
What a weird idea.

J.J
What a better idea but to get to
know you better.

J.J goes up the stairs. Pierre TAKES A SIP from his mug.

J.J
Je t'aime papa.

J.J
(English subtitles)
I love you dad.

PIERRE
Je sais.

PIERRE
(English subtitles)
I know.

J.J disappears up the stairs.

PIERRE
Moi aussi je t'aime.

PIERRE
(English subtitles)
I love you too.

Pierre leans forward before the empty tank snake.

PIERRE
Il fallait que ce soit des
serpents. Je déteste les
serpents.

PIERRE
(English subtitles)
It had to be snakes. I hate
snakes.

EXT. A SWAMP - DAY

A typical swamp, slow moving waters, a thick aquatic
vegetation and nothing living there but billions of insects.

A dirt road leads to the place. At the end of it two cars, a
"CR-V" model of the year and a "Pickup truck" are parked.

The wildlife biologist MADELINE DE L'AUBE (42) is standing in
the water with a snake hook in her right hand. Dark clothes,
pink water boots.

Her assistant ROBERTO (37) - leaning on the "CR-V". A Latino
man, very tall, very muscled, very tattooed, very imposing.

Two other men in suit and tie are here. KARL BENSON (35) the
mayor's environment advisor. BEN KARLSON (39) the local zoo
owner.

MADLINE
What I was saying before you
interrupted me, mister...?

BEN KARLSON
Ben Karlson, Ma'am.

Madeline using the snake hook grabs without difficulty a
"cottonmouth water moccasin", a very aggressive pit viper.

MADELINE
This... is why you asked me to
come. You need my expertise for
that little problem of yours, right
Mr... ?

KARL BENSON
Karl Benson, mayor's environment
advisor, Ma'am.

MADELINE
Really?

KARL BENSON
I beg you pardon, Ma'am.

MADELINE
Ben Karlson and Karl Benson. Is
that a joke?

KARL BENSON
A joke?

MADELINE
Are you relatives or something like
that?

KARL BENSON
If we are relatives? No... No! Why
would we be --

MADELINE
Alright, just forget it. Anyway you
both have son in your name. I hate
people with son in their name.

Madeline turns to face Roberto.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
I was right Roberto. That place is
a deep shit hole.

Roberto smiles in a very weird way. Smiling doesn't fit with
the man.

BEN KARLSON
I'm sorry, but may I ask you who is
this man?

(MORE)

BEN KARLSON (CONT'D)

We are here for the snakes, aren't we? I'm the proud owner of the local zoo named --

MADELINE

I'm sorry but... I don't give a shit.

BEN KARLSON

Is he an expert in the "*cottonmouth water moccasin*"? Because I have to tell you, a Latino with huge tattoos being a wild life biologist working for the WWF is not what I --

MADELINE

Are you a Latino expert?

BEN KARLSON

What? No, I'm... I'm just saying that --

MADELINE

Nothing. You're not saying anything. You keep it shut. Simply put.

Madeline goes to Roberto.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Give me a cigarette, Roberto.
Fucking clowns.

Roberto takes out a pack of cigarette from his right pant pocket, puts one in Madeline's mouth and lights it up with a very shiny "zippo".

The snake dangling from the hook HISSES aggressively.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

This snake is a pain in the ass. It's an American poisonous water snake, well semi-aquatic... anyway. It's aggressive as hell. It loves to stand its ground or even better directly approach any intruder. And Roberto is not Latino but french. He's my consultant. Happy? Now --

BEN KARLSON

I have to tell you it doesn't sound --

MADELINE
Are you for real?

BEN KARLSON
I'm the proud owner of the local
zoo named --

MADELINE
Dude I hate you.

BEN KARLSON
What?

MADELINE
I'm not interested in you, your
zoo, your town or whatever you have
to say because the only thing I
want from you, right now is to...
shut the fuck up!

Madeline walks around. Smoking her cigarette. The hook with
the aggressive snake HISSING in the other hand.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Now, Ben Karl... no Karl... God.

Madeline points at Karl Benson.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
You!

KARL BENSON
Karl Benson, ma'am.

MADELINE
Whatever. You truly have a problem
here. An overpopulated snake area
problem. And the annoying dude
might help you in --

A cellphone RINGS. Roberto goes to the "CR-V", OPENS the
passenger door, picks up a cellphone and answers it. He's
listening but not talking.

Madeline is waiting for him. Still the snakes HISSES. Ben
Karlson winces.

BEN KARLSON
How could I help, exactly?

MADELINE
Did I talk to you? Or did I give
you the feeling I was waiting
anything coming from you right now?

BEN KARLSON

No but --

MADELINE

Good.

Roberto comes back with the phone and holds it to Madeline. He nods to her. She gets it.

She throws her cigarette away and seizes the cellphone.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

(on the phone)

Madeline De l'Aube speaking Mr President. *(a time)* Hang on please.

Madeline hands over the snake hook to Ben Karlson.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

You. Just grabs it for a sec.

Ben Karlson tries to reach the snake with his bare hands.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

KARL BENSON

I'll take it.

Karl Benson grabs the snake hook.

MADELINE

(on the phone)

Yes Mr President, I'm listening now. *(a time)* Ben son something or Karl, proud owner of the local zoo and an other Ben or Karl son something, mayor's environment advisor. Very annoying people with annoying names. *(a time)* Indeed, Mr President. Moron city. However it's just for one year you know. The time I'm taking care of our little problem. *(a time)* Stop fucking whining! It won't happen! I'm taking care of him and not a single journalist will knock at your door. You have my words, and you know me.

And Madeline gives back the phone to Roberto.

KARL BENSON

The president of the WWF, I presume.

MADELINE

No, the president of the united states. Anyway not your fucking business, is it?

KARL BENSON

No, you're right.

MADELINE

Thank you. As I was saying, the annoying dude surely could have some of these snakes in his zoo so it would be the "what kind of species were living on our territory before we relocate the snakes in a country where they have the ability to have a good life in the middle of nowhere so no one could be hurt". In plain English, I'm taking care of your snakes. It will take one year for the relocation process. Any question?

BEN KARLSON

Well, how do I get the snakes exactly?

MADELINE

Thank you very much. I'll keep in touch, Ben... Karl... fuck it. I'll keep in touch "environment advisor".

Karl Benson hands over the snake hook to Ben Karlson.

KARL BENSON

Can you? Please?

Ben Karlson grabs the snake hook. Focusing on Madeline. The snakes HISSES making him startle.

KARL BENSON (CONT'D)

Thank you. Your problem now.

Madeline goes to the "CR-V". Roberto gets behind the wheel.

BEN KARLSON

I'm sorry but...

Madeline OPENS the passenger door and gets in the car. Roberto STARTS the engine.

Karl Benson goes to the car.

The passenger side power window GOES DOWN on Madeline.

MADELINE

Don't worry I'll keep in touch.
I'll do my part, just be sure the
moron over there does his and
everything will be alright.

Karl Benson nods.

BEN KARLSON

What am I supposed to do with the
snake?

The car LEAVES the place.

BEN KARLSON (CONT'D)

What do I do?

Karl Benson goes to the "*Pickup truck*".

KARL BENSON

Be quick please. I don't have all
day. Anyway aren't you the proud
owner of the local zoo? You should
know what to do, right?

Ben Karlson moves erratically the snake hook in his right
hand. The "*cottonmouth water moccasin*" KEEPS HISSING.

BEN KARLSON

I don't know what to do! I DON'T
KNOW WHAT TO DO!

INT. DE L'AUBE FAMILY HOUSE / LIVING ROOM - DAY

Back to the living room. Inside each of the twenty snake
tanks a "*Cottonmouth water moccasin*".

Pierre De l'Aube SIPPING from a mug. Sitting right in the
middle of his sofa, he's watching the "*Jimmy Fallon's late
show*".

Suddenly a snake on his right ATTACKS him. An unsuccessful
attempt. It HITS the glass of the aquarium making Pierre
spill his coffee on his shirt.

PIERRE

Arr! I hate these fucking snakes!

JIMMY FALLON

(on Tv)

Hey Roots can I get some "Thank you note" writing music?

Pierre's cellphone RINGS making Pierre startle once again.

PIERRE

Goddammit!

He grabs the remote control and puts the Tv on mute. He reaches for his cellphone from his right front shirt pocket and answers it.

PIERRE (CONT'D)

Eh, Madeline. How are you my love?

The screen splits.

On the left we see Pierre sitting in his sofa.

On the right we see Madeline De l'aube TALKING on her cellphone inside her car. Roberto is driving.

MADELINE

How's your script? Have you made any progress?

PIERRE

I'm working on it right now, but you know the cats and the girl... I'm not sure about the connection and that's my central idea.

MADELINE

What about twins Paralympic athletes? Add them. Work on the idea, along with the cats and the girl. The mythology would be awesome.

Pierre moves toward the staircase.

PIERRE

More ideas without connection. I'm not sure if you are helping here.

MADELINE

Originality is the key to success. And always have a move ahead of the audience, the best way to produce good quality.

PIERRE
My beloved wife and... muse.

Pierre goes up the stairs.

MADELINE
I'm just following the exact same
path in my business, that's all.

PIERRE
Yep. By the way, what about the
freaking snakes?

MADELINE
Only for two months, love.

Pierre stops in the middle of the staircase.

PIERRE
Two months?

MADELINE
They are deadly, but it doesn't
matter.

PIERRE
I'm watching Tv among deadly
snakes. It does matter to me.

MADELINE
That's why I bought the best snake
tanks in the world. There's nothing
to worry about, trust me.

PIERRE
You know I always trust you, love.
But still... dangerous snakes? Are
you sure?

MADELINE
They are perfect for what I'm
doing. Two months only, love.

PIERRE
Alright... two months.

MADELINE
Did you see J.J Today?

PIERRE
She just left.

MADELINE

Do you think you can help? Once again she's in trouble with one of her teacher and you know how busy I am.

PIERRE

Don't worry. I'll take care of it. Anyway it's not the first time this has happened and it won't be the last. But I have to tell you, I'm impressed. It's been exactly three months since school has started and no problem until now.

MADELINE

How time flies. I can't believe it's her final year of high school.

PIERRE

J.J is a gift.

MADELINE

Yes she is.

Pierre goes up the stairs again.

PIERRE

So how are the new guys?

MADELINE

You know Roberto... when it's time to hire guys, he...

Pierre disappears up the stairs.

EXT. THE CORNER OF A STREET - DAY

The corner of a street in a residential neighborhood.

J.J De l'Aube is waiting, her big note-pad in the right hand.

A yellow school bus REACHES the corner of the street. It stops. The FRONT DOORS OPEN.

J.J gets on the bus.

The yellow school bus LEAVES the area.

INT. THE SCHOOL BUS - DAY

J.J moves inside the half empty bus.

Two big boys. BEN (17) the blond hair and GUS (17) the dark hair are sitting at #13 and #14.

J.J stops right in front of them.

J.J
Hey, "dickheads"!

BEN
What the fuck are you...

Ben and Gus look up at J.J.

BEN (CONT'D)
Oh, my... I didn't know it was you.
I'm sorry Ma'am.

J.J
What are you doing?

BEN
I'm sorry? What?

J.J
That seat, seat 13, is mine and you perfectly know it. So are you looking for trouble?

BEN
Me? Oh no, no.

Ben stands up very quickly. He grabs Gus's arm.

BEN (CONT'D)
Come on Gus, let's go.

GUS
Ben, I know she's impressive but --

BEN
Do you really want her to put a curse on us?

GUS
Oh god no.

Gus and Ben move to the far end of the bus.

J.J sits down.

Two rows before the bus extremity CILLIAN O'SHEA (17) is staring at J.J.

Gus SLAPS him in the back of the head as he's reaching for his seat.

Cillian doesn't react. Still staring at J.J.

GUS (CONT'D)
What an ass. Cillian and his sport
of faggot.

J.J looks back in his direction. Cillian just falls apart. She turns her head toward the window.

Ben and Gus point a finger at Cillian while LAUGHING in an overexaggerated way.

Cillian doesn't care, his eyes remaining fixed on J.J.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL LOCKER AREA - DAY

The RUSH HOUR in the rows of lockers.

Hundreds of teenagers.

Some are bullying the weakest, some are TALKING to each other, some are simply taking care of their own business, others are PLAYING with balls, others are bored...

Among all this chaos and CONSTANT NOISE J.J is standing before her locker.

She closes the locker. Behind her, three lockers away, Cillian is staring at her.

J.J leaves the area.

INT. FRENCH CLASSROOM - DAY

The French classroom, a map of France pinned to the chalkboard, a picture of the "Eiffel" Tower on the left, the french flag in a corner....

"Madame MARIE" (42) the French teacher, the perfectly polished looking woman.

In the left back corner of the classroom J.J is sitting at her desk. Drawing random but funny figures on her note-pad.

Two desks away on the right, Cillian is staring at her.

MADAME MARIE
 Alors pour les verbes du
 deuxième groupe... d'ailleurs
 je rappelle que le deuxième
 groupe contient tous les
 verbes avec une terminaison
 en "ir" et un participe
 présent qui finit par
 "issant". Alors... qui peut
 me citer un verbe du deuxième
 groupe de l'infinitif ?
 Quelqu'un ?

MADAME MARIE
 (English subtitles)
 So for the second group
 verbs... by the way I remind
 you that the second group
 includes verbs with the
 ending in "ir" and the gerund
 ending in "issant". So... who
 could give me a verb from the
 second group? Anyone?

Madame Marie is waiting for an answer. Student are trying
 hard not to fall asleep.

Madame Marie sees J.J's attention focused on another
 activity.

Madame Marie points a finger at J.J.

MADAME MARIE
 You! Are you with us?

J.J
 Nope.

MADAME MARIE
 Oh, I see. The attitude... again.
 But not today, young lady. Today
 you're going to behave yourself.

J.J
 Why?

MADAME MARIE
 I'm sorry. What did you say?

J.J
 I'm asking why.

Madam Marie takes a few steps forward.

MADAME MARIE
 I'm the teacher here!

J.J
 Obviously.

Madame Marie crosses her arms over her chest.

MADAME MARIE
 Oh no! We are not going down that
 path again!

J.J

What path?

MADAME MARIE

Oh you know exactly what I'm talking about, young lady.

J.J

Stop saying "oh", it's annoying.

MADAME MARIE

Young lady --

J.J

Also, stop calling me young lady. It makes you look like a person allergic to young people.

MADAME MARIE

So you think you're smart?

J.J

Yep.

MADAME MARIE

What's the answer to the question then?

J.J

Come on. I'm top of the class and the best student of the entire high school. What's the point?

MADAME MARIE

For the first time since school has started I've nailed you. I'm pretty sure the principal will have a great interest about your attitude.

J.J

You didn't nail me, boring lady. The principal loves me and both my parents are french.

MADAME MARIE

Oh you --

J.J

You don't get it. I speak french fluently. What could be so captivating in your class? Why would I give a fuck?

Madame Marie unfolds her arms. Dropping her hands to her hips.

MADAME MARIE

That's it! THAT'S IT! The point of no return.

J.J

The point of no return?

MADAME MARIE

You come with me young lady!

J.J

Where?

MADAME MARIE

To the principal's office.

J.J

Unbelievable.

MADAME MARIE

You!

Madame Marie points her finger at Cillian.

MADAME MARIE (CONT'D)

You watch the class.

CILLIAN

What? No, no, no. I mean why me?

MADAME MARIE

You just do as you are told.

Cillian stands up. He moves to the front of the classroom.

CILLIAN

I hate this school.

J.J stands up. Goes to the door. Madame Marie follows her.

J.J

Partir. Verbe du deuxième groupe de l'infinif. On pourrait dire ici : nous partons voir le principal.

J.J

(English subtitles)
"Partir". Second group verb.
We could say here : we're going to meet the principal.

J.J

Can I go back to my seat now?

MADAME MARIE

No.

J.J
 (sarcastic)
 Damn.

MADAME MARIE
 You will pay for this.

J.J
 Right, sure... but we are not in a
 movie.

J.J and Madame Marie leave the classroom.

INT. THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

A tiny but comfy office.

The high school principal, Mr WONG SHUN (55) a native of Taiwan, very quiet, disciplined, as cold as ice and always in a bad mood.

Mr Wong Shun is sitting behind his desk facing J.J and Madame Marie.

MADAME MARIE
 She's rude and disrespectful. She's not working. She has a serious attitude problem. We can't keep going down that path.

J.J
 Not the allegory of the path again.

MR WONG SHUN
 I know right. She always uses it when she's frustrated.

MADAME MARIE
 You are the principal. You are supposed to be on my side.

MR WONG SHUN
 Absolutely not.

J.J lets out a LITTLE GIGGLE.

MADAME MARIE
 What?

MR WONG SHUN
 There is no side, but only this school. I'm here for everyone.
 (MORE)

MR WONG SHUN (CONT'D)

The students, the teacher, my secretary even the school janitor... everyone. Information received?

MADAME MARIE

Information received? Yes, information received, but --

MR WONG SHUN

Good. Now, let's hear what J.J has to say. J.J?

J.J

Very simple. I don't need to learn french. I'm fluent in french. I need the credits anyway, so I have no choice but to be in her classroom. Thank you.

MR WONG SHUN

Vraiment?

MR WONG SHUN

(English subtitles)
Really?

J.J

Oh, vous aussi vous parlez français couramment? Ou est-ce que c'est juste pour se la péter?

J.J

(English subtitles)
Oh, you too speak french fluently? Or is it just to be a show off?

MR WONG SHUN

Quelque chose comme ça.

MR WONG SHUN

(English subtitles)
Something like that.

J.J (CONT'D)

I see.

MR WONG SHUN

Yes, definitely to test your level of french.

J.J

I'm not a liar.

MR WONG SHUN

I didn't say that. But you are disrespectful. That's what she said, right? You are not working because you don't need to, I get it... but what about your bad attitude?

J.J

My bad attitude? At the beginning of the year, I asked her to leave me alone in my corner. I rarely study and get very good grades. But the frustrated lady didn't respect the contract. I'm a teenager. What do you want me to do exactly? I have no option but what you are calling my attitude. I'm just not concerned, that's all.

MADAME MARIE

Je ne suis pas une femme frustrée!

MADAME MARIE

(English subtitles)
I'm not a frustrated woman!

Mr Wong Shun GIGGLES.

MR WONG SHUN

You can't say that, J.J.

J.J

What?

MR WONG SHUN

You can't say that Madame Marie is frustrated.

J.J

Why? Obviously she is. Look at her face.

MADAME MARIE

Oh, oh, young lady --

J.J

Oh, oh young lady doh! You are bad on so many levels. Your path, your "oh" each time you're saying something, your "young ladies", your idiotic sense of control.

Madame Marie jumps to her feet, outraged.

MADAME MARIE

Mr Wong Shun! Did you hear that? Did you... hear that?

MR WONG SHUN

Yes, Madame Marie I heard that and I'm taking care of it. Now you can go back to your classroom, I'm going to settle things with J.J.

Madame Marie in a swift movement goes to the door.

MADAME MARIE
I expect you to be merciless.

MR WONG SHUN
Merciless? I'm not sure.

Madame Marie leaves the office SLAMMING THE DOOR behind her.

Mr Wong Shun, clearly annoyed by the situation, SIGHS.

MR WONG SHUN (CONT'D)
J.J you are the best student in the entire school, but you need to change your attitude toward your teachers.

J.J
They are annoying or crazy or both.

MR WONG SHUN
You said it yourself, you are a teenager and school is not a democracy. Teachers give orders. You follow their directions. No one is asking for your opinion. That's how it works.

J.J
I don't know... she never listens to me. That's very --

MR WONG SHUN
That's the whole point. She's your teacher. She doesn't have to listen to you. You have to listen to her!

J.J
I know Mr Wong Shun, but --

MR WONG SHUN
I'm sorry, J.J but I'm afraid I have to organize a meeting with your parents.

J.J
It won't be necessary.

MR WONG SHUN
I beg you pardon?

J.J

My dad called me on my cell this morning and he'll be here after school to meet with my physical education teacher. My physical education teacher, Mr Johnny Boner, came to see me this morning just after my dad called me. He was still "butt-hurt" and said to me that he had seen your secretary to organize a meeting with you. Me, my dad, Johnny Boner and... yourself. We are going to talk about my attitude. Check your agenda, your secretary wrote it down. I mean the appointment.

Mr Wong Shun opens his agenda, TURNS A COUPLE OF PAGES and finally stops on one.

MR WONG SHUN

J.J. What am I going to do with you?

J.J

Come on, sir. His name is Johnny Boner. Johnny... Boner.

Mr Wong Shun nods.

MR WONG SHUN

The first time I met the man... it was tough. Really tough. Even now each time I see him, I...

J.J

Yep.

INT. THE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

The cafeteria is packed. Food-serving counter, the long line of people waiting to be served, the students sitting at the tables eating their lunch and TALKING LOUDLY...

J.J is alone. Eating her lunch by herself. Scrutinizing people with contempt.

Cillian enters the dining room. Even if the man is a little bit shy and reserved, everyone inside the cafeteria is aware of his presence.

A group of overly excited cheerleaders ambushes him with PIERCING SCREAMS AND OTHER CHEERS.

Some are pretending to faint, others are CHANTING HIS NAME. Cillian tries to calm them down, embarrassed.

He sees J.J staring at him with a disapproving look. He's even more embarrassed.

A Latino girl (15) holding her food tray stops right in front of J.J. Blocking her sight.

THE LATINO GIRL
Is this seat available?

J.J
No.

In the back the AGITATION stops abruptly.

J.J tries in vain to see something.

THE LATINO GIRL
Maybe the other one is available. I mean you are here all alone at a table with no one with you and --

J.J
What?... Listen Carlita --

THE LATINO GIRL
My name is not Carlita.

J.J SIGHS.

J.J
Look around you.

The Latino girl scans the cafeteria. Still overcrowded.

J.J (CONT'D)
Now look at me.

J.J gestures over the table.

J.J (CONT'D)
What do you see?

THE LATINO GIRL
Well, the cafeteria.

J.J SIGHS.

J.J
It's packed, isn't it?

THE LATINO GIRL
Yeah... that too.

J.J
And?

THE LATINO GIRL
There's no one at your table.

J.J
Obviously. So... what does it
imply, Carlita?

THE LATINO GIRL
My name is not Carlita. Are you
racist?

J.J
Don't tempt me. So? What does it
mean?

THE LATINO GIRL
That I can have a seat?

J.J
No!... Goddamn it, Carlita.

THE LATINO GIRL
Stop calling me Carlita!

J.J
Why am I alone? Why except you no
one came to ask me the same stupid
question? Why that?

THE LATINO GIRL
No clue.

J.J
Because people don't like me. They
don't like me because I don't like
them. As simple as that.

THE LATINO GIRL
I see.

J.J
Do you think I like you, Carlita?

THE LATINO GIRL
Stop calling me --

J.J
 Answer the stupid question, for
 Christ's sake!

THE LATINO GIRL
 Well... I'm not sure.

J.J
 Fuck off... Carlita!

The Latino girl steps back. She walks away with the "drama queen" attitude to...

J.J (CONT'D)
 So... annoying.

... reveal Cillian's presence. Standing before J.J.

J.J (CONT'D)
 Oh my god. Is there something wrong
 with me today? Am I a moron magnet?

CILLIAN
 I'm sorry to bother you... I... I
 mean, I... you --

J.J
 What?

CILLIAN
 I'm sorry... I... I just --

J.J
 I... I... You... doh. You said you
 were sorry to bother me and you
 need to be sorry... truly. Do you
 want to know why?

CILLIAN
 I... don't know... yes.

J.J
 Because you are bothering me, right
 now... Forest Gump.

CILLIAN
 But all I want is to --

J.J
 Unbelievable. You know what ?

CILLIAN
 What?

J.J
 Fuck you! Get the fuck out of my
 sight. Ok?

CILLIAN
 No you don't understand, all I want
 is --

J.J
 To leave. Go... away! Do you copy
 that?

Cillian leaves, disappointed.

J.J (CONT'D)
 Go back to your "bitchleaders"!
 That's where you belong, pale.

Sitting at a table next to her is a group of cheerleaders.
 They give J.J a condescending look.

J.J (CONT'D)
 What? What's the problem bitches?

J.J grabs an apple on her food tray and throws it at them.

J.J (CONT'D)
 Are you looking for a fight? I'm
 here, bitches and I'm fucking
 ready!

The cheerleaders lower their head.

J.J (CONT'D)
 Losers.

J.J eats her lunch as if nothing has ever happened. She's
 quiet.

She sees Ben and Gus running after Cillian.

Ben HITS Cillian in the back. Cillian DROPS HIS TRAY spilling
 the food all over the floor. The cafeteria BURSTS INTO
 APPLAUSE AND CHEERS.

Ben and Gus ARE LAUGHING at him while very quietly Cillian is
 picking the food up off the floor.

GUS
 Cillian and his sport of faggot.
 What an ass.

Ben and Gus leave.

J.J is still eating. She scrutinizes Cillian cleaning the mess.

INT. A BANK VAULT - NIGHT

A bank vault. Armored walls, a tightly fashioned door having a complex lock on it, safe deposit boxes and cash drawers.

Roberto, wearing a black face mask, stands in the middle of the vault armed with a submachine gun.

Two men also wearing black face masks are hastily emptying the cash drawers and the safe deposit boxes. Armed with the same submachine guns, they are filling four duffle bags with thick bundles of cash.

ROBERTO

My name is Johnny Boner and Johnny Boner is my name. I'm a physical education teacher and my name is Johnny Boner.

MAN WITH A MASK#1

On porte des cagoules.
Pourquoi il nous donne son nom? C'est bizarre, tu trouves pas?

MAN WITH A MASK#1

(English subtitles)
We're wearing face masks. Why he gives us his name? That's weird, don't you think?

MAN WITH A MASK#2

La drogue, mec.

MAN WITH A MASK#2

(English subtitles)
The drug, man.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)

And if you want to know my name... well, my name is Johnny Boner. Johnny Boner the physical education teacher. Johnny Boner, that's me.

"The man with a mask#1" grabs a jewelry display tray. Ten of these trays are piled up right in front of him inside the safe deposit box he has just opened.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)

You! Hands off! I keep the diamonds. That's the deal.

"The man with a mask#1" hands him the tray.

Roberto reaches into his jacket. Pulls out a small bag. Empties the whole content of the safe deposit box inside the bag.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)
Johnny Boner says thank you.

Roberto leaves.

MAN WITH A MASK#1
De toutes façons son nom est
faux. Boner, ça veut dire
érection en anglais. Tu vois
quelqu'un s'appeler érection,
toi? Sans compter que
pourquoi il porterait un
masque si c'est pour nous
donner son nom?

MAN WITH A MASK#1
(English subtitles)
Anyway his name is fake.
Boner, it means erection in
English. You see someone
named erection? Not
forgetting that why will he
wear a face mask if that's to
give us his name?

Whatever. They just carry on with their common activity,
greedy.

MAN WITH A MASK#2
Moi je pense que c'est son
vrai nom.

MAN WITH A MASK#2
(English subtitles)
I think that's his real name.

INT. THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

The high school principal Mr Wong Shun is waiting silently at
his desk.

J.J and a man with fake bleach hairs, JOHNNY BONER (42) the
physical education teacher, are sitting opposite him.

A never-ending waiting. A painful waiting.

INT. THE HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE CORRIDOR - DAY

The high school administrative corridor. Ultra polished
floor, painted wall looking so fresh and intense bright neon
lights.

Madeline is walking back and forth along the corridor while
TALKING ON HER CELLPHONE. She's at the door of the high
school principal's office.

MADELINE
(on her cellphone)
Yes, Mr president, I understand
that but... (a time) Not at all,
but... (a time) No there's nothing
to worry about. I can assure you...
(a time) God, stop your whining for
a sec.

INT. THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Back to the principal's office. Heavy atmosphere. Mr Wong Shun, Johnny Boner and J.J are still waiting. No one is talking, but the silence is no more.

MADELINE'S VOICE coming from the other side of the door.

MADELINE (O.S.)

Nothing is going to happen, for Christ's sake! In four weeks Simmons will take your place and you... *(a time)* You are aware that you are talking to me right now. Don't you think I'm very patient to hear you complaining that way? Don't you think you could make a little effort and...*(a time)* Right... now you listen to me very carefully. I'm the one making decisions here. I'm the one controlling everything everywhere. I'm the only one in charge and you... you are nothing but the one responsible for my headache. Why am I listening to your non sense speech, I don't know... maybe because I'm a nice person. I should be. Anyway... keep a low profile. I'll contact you soon.

The door SWINGS OPEN. Madeline comes in while turning off her cellphone. She SHUTS THE DOOR behind her.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I didn't want to be rude, but that phone call couldn't wait. The president of the United State, you know.

JOHNNY BONER

Yeah sure... and you don't want to be rude. Are you kidding?

MADELINE

Who are you already?

JOHNNY BONER

Are you kidding? Are you... kidding me? Who I am?

MADELINE

Well... I don't know who you are. I'm asking you.

JOHNNY BONER
Are you kidding me?

MADELINE
Wow. You sir, are very annoying.

J.J LAUGHS.

JOHNNY BONER
Principal Wong Shun! Is it not your
job to intervene, here?

MR WONG SHUN
Madame De l'Aube, we are not here
to talk about Mr Boner's behavior,
but more about your daughter's
behavior.

MADELINE
Alright. This "douchebag" here,
is... I'm sorry Mister what?

JOHNNY BONER
No one's laughing here. No one but
you.

MADELINE
I'm not laughing. What are you
talking about?

JOHNNY BONER
My name... obviously. Boner.

MADELINE
Your name is Boner? For real?

Madeline smiles.

JOHNNY BONER
See you're laughing.

MADELINE
I'm not laughing. I'm smiling.

JOHNNY BONER
Because you think that's an easy
name to wear.

J.J
Je te l'avais bien dit que tu
perdrais ta journée en venant
ici.

J.J
(English subtitles)
I told you that by coming
here you would waste your
day.

MADELINE

Son nom veut dire érection,
tu te rends compte? Je plains
sa femme. Madame érection.

MADELINE

(English subtitles)
His name means erection. Can
you believe it? I feel sorry
for his wife. Mrs erection.

Johnny Boner jumps to his feet, furious.

JOHNNY BONER (CONT'D)

My name is not erection! It's boner
and it's not quite the same and
also --

J.J

Yes it is. It's totally the same
thing.

MADELINE

You are a "douchebag" with Boner as
a name. I have to admit it. You
amaze me.

JOHNNY BONER

What? I'm not a "douchebag".

MADELINE

Of course you are. The stupid hair,
the stupid look, the "are you
kidding" question you are asking
again and again. And I have to tell
you, I'm really surprised that you
are not tanned in that organic
orange color.

JOHNNY BONER

Are you kidding?

MADELINE

Here we go again. Are you
kidding... doh!

JOHNNY BONER

First the tanning salon where I'm
an usual customer is closed and
second I'm the victim here.

MADELINE

Of what?

MR WONG SHUN

Your daughter for the third time,
didn't show respect to Mr Boner.

MADELINE

Well I thought this story was over.
My husband came to the last meeting
with that "douchebag", right?

MR WONG SHUN

Your daughter keeps making joke
about his name.

MADELINE

The guy is a "douchebag" and his
name is Boner. I can't blame my
daughter for that.

JOHNNY BONER

I'm the victim here. I seek
redress.

Madeline stands up, bewildered.

MADELINE

You seek redress? Stop whining,
dumbass. She's a teenager and you
are an adult and a teacher on top
of that. You make the rules. The
students follow the rules. Just put
your pants on and do your job.
Fucking retard.

Madeline's cellphone RINGS.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Have a good one... Boner!

Mr Wong Shun can't help but GIGGLES.

J.J

Désolée, maman que tu te sois
déplacée pour rien. Mais Mr
Wong Shun insistait, alors tu
comprends.

J.J

(English subtitles)
Sorry, mum you came here for
nothing. But Mr Wong Shun
insisted, so you know.

MADELINE

T'en fais pas ma puce. Quand
c'est pour toi, ce n'est
jamais une contrainte.

MADELINE

(English subtitles)
No worries, honey. When it's
for you it's never a problem.

Madeline gives her daughter A KISS on the cheek.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

I don't see any problem here Mr Wong Shun, except maybe for this teacher to accomplish his job the way we are expecting him to accomplish it. I'm sorry. I know your time is as precious as mine.

Madeline shakes hands with Mr Wong Shun.

MR WONG SHUN

Thank you, Mrs De l'Aube.

JOHNNY BONER

What? No! Come on!

Madeline answers her phone.

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

Madeline's speaking.

Madeline OPENS the door and leaves the office.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

(on her cellphone)

Mr Simmons it's now time for you to understand how things are really working here.

Madeline SHUTS THE DOOR behind her.

JOHNNY BONER

So?

MR WONG SHUN

So what? J.J is the best student of this high school. You wanted a meeting, we just had one.

JOHNNY BONER

Are you kidding? But I'm the victim here.

MR WONG SHUN

As Mrs De l'aube put it, do your job or endure, Mr Boner.

J.J GIGGLES.

J.J

Endure Mister Boner...

Johnny Boner shrugs his shoulder, SIGHS with exaggeration then turns around haughtily. He goes to the door.

MR WONG SHUN

J.J I --

JOHNNY BONER

It's not over. Oh no it's not. I will have my revenge.

Mr Wong Shun puzzled stare at Johnny Boner.

The teacher opens the door, gives Mr Wong Shun a thumb up then leaves the office. He SHUTS THE DOOR behind him.

MR WONG SHUN

This guy is a... weirdo.

J.J

Mr Wong Shun? What were you saying?

MR WONG SHUN

Yes, sorry J.J. Could you please try to act a little bit more like a normal student. I don't know... be annoyed but in a more casual way. I'm fed up with that kind of non-sense meetings.

J.J

I'll do my best.

MR WONG SHUN

Please.

Mr Wong Shun stares at her not convinced.

The INDISTINGUISHABLE CHANTS AND YELLS of a group of cheerleaders comes from the outside.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY

The same INDISTINGUISHABLE CHANTS AND YELLS. It COMES FROM A CROWD SUPPORTING their school mates in a wrestling interstate competition.

J.J bored as hell is sitting in the first row. She gazes at the assembled crowd with a blank expression on her face.

Right in the middle of the gymnasium a thick rubber mat marked with two circles designating the wrestling area.

Two "freestyle wrestling champions" are fighting, one in a blue outfit, his opponent in the red version, Cillian O'Shea. The center of attention.

His coach (50) IS SHOUTING AT HIM, encouraging him with technical advises. The three other members of his team are doing the same with CHEERS AND APPLAUSE.

J.J notices Ben and Gus also in the front row but sitting several seats away from her. They are LAUGHING and pointing their finger at Cillian. Overreacting as usual.

Suddenly Cillian performs a "suplex" on his opponent. He hugs him around the waist and lift him off the mat, then twists while throwing him on the ground. The ultimate move.

The referee raises Cillian's hand. The fight is over.

Everyone BURST OUT WITH JOY.

His three teammates and coach jump for joy. Being overly excited they run to Cillian and give him a hug. Weirdly Cillian is not concerned, just standing there emotionless.

J.J sees that behavior she knows very well and suddenly she's not bored anymore. That guy is different from other guys. There's something deep within him. Something she finds very intriguing.

Cillian goes to the bench. Grabs his own stuff. Heads for the exit.

The crowd keeps CHEERING. His teammates and coach are puzzled.

Cillian is almost at the exit door when Ben violently bumps into him.

Ben and Gus LAUGH IN A VERY EXAGGERATED WAY.

Cillian still not concerned gets out of the gymnasium.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

The front doors are wide opened. AGITATED STUDENTS pouring out into the street.

Yellow school buses with flashing red lights are parked directly in front of the high school.

Some students are getting on the buses, others just walk away, others meet their parents waiting for them, some are just talking to each other.

Roberto is clearly identifiable among the parents. He doesn't fit with the middle class people and their composed attitude. Roberto and his tattoos, his "on purpose nasty face" is the center of attention. Roberto is labeled as the ultimate bad guy, the ex-convict, the mafia member.

Roberto is leaning against the "CR-V".

J.J, alone as usual, gets out of the school. Roberto waves at her. She waves back and walks toward him.

Just behind J.J Cillian fastens his pace.

CILLIAN

J.J, Eh! J.J!

Despite the BROUHAHA GENERATED BY THE STUDENT, J.J turns around to face Cillian.

They keep walking together. The entire crowd avoids them in an unnatural way. Is it a random act or are they all afraid of J.J? Who knows.

J.J

I'm sorry, Cillian but Roberto is waiting for me.

J.J points a finger in Roberto's direction.

CILLIAN

I know but I really need... Wow! Who is this guy? Are you in trouble? Don't tell me that you owe money to someone.

J.J LAUGHS.

J.J

No, Cillian. Roberto is my mother's personal assistant.

CILLIAN

Ok, I'm not sure I want to meet your mum.

And J.J LAUGHS again.

J.J

I really need to go now.

CILLIAN

J.J please. Can we... can we --

J.J

Can we what? Get straight to the point. I hate to wait. I love straightforward people and I'm in a hurry. So plain English, now and fast.

CILLIAN

Can we met? I mean outside of school. I mean can we go for coffee?

J.J

Good. I like that.

CILLIAN

So it's a yes?

J.J

No, it's a no.

CILLIAN

I see. It doesn't matter. I'm happy anyway.

J.J

Really? Why's that?

CILLIAN

Because you talked to me nicely. And I know that means a lot coming from you. So now the only thing I have to do is to wait patiently.

J.J smiles to Cillian.

J.J

I'll see you around, ok?

CILLIAN

Sure.

J.J

Cool.

J.J runs to Roberto.

Roberto is staring at Cillian with an evil look.

Cillian is completely focused on J.J. He's standing there, watching her.

She OPENS the passenger side front door of the "CR-V". Gets in.

People now are VIOLENTLY BUMPING into Cillian, yet he's not concerned with anything except J.J.

Roberto gets in the car. STARTS the engine.

The "CR-V" leaves.

Cillian looks around him. All these happy parents and these teenagers complaining for every little thing but not so unhappy after all.

INT. A BUSINESS BUILDING / BREAK ROOM - NIGHT

A break room. Round tables, a microwave, a fridge, a sink and an old 90's Tv set.

Sitting at a table, dressed in a cleaning company uniform J.J handles the Tv remote control.

The national news is playing on the old 90's Tv set.

A well dressed Tv news anchor (30) is SPEAKING.

THE TV NEWS ANCHOR

The police is now interrogating the mastermind of the bank robbery. Johnny Boner, a 42 years old physical education teacher, is claiming his innocence and hasn't given any substantial information about the location of the diamonds. A mystery added to another since the identity of the owner remains unknown. An anonymous source would have given the name of David Simmons, the democratic presidential candidate. Let's hear what David Simmons had to say earlier this morning.

David Simmons a business building in his back stands before a half dozen journalists.

DAVID SIMMONS

For the last time, these missing diamonds are not my property. However what I know for sure is that some people are trying to discredit my reputation. I remind you that we are in the middle of a presidential election and I don't believe in coincidence. Also make no mistake about it...

Suddenly the main door SWINGS OPEN.

An aged Portuguese (75) wearing a "supervisor" shirt enters the room. Cillian wearing the same uniform as J.J's one is right behind him.

DAVID SIMMONS (CONT'D)

... I'm the victim of a conspiracy
and mark my words, I will unravel
this plot...

J.J turns off the Tv.

THE OLD SUPERVISOR

J.J, I'm sorry to bother you during
your break.

J.J

Come on, sir. You never bother me.

THE OLD SUPERVISOR

Oh my.

J.J

You are a good boss. You are
pragmatic and nice. You are a
respectable person... well from my
point of view.

THE OLD SUPERVISOR

Thank you very much, J.J but you
know I'm just an old man doing his
job. That's all.

J.J smiles.

THE OLD SUPERVISOR (CONT'D)

You're sure about your decision?
You are one of my best employee and
I tell you, to see you leaving the
company doesn't make me happy.

J.J

Sir you know the way I'm doing
things.

THE OLD SUPERVISOR

Yes, I guess so... anyway here's
the new guy. He's getting your job.
His name is...

J.J

Cillian.

THE OLD SUPERVISOR
Oh you guys already know each other?

CILLIAN
We are going to the same high school.

THE OLD SUPERVISOR
Very well. Let's go straight to the point then... J.J would you?

J.J Smiles again.

J.J
No problem sir. I'll make sure he perfectly knows the routine.

THE OLD SUPERVISOR
Thank you, J.J. I really appreciate.

J.J
Anytime, sir.

THE OLD SUPERVISOR
I'll see you around guys.

The old supervisor leaves the room.

CILLIAN
Fate is a great provider, isn't it?

J.J
If you say so... Anyway, we don't have much time.

CILLIAN
If you say so.

J.J
I do. Let's go.

J.J leaves the room. Cillian follows her. CLOSING the door behind him.

INT. ELEVATOR HALL - NIGHT

A luxurious hall with six elevator doors.

Two golden floor number plates embedded on each side of the hall displaying the 20th along with the marble floor, the marble walls and the marble statue... A very wealthy place.

DING! One of the elevator reaches the floor.

The elevator doors OPEN on Cillian and J.J.

J.J
Alright, here's your floor.

Cillian and J.J get out of the elevator and walk to the end of the hall.

CILLIAN
May I say something?

J.J
Is it about the job?

CILLIAN
No.

J.J
Then you may not.

CILLIAN
But --

J.J
There's no but because there's no point.

J.J and Cillian leave the hall.

INT. BUSINESS FLOOR - NIGHT

A spacious business floor surrounded by floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking downtown.

Long rows of cubicles vanishing into the distance. So many cubicles that personal workspace is very limited.

Right in the center is the staff director's private office.

J.J and Cillian are walking down the center aisle.

J.J
You have three hours to clean the whole place and that includes the toilets at the end of the floor.

CILLIAN
You know I just keep thinking about that day.

J.J

What day? No, you know what... if it's not about your job application then I don't give a shit... as I already told you.

CILLIAN

It's a job that I only need to make money. Certainly not the job I've always dreamed about.

J.J

It's not relevant to me.

CILLIAN

But don't you believe in fate. I mean see where we are. What is the probability of us meeting in such a place, at such a moment? Don't you think that's amazing, supernatural, extraordinary? It has to mean something, right?

J.J

No.

CILLIAN

Really?

J.J

Yes.

CILLIAN

You can't be serious. It's a sign. Sure it is.

J.J

Coming from some sort of almighty god or force or whatever you want to call it.

CILLIAN

Absolutely.

J.J

No.

CILLIAN

What do you think it is then?

J.J

Easy as pie, buddy. A job. It's nothing else but a job. Just... a job.

CILLIAN
No, I refuse to believe in that.

J.J
I don't care what you believe in.

CILLIAN
Don't you remember that day?

J.J stops frustrated.

J.J
God you are boring. What day?

CILLIAN
Two months minus one week minus
three days ago.

J.J
Are you trying to creep me out?

CILLIAN
We talked. You were nice. A very
scary Latino guy was waiting for
you. That one guy you said, he was
your mum assistant. Then I asked
you --

J.J
Ok. I got the picture, Bozo. I was
nice and it's not in my habits to
be nice. There's nothing more to
say about that day.

CILLIAN
But I believed you --

J.J
Listen to me. That's a story you
are telling yourself.

CILLIAN
Oh... I see.

J.J
Good. Can we keep going?

CILLIAN
Well... yes.

J.J
Ok, come with me.

J.J and Cillian walk further down the central aisle. We don't move.

J.J (CONT'D)
Now, on this side of the building
there's a storage room...

We move closer to the windows. Down below the streets are like streaks of light.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A BOULEVARD - NIGHT

The traffic is not dense. Cars SPEED down the boulevard.
We recognize Madeline's car.

INT. THE CR-V - NIGHT

Roberto is driving. Right next to him Madeline holds her cellphone with concern.

In the back seat J.J is staring blankly out of the car window.

Heavy silence fills the car.

The cellphone RINGS.

MADELINE
(on her cellphone)
Madeline's speaking. *(a time)* Mr
Simmons... or should I say Mr
President?

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE / THE OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

The famous oval office.

David Simmons paces back and forth while TALKING on his cellphone.

DAVID SIMMONS
(on his cellphone)
How dare you? I've just been
elected as the new President of the
United States of America. You can't
threaten me.

The screen splits.

On the left we see David Simmons.

On the right we see Madeline inside her car.

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

Listen to me, maggot! You don't have any choice. If it wasn't for me, you wouldn't be who you are today.

DAVID SIMMONS

(on his cellphone)

I'm the President of the United States of America, for Christ's sake! I'm the man in control. I'm the man with absolute power.

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

The most important decisions will be made by us. Some decisions will be yours to make. We'll let you know which one. That is the way and the only way it's working.

DAVID SIMMONS

(on his cellphone)

You can't --

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

I can. I always can.

DAVID SIMMONS

(on his cellphone)

You don't know who you are talking to. I'm going to crush you like an -

-

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

Are you listening?

DAVID SIMMONS

(on his cellphone)

I am the President of the United --

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

You are not. You don't know who I am. No one knows who I am and I know everything about you. You see, you were the ideal candidate.

(MORE)

MADELINE (CONT'D)

The anti corruption dude even if in truth you are yourself a corrupted asshole. But that's not the point. This role you incarnate is perfect. That's why I've changed the votes in your favor.

Madeline pauses. She looks at Roberto. He nods.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

(on her cellphone)

One phone call and within the next 24 hours you are no more.

DAVID SIMMONS

(on his cellphone)

That's impossible. I don't believe you.

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

What about these diamonds? Do you believe in them?

DAVID SIMMONS

(on his cellphone)

What diamonds?

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

Of course. Here's the deal. In order for you to accomplish what I need you to accomplish, I'm going to pay you with your own diamonds. One every six months.

DAVID SIMMONS

(on his cellphone)

What?

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

However if things are not going well, the diamonds could go to the police with a very detail note explaining everything about the way you acquired them from some major mafia group you are working for and so on. Anyway you get the picture.

DAVID SIMMONS

(on his cellphone)

What mafia group, I didn't --

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

We changed a little bit your diamonds background story. You know it wasn't enough dramatic so I spiced it up. Naturally everything is one hundred percent verifiable.

DAVID SIMMONS

(on his cellphone)

You are --

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

I know. At least we are on the same page, aren't we?

DAVID SIMMONS

(on his cellphone)

I guess, we are.

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

I need you to be sure, Mr President.

DAVID SIMMONS

(on his cellphone)

Ok, ok. You made your point. I'm listening.

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

Good. Now the secretary of defense will give you your instructions.

DAVID SIMMONS

(on his cellphone)

What? The secretary of defense?

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

Knock knock.

DAVID SIMMONS

(on his cellphone)

What?

Madeline turns off her cellphone.

The right side of the screen disappears.

The intercom on the president desk RINGS. David Simmons goes to it and pushes the button.

DAVID SIMMONS (CONT'D)
 (on the intercom)
 Yes?

WOMAN'S VOICE
 (from the intercom)
 Mr President. The secretary of
 defense is here.

David Simmons stunned, freezes.

WOMAN'S VOICE (CONT'D)
 (from the intercom)
 Mr President?

DAVID SIMMONS
 (on the intercom)
 Yes, yes. Sorry. Let him in. Thank
 you.

David Simmons defeated, sits behind his so famous desk.

INT. THE CR-V - NIGHT

Roberto is driving. Next to him Madeline. In the back seat
 J.J.

MADELINE
 Maybe one day I'll find someone a
 little bit less mentally deficient.
 Man, I'm so tired of illogical
 retards. Roberto I tell you, normal
 people are becoming increasingly
 rare on earth.

Roberto LAUGHS.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
 That's why people like us have to
 rule the world. "Noob cakes" are
 everywhere and without us the world
 would reach a premature end. No
 doubt about that.

J.J
 C'est tellement vrai!

J.J
 (English subtitles)
 How right that is!

MADELINE (CONT'D)
 You worry me J.J.

Roberto gives a nod of approval.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
See, even Roberto doesn't like
that.

J.J
I thought we've already gone
through it.

MADELINE
I'm a mother you can't blame me for
being worried.

J.J
And I'm a teenager.

MADELINE
And then?

J.J
And then I make decisions. And
whatever you have to say won't
change my mind. Teenagers are
stubborn. It applies to me too,
even if I'm not a rebellious teen.

MADELINE
But you could have chosen another --

Again the cellphone RINGS. Madeline takes a look at it.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Your father.

J.J
Please mum, tell him he doesn't
have to spend the whole night
waiting for me. I don't want him to
get overtired.

Madeline answers her cellphone

MADELINE
(on her cellphone)
Don't wait for her the whole night
or you may suffer from exhaustion.

INT. DE L'AUBE FAMILY HOUSE / LIVING ROOM - DAY

Back to the living room. Still the "*Cottonmouth water moccasin*" inside the snake tanks.

Pierre is holding a mug. Sitting in the middle of his sofa.
He's TALKING to the phone.

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| PIERRE | PIERRE |
| (on the phone) | (English subtitles) |
| Mais bien sur que je resterai réveillé. | Of course I'll stay awake. |

The screen splits.

On the left we see Pierre.

On the right we see Madeline inside her car.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| MADELINE | MADELINE |
| (on her cellphone) | (English subtitles) |
| Selon ta fille c'est une erreur. | According to your daughter, it's a mistake. |

PIERRE
(on the phone)
Two things. First when I'm home alone during the night I can't sleep.

MADELINE
(on her cellphone)
You're kidding, right? You are 65 years old, stop being such a pussy. Home alone. Alone in the dark, in the night. Pussy attitude.

Pierre LAUGHS.

PIERRE
(on the phone)
Right. However it's quite a challenge to sleep among deadly snakes.

MADELINE
(on her cellphone)
Husband, "chillax". Within the next week the local police will pay us a visit. Only one week, maybe sooner and it'll be over. Then we'll leave this "shithole" town... forever.

PIERRE
(on the phone)
Alright... darling.

MADELINE
(on her cellphone)
What's the second thing?

PIERRE
(on the phone)
It's about J.J... well more about
her new job to tell you the truth.
I'm fucking worried.

MADELINE
(on her cellphone)
Don't tell me. Wait.

Madeline turns her head toward the back seat.

PIERRE
(on the phone)
What?

MADELINE
(on her cellphone)
J.J asks you not to be.

PIERRE
(on the phone)
It doesn't help.

MADELINE
(on her cellphone)
I'm on the same page, love. I tried
to convince her but she's our
daughter and we know her, don't we?

PIERRE
(on the phone)
We do.

MADELINE
(on her cellphone)
Roberto is going to wait for her at
the end of her shift. That's the
best I can do for now.

PIERRE
(on the phone)
Ok, that's fair enough.

MADELINE
(on her cellphone)
How's your script? Did you make any
progress?

PIERRE
(on the phone)
Still the cats. They don't fit in
the mythology.

MADÉLINE
 (on her cellphone)
 What about a mirror? A mirror
 controlling the cats.

PIERRE
 (on the phone)
 More things not related to each
 other.

MADÉLINE
 (on her cellphone)
 Originality is the key to success.
 And always have a move ahead of the
 audience, the best way to produce --

PIERRE
 (on the phone)
 Good quality, I know.

MADÉLINE
 (on her cellphone)
 I know that you know, love. Anyway,
 the whole thing is almost over and
 after one full year we'll have a
 romantic time together.

PIERRE
 (on the phone)
 I can't wait.

MADÉLINE
 (on her cellphone)
 Me neither. Love you, husband.

PIERRE
 (on the phone)
 Love you, wife.

Madeline turns off her cellphone.

The right side of the screen disappears.

Pierre raises the mug to his lips to take a sip when a snake
 ATTACKS him. An unsuccessful attempt. It HITS the glass of
 the aquarium making Pierre CHOKES on what's he's drinking.

PIERRE
 Serpents de merde! Vous me
 pourrissez la vie.

PIERRE
 (English subtitles)
 Shitty snakes! You're making
 my life very unpleasant.

INT. THE CR-V - NIGHT

Roberto is driving.

Right next to him Madeline speaks to J.J over her shoulder.

MADELINE

So you've made your decision.
There's nothing I can say that
could change your mind?

J.J

Mum!

MADELINE

Alright.

The car SLOWS DOWN. Roberto parks the car a few meters away from a night club named "*The Boiler Room*".

EXT. THE BOILER ROOM - NIGHT

"*The Boiler Room*" the most popular night club in town. Large red neon sign letters with flames coming out of them accompanied by a ROARING SOUND on the frontage.

A very long line of people waiting. Two muscular DOORMEN check IDs before allowing entrance.

J.J walks down the street. She's not so far from the night club.

The "*CR-V*" pulls up next to J.J. The driver side power window GOES DOWN on Roberto. Madeline is on the passenger seat.

MADELINE

J.J, please be careful.

J.J

You know, there's plenty of person
on this planet working in a night
club and nothing has ever happened
to them.

MADELINE

I know, but --

J.J

You are overreacting.

Her cellphone RINGS again.

MADELINE

Give me a sec.

(on her cellphone)

Madeline's speaking. (*a time*)

Alright, I'll take care of it. (*a time*) Just hold on a minute, please.

Madeline covers the cellphone receiver.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

I know, J.J, but please be careful... for me.

J.J

Alright, I will, mum.

MADELINE

Thank you. Roberto will be there at the end of your shift.

J.J

You already told me that.

MADELINE

I know. But I'm a mother. Mothers do that.

J.J

I know.

J.J waves at Roberto and Madeline.

J.J (CONT'D)

I'll see you later guys.

J.J goes toward the "*Boiler Room*".

MADELINE

Love you, honey.

J.J

Love you mum.

Madeline resumes the conversation on her cellphone.

MADELINE

(on her cellphone)

Let me give a phone call. In one hour the situation will be settled. (*a time*) I don't care what you're thinking. Things are going as planned and I won't change...

The "CR-V" leaves the area.

INT. THE BOILER ROOM - NIGHT

The "*Boiler Room*" is a gigantic night club. Gothic decor, weird statues and others references to the "Matrix" movies...

Except for the staff the place is empty. They're getting things in order.

J.J and TANAKA HITOSHI (31), the owner of the "*Boiler Room*", are walking through the dance floor. Tanaka Hitoshi a Japanese man, fan of the "Matrix" movies as he's wearing a perfect replica of Neo's outfit.

Tanaka Hitoshi points his finger at the DJ's location over the dance floor.

TANAKA HITOSHI

(Japanese accent)

You follow the white rabbit until you reach your destination. Follow the white rabbit.

J.J

Lewis Carroll. I'm impressed. Well... sometimes appearances are deceptive.

TANAKA HITOSHI

(Japanese accent)

Ada Nicodemou!

J.J

Or not.

TANAKA HITOSHI

(Japanese accent)

Dujour! The one Neo is supposed to follow is Dujour played by the actress Ada Nicodemou. The one with the tattoo of a white rabbit on the back of her left shoulder. Not some eccentric girl. Anyway no one by the name of Carol, is in the "Matrix". Luckily I'm only paying you to play the music without any consideration for your general knowledge.

J.J

Why?

TANAKA HITOSHI
(Japanese accent)
What?

J.J
Why persons like you are always
bothering persons like me?

TANAKA HITOSHI
(Japanese accent)
You are weird.

J.J
Yes, I surely am. So...

J.J points her finger at the DJ's location over the dance floor.

J.J (CONT'D)
The ugly giant egg over there is my
station, right?

TANAKA HITOSHI
(Japanese accent)
What did you say?

J.J
What?

TANAKA HITOSHI
(Japanese accent)
What you called an ugly egg is one
of the most famous piece of art
made by the even more famous artist
Giger. It's priceless.

J.J
Giger.

TANAKA HITOSHI
(Japanese accent)
What?

J.J
You said Giger like the hair
color.

TANAKA HITOSHI
(Japanese accent)
Nope Giger like the artist. The
alien movies. Does that ring a
bell? Hello?

J.J
 Yep but his name is Giger not
 Ginger.

TANAKA HITOSHI
 (Japanese accent)
 Ginger! The artist from the
 Wisconsin.

J.J rolls her eyes, exasperated.

J.J
 The Wisconsin... right. We
 certainly don't have the same
 education as you well put it
 earlier. The break room?

TANAKA HITOSHI
 (Japanese accent)
 Eh?

J.J
 Where's the break room?

Tanaka Hitoshi points his finger at the other end of the
 dance floor.

J.J (CONT'D)
 Thank you.

J.J walks straight across the dance floor.

J.J (CONT'D)
 Hans Ruedi Giger is born in Chur. A
 town from Switzerland.

TANAKA HITOSHI
 (Japanese accent)
 Chur is not in the Wisconsin, and
 the Wisconsin is not in
 Switzerland. It's an American
 state. You really need to improve
 your general knowledge. Are you
 aware of that?

J.J
 Yes I surely am.

INT. THE BOILER ROOM / BREAK ROOM - NIGHT

A break room. Round tables, a microwave, a fridge, a sink and
 as always the old 90's Tv set.

J.J is sitting lazily in her chair, the Tv remote control in her right hand

The national news is playing on the old 90's Tv set.

A well dressed Tv news anchor (30) is SPEAKING.

THE TV NEWS ANCHOR

For the moment we have no detail on the ongoing police investigation. Two weeks now since the former president of the United States has been shot right outside his house. No witness, no evidence, no bodyguard, nothing. Very certainly one of the most mysterious murder of our century. Very certainly one of the most horrific event our country...

J.J turns off the Tv.

The main door SWINGS OPEN.

Cillian wearing a "security" tee-shirt enters the room.

CILLIAN

Here you are.

J.J sarcastically raises her hands in the air.

J.J

Hooray.

CILLIAN

When Tanaka told me that he had hired a weirdo girl... Here you are. Fate, again.

J.J

There no such thing as fate.

CILLIAN

Of course it is. What else would it be?

J.J

Ok, explain it to me in plain English.

CILLIAN

See where we are. What is the probability of us meeting in such a place, at such a moment... again? It means something.

J.J

Ya, I remember now. The cleaning company and your non sense "blabla" about fate and life. Still not interested, thank you. So...

J.J points to his tee-shirt.

J.J (CONT'D)

Obviously you are the security guy.

CILLIAN

Yep.

J.J

Since when?

CILLIAN

Oh my... something like two years. Or a little bit less.

J.J

But aren't you supposed to work at the cleaning company?

CILLIAN

I am.

J.J

So you have two jobs and on top of that you go to school where you're getting very good grades not to mention that you are the local freestyle wrestling champion?

CILLIAN

That... is right.

J.J

Ok. I'm impressed.

CILLIAN

About what?

J.J

Nothing. Bye.

J.J stands up then goes to the door...

CILLIAN
What? You really are an impossible
person. Do you...

... and leaves the room.

CILLIAN (CONT'D)
...know that?

A MUSIC SOUNDING MUFFLED comes through the door.

INT. THE BOILER ROOM / DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

LOUD MUSIC. Spotlights pan and tilt.

The night club is packed. People are PARTYING, dancing,
drinking, LAUGHING...

J.J in charge of the music stands in the DJ booth over the
dance floor.

As we are moving through the crowd, we pass Cillian. Doing
his job, watching... well even if mostly he's more staring at
J.J then watching the dance floor.

We stop before drunken Gus and Ben holding beer bottles.

Gus talks to a young girl right next to him. She slaps him in
the face and leaves.

Ben can't help but laugh. Gus punches him in the shoulder.
Ben is still LAUGHING when Gus notices J.J's presence. Gus
points his finger at J.J's location. Ben stops laughing. They
talk to each other.

We move away until we reach a metallic door.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

A typical back alley sordid, dirty, scary...

A MUSIC SOUNDING MUFFLED comes through a metallic door .

The metallic door SWINGS OPEN. LOUD MUSIC BLARES OUT.

J.J gets out and CLOSES the door behind her. The music stops.

She walks down the alley toward a boulevard.

Gus and Ben appears right at the angle with the boulevard.

GUS
Eh. See who's here!

EXT. THE BOILER ROOM - NIGHT

The "CR-V" is parked on the boulevard. Roberto is leaning against the car, waiting.

We see Gus and Ben getting out of the "Boiler Room" drunk and VERY NOISY. They turn into an alley and disappear.

Then Cillian, very casual, gets out of the night club. He stops to talk with the two doormen.

EXT. A BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

Back to the alley.

Gus and Ben appears right at the angle with the boulevard.

GUS
Eh. See who's here!

BEN
The witch.

J.J freezes unsure. Something's clearly wrong.

J.J
Are you looking for trouble
"dickheads"?

BEN
What? Oh no, ma'am.

GUS
Come on man! Stop being a pussy.
It's time for us to do something!

BEN
To do what, Gus? She's a witch.

J.J
Gus, your friend is smart. You
should listen to him.

GUS
Shut the fuck up, you cunt!

A shroud of fear comes down on her.

BEN

What the fuck, man? Are you fucking insane?

GUS

Trust me, Ben. I know what I'm doing.

BEN

What? But she's going to put a spell on us. Please Ma'am, don't put a spell on me. I didn't say, what he has just said. Put a curse on him and just let me go, ok?

GUS

There won't be any curses. Do you know why?

BEN

Why?

GUS

Because I have a plan.

J.J

Impossible. You are not smart enough, pale.

GUS

Do not listen to her! She's playing mind games with us.

J.J quietly steps aside trying to get a direct access to the boulevard.

J.J

Listen retards, you let me go and you pray not to be in a very bad situation in the very near future.

GUS

It's over. Your reign of terror ends here and now!

J.J

Are you for real?

GUS

Ben, my plan is to rape her.

J.J

For that you would have to know
where your dick is localized,
dumbass.

BEN

I don't want to rape her. Punks are
nasty. They repel me.

J.J

I'm not a punk and I'm certainly
not ugly, thank you.

GUS

I know that's a good idea. They did
that in a movie and it worked. The
witch lost her power after being
raped.

J.J

First that movie doesn't exist
except in your stupid and sick
mind. Second if we are talking
about movies, what about "I spit on
your grave"?

BEN

Oh my god! Oh my fucking god! I
know that movie. I'm sorry man. I'm
leaving. I tell you, I don't want
to be tortured to death.

GUS

Well, bye Ben. I'm staying here
with my new love,

Gus moves toward J.J. She's tensed and scared but she's ready
to defend herself. No other option.

GUS (CONT'D)

You are going to enjoy it, love.

Gus raises his fist. At the very moment where he was supposed
to hit her face, his arm is violently blocked.

Cillian stands in the way his right arm locked on Gus's one.
He pushes him away.

CILLIAN

I don't think so.

Ben rushes at Cillian.

BEN
RELEASE MY FRIEND!

CILLIAN
What?

An INTENSE FIGHT starts between Cillian and his two opponents.

Cillian is so efficient, so fast that Ben and Gus are not able to hit him. Then he PUNCHES Ben in the stomach before to JAB Gus in the throat. The fight is over. They fall down trying to catch their breath.

CILLIAN (CONT'D)
J.J?

J.J is amazed. Completely overwhelmed.

J.J
What?

CILLIAN
Can we leave?

J.J
What? Uh, yes, sorry. Sure.

Cillian and J.J move toward the boulevard.

Roberto bursts into the alley. He's immediately ready to fight with Cillian.

J.J (CONT'D)
Roberto! Stop!

Cillian steps back in a combat stance. Roberto freezes.

J.J (CONT'D)
Cillian just saves me from these two douchebags over there.

J.J points her finger at Ben and Gus still trying to catch their breath.

J.J (CONT'D)
I'm going to have a coffee with him. He'll bring me back home safely. Ok?

Roberto stares at J.J doubtfully.

J.J (CONT'D)
I'll be fine, Roberto.

Roberto nods. With burning anger in his eyes he swiftly walks toward Ben and Gus.

J.J (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Cillian. I didn't ask you but... would you like to have a coffee with me? I mean maybe you...

CILLIAN

Nope. It's super fine.

Cillian and J.J walk down the alley toward the boulevard.

We HEAR BEAT-UP NOISES - OFF SCREEN.

Cillian and J.J reach the boulevard.

WE HEAR THE SOUND OF A CAR PASSING BY.

EXT. A COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

A HIGH TRAFFIC AVENUE.

A bohemian coffee shop.

Cillian and J.J walk up to the front door. Cillian opens the door. They go inside the coffee shop.

INT. A COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT - LATER

An AMBIENT MUSIC. An art collection is on display.

The coffee shop is not packed. An old couple in the back, a lonely man standing at the counter... Cillian and J.J having a coffee by the window.

J.J

And they said it's a sport of faggot. If people from school were here tonight, I'm sure they wouldn't bother you anymore.

CILLIAN

What happened tonight has nothing to do with "Freestyle Wrestling". But who cares. What's really important is that you are okay.

J.J

Cillian I'm embarrassed. I don't know what to say or how to thank you. I mean I'm confused.

(MORE)

J.J (CONT'D)

For the very first time in my life you... I... You see I'm always in control, I'm behind an unbreakable shell, I mean that's my nature, my way to be, my way to live my own perfect life but today...

Cillian waves his hands.

CILLIAN

I'm sorry, but... I'm not sure I understand what you are trying to tell me.

J.J

Actually I'm not sure myself. So... change of subject. You know how to fight. But what is it? Your hobby?

Cillian LAUGHS.

CILLIAN

Good one, but nope. You know the same old story. The young child being bullied, beaten-up by other children. Until one day my uncle noticed the bruises on my face. Since that day no one has ever laid a hand on me again.

J.J

Your uncle?

CILLIAN

My uncle is the owner of a security company. Protection for celebrities, special events, concerts, night clubs, you name it... Anyway he introduced me to the man responsible for teaching close combat to his team. The owner of a taekwondo dojo. My grandmaster. So the child being bullied became a lonely child, yes, but no one ever touched me again. And even if Ben and Gus were bothering me at school... let's say I didn't want to attract attention. I'm not that kind of guy.

J.J

Alright so you're practicing two types of martial arts or whatever you call them. You have two jobs.

(MORE)

J.J (CONT'D)

You go to school. Dude you are a machine.

Cillian GIGGLES.

INT. A COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT - LATER

Back to the coffee shop.

The same coffee shop with the same MUSIC, the same decor, the same people.

J.J is LAUGHING.

J.J

It's the first time I met a Cillian. Your name is not common.

CILLIAN

My name is Irish but I'm not. My mother was a great fan of this actor not so famous because he's somehow out of the Hollywood system. One of these true actors loving theatre rather than just being the cover of a magazine everyone's talking about because of the controversial aspects of his personal life, because of his fashionable appearance with no substance inside. Well I named Cillian Murphy. Cillian with a C and not a K.

J.J

I don't know that actor.

J.J takes a sip of coffee.

CILLIAN

He was the leading role in "Sunshine", "28 days later", "Peacock", the bad guy in "Batman begins", "Red eye" or even "In time". He was also the one they try to convince of a reality while invading his own mind in "Inception".

J.J

Oh, yes I think I remember the guy now. Dark hairs, blue eyes, very good looking.

CILLIAN
You got it.

J.J
Your mother named you after an
actor she loves. That's sweet.

CILLIAN
She loved.

J.J
What?

CILLIAN
My mother passed away two years
ago.

J.J winces.

J.J
Oh, I'm sorry.

CILLIAN
Don't be. How could you know
anyway. And you know it's just a
name but... it means a lot to me.

J.J
I know the feeling.

CILLIAN
What about you?

J.J
Me?

CILLIAN
What's the story behind your name?
J.J? What does it stand for?

J.J
Oh god.

J.J covers her face with her hands, embarrassed.

J.J (CONT'D)
Very simple and very embarrassing
as well. You see my parents are a
little bit weird... sometimes.

CILLIAN
Everyone know your father. Everyone
love him. He's so funny when he's
on Tv.

J.J

Trust me I know. Anyway. During my mother pregnancy my parents couldn't agree on a name for me. That's why I am J.J.

CILLIAN

And J.J stands for?

J.J

God, that's so embarrassing.

CILLIAN

Come on J.J. There's just you and me, here.

J.J

I'm born in July. My father wanted to name me after my birth month. But my mother thought it was a stupid idea. Her own choice was July because it reminded her the summer. It sounded poetic. July, but not the same July.

CILLIAN

Are you telling me that your name is July-July?

J.J

When I was twelve I changed it for J.J. July-July is so... well.

Cillian LAUGHS

CILLIAN

Well it's not common... right?

Cillian can't stop LAUGHING. J.J LAUGHS as well.

CILLIAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry... July-July.

INT. A COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT - LATER

Back to the coffee shop.

The same coffee shop with the same MUSIC, the same decor, the same people.

J.J takes a sip of coffee.

CILLIAN

I have to take care of him. If I don't do it nobody else will and my father would very certainly kill himself without even being aware of it.

J.J

It makes sense. But at some point you will have to move on. I mean you have your own life to live.

CILLIAN

I know that. But he's my father. Even if he's far from being Mr nice guy.

J.J

Yes, parents are humans, right? We also as their kids can make effort to improve our relationship.

CILLIAN

Absolutely.

J.J

My relationship with my parents is a little bit weird, cause of their long absence due to their respective job, but I can't complain. I love them, they love me and we are always on the same page.

CILLIAN

Who doesn't know your father?

J.J

Yep and I'm famous despite myself.

CILLIAN

Which explains that antisocial personality of yours.

J.J

Not totally.

Cillian takes a sip of coffee.

CILLIAN

So we can't say you're part of a perfect family, right?

J.J GIGGLES.

J.J

No but we are happy. We
communicate, rarely argue.

CILLIAN

Do you think it has something to do
with the fact that they are french?

J.J

No. That's just the way they are.

CILLIAN

What does your mother do for a
living?

J.J

My mother is a wildlife biologist.
Last year we were in Morocco.

CILLIAN

And for that she needs a bodyguard?

J.J CHUCKLES

J.J

No, not a bodyguard. We consider
Roberto like a family member. Back
in France when he was just a kid he
was forced to work for a violent
criminal organization. A kid who
eventually became their contract
killer. My mother helped him to
move out of this criminal
organization. Since that day he's
with us. My mother, my father and
myself, we are his only family.

CILLIAN

Wow! Your mother is a strong woman.

J.J

You can't imagine what she's
capable of. My mother... even if
she loves my father and my father
loves her... well they made a deal
the day they met. Normal people get
married. My parents, they made a
deal. Because of their jobs they
hardly see each other.

(MORE)

J.J (CONT'D)

The deal is to always being in love, always use cellphone and other modern technologies to keep in touch, never think about other men or women and finally to always be there for their daughter. My mother is 42, my father is 65 and even if people judge them because of the large age gap, because of the way they live their lives, I can assure you that they are deeply in love. But not in the way people are getting used to it.

CILLIAN

A happy family anyway. And you...

Cillian pauses to fixe his gaze on J.J.

CILLIAN (CONT'D)

...may even be a good person...
after all.

J.J smiles.

J.J

Sometimes.

EXT. A COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT - LATER

Cillian and J.J get out of the coffee. They peacefully walk down the avenue.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - NIGHT - LATER

Poverty and urban decay. All but a residential neighborhood.

Cillian and J.J are walking down an empty street.

J.J is talking on her cellphone.

J.J

(on her cellphone)

Yes Roberto, I know. I changed my mind. *(a time)* Alright I lied to you. But I needed to be alone with Cillian and... anyway. So? *(a time)* You know I love you, Roberto. Give me a sec, would you?

J.J covers the cellphone receiver.

J.J (CONT'D)
 What's your address?

CILLIAN
 1612, Ephemeral street.

J.J resumes the conversation on her cellphone.

J.J
 (on her cellphone)
 Roberto? *(a time)* 1612, Ephemeral street. *(a time)* Yep, it's in downtown, buddy! *(a time)* What do you want me to say? Of course I'm safe. I'm safe but you don't believe me. So whatever I say right now won't change anything because no matter what happens, you are not listening. Be overstressed, rush yourself and have fun on your way. See you in a couple of minutes... buddy!

J.J turns off her cellphone.

CILLIAN
 Is everything alright?

J.J
 Yep. Roberto has always been overprotective of me. No worries.

Cillian smiles. He stops walking.

CILLIAN
 Here we are. Home, sweet home.

Cillian and J.J are standing before a decaying building. Sordid.

J.J
 Not my dream home. Quite the opposite, actually.

Cillian GIGGLES.

CILLIAN
 I know. All I can afford.

Cillian grabs J.J's hands. Pulls her closer.

J.J
 All you can afford, right?

CILLIAN

Yeah... something like that.

A MAN (O.C.)

Do you know who you are? A fucking joke! You are a fucking joke!

Cillian and J.J pull apart.

They turn their heads toward Cillian's father (52) a human wreck standing at his fifth floor apartment window.

CILLIAN'S FATHER

Where is it? Where? I'm focusing right now. No plastic bag, no bottle not even a brown paper bag in your hands.

CILLIAN

Dad, please. It's the middle of the night.

CILLIAN'S FATHER

And I'm bored! The middle of the night without booze is unpleasant!

The "CR-V" pulls up next to J.J. The driver side power window GOES DOWN on Roberto.

J.J

I'm sorry but I need to go.

CILLIAN'S FATHER

No booze for your beloved father but a cunt for you! Shame on you! Shame on you my disgraced son!

CILLIAN

J.J I'm sorry for this. I'm really -
-

J.J

No worries buddy.

CILLIAN'S FATHER

You are a not a son to me! You are a waste of my time. Do you know why? Because you didn't bring me my booze!

CILLIAN

Not very romantic, right?

J.J LAUGHS.

J.J
I had a nice time with you tonight,
Cillian. Really.

CILLIAN'S FATHER
Congratulation, "waste of my time"!
You have a cunt friend now. But I
wonder... where's my fucking booze?

CILLIAN
God, I feel so bad J.J. My father
is very --

J.J
I know. Don't worry.

J.J goes to the "CR-V". She opens the passenger side door.

J.J (CONT'D)
See you around, love.

Cillian blushes.

J.J gets into the "CR-V".

CILLIAN'S FATHER
Oh no... well with your ugly face
no surprise here buddy.

CILLIAN
Alright, dad.

CILLIAN'S FATHER
Where's my booze ugly little man?

CILLIAN
You win, ok. I'll be there in five
with your fucking poison.

CILLIAN'S FATHER
At last!

Cillian walks down the street.

The "CR-V" leaves.

INT. DE L'AUBE FAMILY HOUSE / LIVING ROOM - DAY

Back to the living room. Still the "*Cottonmouth water moccasin*" inside the snake tanks.

Some of the snake tanks are empty.

French news on Tv. The TV SOUND LEVEL IS LOW, not clearly discernible.

Pierre stands behind a small table in the middle of the living room. He's wearing dishwashing gloves covered with blood. He's SLICING some kind of meat on a wooden cutting board.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| PIERRE | PIERRE |
| Putain que c'est dégueulasse! | (English subtitles) |
| | Fuck, that's disgusting! |

The front door SWINGS OPEN. J.J comes in.

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| PIERRE | PIERRE |
| Hey! Ma fille préférée. | (English subtitles) |
| | Hey! My lovely daughter. |

J.J
Oh my god!

PIERRE
I know. I don't feel so good.

J.J
Why are you murdering these snakes
in a so... graphic way?

PIERRE
Policemen were here yesterday. Ergo
it's over.

Pierre CUTS OPEN an other snake. Disgusting.

PIERRE (CONT'D)
We move to New-York next week. Your
mother will personally lead the
organization maybe for the next two
years. Just to be sure that the
international politics she's
intending to put in place is well-
handled. So New-York it is.

J.J
That's your explicit explanation?
Wait a minute...

J.J comes closer to the table.

Pierre is removing a couple of diamonds from the inside of the snake he has just cut open. He adds them to a nearly full transparent jar.

J.J (CONT'D)
 You're kidding, right? Mum is so
 fucked up sometimes. I mean... it
 makes us feel positively dumb.

PIERRE
 You know her. That is her job to be
 one step ahead of everyone.

Pierre frowns as he CUTS OPEN an other snake.

PIERRE (CONT'D)
 Aren't you excited? New-York is a
 wonderful town not to mention that
 we are leaving this fucking shit
 hole. What a relief!

J.J
 Yep.

PIERRE
 Just yep?

J.J
 Yep.

Pierre removes the diamonds from the inside of the snake and
 put them inside the transparent jar.

PIERRE
 Your graduation ceremony, when is
 it again?

J.J
 This Friday.

PIERRE
 Yeah, right. Did you finally take a
 decision about college?

J.J
 I have received acceptance offers
 from more than one even if I have
 never looked for them.

PIERRE
 Let me guess. All from New-York?

J.J
 It didn't make any sense to me but
 well... she's always one step ahead
 and... I don't mind.

(MORE)

J.J (CONT'D)

I mean I'm so bored with my life
anywhere will be fine with me.
Anyway, I'll keep going with
personal experiment.

Pierre CUTS OPEN an other snake.

PIERRE

Oh, yes. My first jobs as a new
immigrant.

J.J

Exactly and within the same amount
of time you kept each one of them.

PIERRE

I still think that's a very weird
idea.

J.J

My way of getting closer to you...
somehow. I'm not even sure anymore.

PIERRE

That's why you are so upset.

J.J

What?

PIERRE

You're losing your legendary self
control.

Again he removes the diamonds from the inside of the snake
and put them inside the transparent jar.

PIERRE (CONT'D)

It's a dude, right?

J.J

No... it's complicated.

PIERRE

No it's not.

J.J

Papa, comment tu peux dire
ça. Tu sais pas de quoi tu
parles.

J.J

(English subtitles)
Dad, how can you say that?
You have no idea what you're
talking about.

PIERRE

L'amour est une chose
simple..

PIERRE

(English subtitles)
Love is a simple thing...

J.J

We leave for New-York next week,
you said it yourself.

PIERRE

He'll come with us.

J.J

What?

PIERRE

I just told you. It's very simple.
If he truly loves you, he'll come
with us.

J.J

But he has a life here. How could
he throw all that away just for me?
With no certainty?

Pierre CUTS OPEN an other snake.

PIERRE

Love is simple. If he loves you
that much he'll come with you. And
if he loves you that much to go
with you, he will never leave you.

J.J

I don't know.

PIERRE

You don't know or you're not sure?

Again he removes the diamonds from the inside of the snake.

J.J

About what? About him?

PIERRE

No about you. About your feelings
for him.

J.J

Dad!

Pierre stops what he's doing to stare at J.J.

J.J (CONT'D)

Alright. I'm sure.

Pierre puts the diamonds inside the transparent jar.

J.J (CONT'D)
I have feelings for him but I told
you, it seems complicated.

PIERRE
Trust me, J.J. It's not. However if
you don't do what you have to do
with him, you will have regrets. Do
not let him go without giving him
the choice.

Pierre CUTS OPEN another snake.

EXT. THE GRADUATION CEREMONY - DAY

The graduation ceremony is over.

The park next to the high school is packed with hundreds of
students wearing their academic dresses and graduation caps.
TALKING to each other. Gathering for a group photo. Having
fun with their family.

J.J is forcing her way through the crowd. She's looking for
someone.

Ben and Gus appear in front of her.

GUS
Ben, see who's here. The fucking
witch.

BEN
Payback time!

Ben RUBS his hands together.

GUS
And that's...

Ben and Gus freeze.

BEN
A very bad idea. Right Gus?

GUS
Indeed, bro.

CILLIAN (O.C.)
Yep. That's what it is... retards!

J.J turns around to face Cillian.

Ben and Gus vanish into the crowd.

CILLIAN (CONT'D)
 Congratulation for your graduation,
 J.J.

J.J
 Thank you, the same to you.

CILLIAN
 So what's your next step?

J.J
 I'm leaving on Monday for New-York.

CILLIAN
 Wow. Really?

J.J
 Yep.

CILLIAN
 May I... May --

J.J
 What?

CILLIAN
 I don't know if I may... May I...
 Do you think I --

J.J
 What?

CILLIAN
 Well... it's difficult to... I'm
 not sure.

J.J
 What? Get straight to the point.
 God, I hate --

CILLIAN
 Alright!

Cillian KISSES J.J passionately. She succumbs. Love is in the
 air.

MADELINE (O.C.)
 J.J!

Cillian and J.J pull apart.

Pierre and Madeline stand side by side, his arm around her
 waist. Roberto is right behind them.

J.J

Mum!

MADELINE

Congratulation, honey.

PIERRE

Même si je n'avais aucun
doute, je suis quand même
fier de toi!

PIERRE

(English subtitles)
Although I had no doubt of
your success, I'm proud of
you.

J.J

Merci, papa.

J.J

(English subtitles)
Thanks dad.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

And you are Cillian, right?

CILLIAN

I am ma'am.

PIERRE

My daughter talks about you all the
time.

CILLIAN

Well sir, I'm sincerely --

MADELINE

Did you ask him?

J.J

No. How --

CILLIAN

Ask me what?

J.J

I can't --

MADELINE

Ask him!

CILLIAN

Ask me what, J.J?

J.J

No mum. I can't. It's too... weird.

MADELINE

Weird or not. It's now or never.

CILLIAN
Come on J.J. What is it?

PIERRE
C'est toi qui vois, J.J.

PIERRE
(English subtitles)
It's up to you, J.J.

J.J stares at her father.

She turns to face Cillian.

J.J
Do you want to come with us to New-York?

CILLIAN
What? But my father... I mean --

MADELINE
Your father is a waste of your time, isn't he?

CILLIAN
What?

MADELINE
I've already made all the arrangements. Your father could be admitted to the "Chamard institute". They are specialized in addiction treatment for --

CILLIAN
How could you do that?

MADELINE
With my cellphone.

CILLIAN
The "Chamard Institute" is a private institution. I can't afford it.

MADELINE
Money is not an issue. You are a very good student. Almost as good as J.J. And the "New-York University" need new team members for their freestyle wrestling team.

CILLIAN
But... I can't. I told you I'm not that rich and --

MADELINE

And I told you, money is none of your concern.

CILLIAN

Why would you do all these things?
Why would you trust me?

MADELINE

I don't trust anyone... but my family.

Madeline turns around.

PIERRE

She hates waiting and the choice is yours to make. Think quickly.

Madeline, Pierre and Roberto walk away.

CILLIAN

Who are you?

MADELINE

I'm J.J's mother.

J.J takes Cillian's hands and looks straight into his eyes.

J.J

My mother always keeps her word. If you come with us, you'll be part of our family.

A single tear falls down his cheek. J.J KISSES him.

J.J (CONT'D)

My mother has her own way to deal with... things.

J.J pulls his arm. Cillian follows her.

INT. DE L'AUBE FAMILY HOUSE / LIVING ROOM - DAY

Except for an old 90's Tv set the living room is empty. No one's there.

The national news.

A well dressed Tv news anchor (30) is SPEAKING.

THE TV NEWS ANCHOR

And again the "King of shadows" is on every lip.

(MORE)

THE TV NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)

The unsolved murder of the former US president remains a complete mystery. Even if the investigation is still ongoing people need answers. The iconic image of the "King of shadows". Who else?

The channel SWITCHES to an interview with David Simmons, the actual president of the United States of America.

DAVID SIMMONS

No, I'm sorry. This government is a transparent government. There is no and never will be any form of corruption affecting our bureaucracy. And your imaginary story about diamonds is what I call lies and assumptions. There is absolutely no evidence that these diamonds even exist. I tell you... we, the United States of America, are under my leadership, protected from all form of corruption and you can trust me blindly.

The channel SWITCHES again to the "Jimmy Fallon's Tonight show". Pierre is the guest.

JIMMY FALLON

"A common tale about an uncommon family" has been nominated in two categories. For best cinematography and best original screenplay. Your fourth nomination, right?

PIERRE

That's right.

JIMMY FALLON

And you've already won two Oscars. It was for "The man with a killer sphere" and "The absurd but powerful mind of Sarah Holystein".

PIERRE

Tout à fait.

PIERRE

(English subtitles)
Absolutely.

The audience applauds.

JIMMY FALLON (CONT'D)
 Amazing. You are playing in the
 movie under your own name. What is
 it? Some sort of Mockumentary?

PIERRE
 Not really. In this movie some
 things might not be as accurate as
 you think.

JIMMY FALLON
 Can you tell us more?

PIERRE
 Non.

JIMMY FALLON
 Non?

PIERRE
 Watch the movie and figure it out.

JIMMY FALLON
 Alright. The production company
 have chosen the last scene of the
 movie. The last scene to promote
 the movie, this is not
 conventional. Why specifically the
 end of the movie?

PIERRE
 Why not.

Jimmy Fallon winces.

JIMMY FALLON
 The last scene of "A common tale
 about an uncommon family".
 (pointing the camera)
 Let's have a look.

EXT. AN INTERSTATE ROAD - DAY

A road going through a desert. A beautiful sunset. A very cliché landscape.

Madeline, Pierre, J.J, Cillian and Roberto enters the scene.
 They start walking toward the sun.

FADE OUT.

- THE END -

