

"BOUNTY MAN"

BY

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EXT. FRONT OF CAFÉ - DAY

SCENE 1

Detective CARMEN GONZALES dressed in leather jacket, Plain shirt and Denim pants is leaning on a wall in front of the café. **Detective MARCOS VERSOZA** dressed in formal wear walks towards her.

CARMEN GONZALES

Why are you in a suit?

MARCOS VERSOZA

I'm more comfortable in this.

CARMEN GONZALES

Up to you... C'mon let's go in.

Detective CARMEN GONZALES and Detective MARCOS VERSOZA walk towards the CAFÉ.

INT. CAFE- DAY

SCENE 2

CARMEN and MARCOS enter the café, look around then sit down opposite each other.

MARCOS VERSOZA

So...Is he here?

CARMEN GONZALES

(Looks around) I don't think so.

MARCOS VERSOZA

He calls for a meeting and he's late.

CARMEN GONZALES

(Looks around) It's still early. Maybe he's here somewhere.

MARCOS VERSOZA

(Looks around) How does he look like?

CARMEN GONZALES

I have no idea.

MARCOS VERSOZA

What do you mean? Aren't you his main contact?

CARMEN GONZALES

Yeah, But I never met him.

MARCOS VERSOZA

You said he's been working with your precinct for years, directly with you, specifically you, and you have never met? Maybe because I'm new here but seriously, No offense, I think that's kinda dumb.

CARMEN GONZALES

(Visibly offended)

It might look unconventional but I guarantee you it's been working for us and we get things done this way.

(MARCOS Scoffs)

He never deals face to face with anyone; in fact no one even knows how he looks like. We will be the first ones to actually meet him.

MARCOS VERSOZA

(Saracastic) I'm so honored.

BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS approaches the table.

BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS

(Cheerful) Good morning, So are we ready to order?

CARMEN and MARCOS both order coffee. WAITRESS leaves. Both of them lean back and sit in silence, not looking at each other.

MARCOS notices that CARMEN is a little anxious. He feels bad for being too aggressive and decides to break the tension.

MARCOS VERSOZA

You know, moving here will be my first time living alone. I always had someone with me, a roommate, cousin or girlfriend. I didn't expect it would be this hard. Right? like who knew?

CARMEN GONZALES

What?

MARCOS VERSOZA

Seriously, like, take last night for example. I decided to get out of my comfort zone and try cooking something simple for the first time, so I checked YouTube, followed the instructions to the letter and kinda nailed it. I was so proud of myself. I made stir fry beef with rice. But after I already ate it, I found out that you have to actually clean the rice before cooking it! Who knew?

Both of them share a small laugh then return to awkward silence.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Look I'm sorry for being a dick; I didn't mean it to come out that way. I'm just really no-

CARMEN GONZALES

It's fine. Don't worry about.

MARCOS VERSOZA

It's just... This is a very serious case and I can't trust a guy who has a lot of...conditions... I KNOW he has helped with a lot of important cases but I feel it's just not enough for me to feel at ease.

CARMEN GONZALES

Me vouching for him should be enough for you, I know we've been partners for only a week but we should have each other's back and trust each other's judgment. So when I tell you he is the only one who can help us. I need to know that you got my back no matter what.

MARCOS VERSOZA

You're right, Fair enough...

If you don't mind me asking. Why him? I mean, there's other Bounty hunters and informants on our payroll so why him specifically?

CARMEN GONZALES

It's because we built a strong foundation of trust over the years, we understand how the other works. When we work together it's like we bounce off each other and understand what needs to be done.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Ok I get it you're both close but how is that an answer to my why question?

CARMEN GONZALES

Have you ever heard of the man of Zanshin?

MARCOS VERSOZA

I've heard some stories, what about hi-

(Suddenly surprised)

-Wait! Don't tell me, is-

CARMEN GONZALES

Yeah, that's why.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Oh shit!

CARMEN and MARCOS awkwardly sit in silence, MARCOS takes out his phone and starts looking up Zanshin.

MARCOS VERSOZA

"Zanshin is a state of awareness, of relaxed alertness, in Japanese martial arts". What does that even mean?

Carmen, I heard a lot of bad things about this guy. Even from back home.

CARMEN GONZALES

Don't believe everything you hear, most of them are exaggeration.

MARCOS VERSOZA

My coworkers used to tell stories about him being unstable and sadistic.

CARMEN GONZALES

Yeah? I've heard a few as well. I've heard that he once fought 15 people at the same time and won without even getting hit.

See, Told you, exaggeration.

BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS approaches the table, serves their coffee and asked them if they want anything else, both say no.

MARCOS VERSOZA

What if those stories are true?

CARMEN GONZALES

Criminals have the habit of exaggerating in hopes of getting sympathy. So I wouldn't trust everything they say.

And About him fighting 15 people, you're also a martial artist; you know that's not humanly possible. Even if you're the reincarnation of Bruce lee, fighting 15 people at the same time is something you'll only see in movies.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Yeah you're right.

...

How about this, someone told that he killed four people and a dog, he killed them using the dog! He grabbed it by its legs and swung it around like a baseball bat. Is that even possible?!

CARMEN GONZALES

I never heard that one. He never killed anyone as far as I know.

We better ask him later, and if it's true I'll beat him up myself. Although, I bet that dog had it coming.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Oh! That's just mean. C'mon you can't say things like that.

CARMEN GONZALES

I'm just joking. But... I really do prefer cats. Dogs are just (eww)

Both laugh.

CARMEN GONZALES

I admit he is a little rough and overwhelming at times, but he is a good person. All you need to know is that he likes to joke a lot and is kinda obsessed with Batman.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Which one?

CARMEN GONZALES

What?

MARCOS VERSOZA

Which version of Batman? the caped crusader, The dark knight, Red death, Flashpoint, Batman beyond or do I dare say Dark Claw.

CARMEN GONZALES

I didn't understand 99% of what you just said.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Maybe the world's greatest detective?

CARMEN GONZALES

You're such a nerd.

SCENE 3

Café door open and **THOMAS SAND** approaches the table.

THOMAS SAND

Detective Carmen Gonzales! Damn I love the sound of that!

CARMEN and MARCOS stand up to greet THOMAS. CARMEN gets excited with a huge smile on her face.

CARMEN GONZALES

Thomas!

CARMEN and THOMAS hug.

SHORT IMPROV FILLER GOOD TO SEE YOU

THOMAS SAND

It's good to finally meet you in person.

CARMEN GONZALES

Yeah! After 3 years.

THOMAS SAND

3 years too long.

CARMEN GONZALES

Let me introduce you to my partner, Detective Marcos, this is the legendary Thomas Sand.

THOMAS SAND

Legendary is a bit much, but you know what! I'll take it.

MARCOS and THOMAS shake hands.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Pleasure to meet you, Heard a lot about you.

THOMAS SAND

Likewise.

All of them sit down, THOMAS sits beside CARMEN.

SHORT IMPROV FILLER TOPIC RANDOM + CONGRAULATING

THOMAS SAND

So now that we met in person, what do you think? Do I look like what you expected?

CARMEN GONZALES

(Teasing) Actually I was surprised; I was expecting a big bald Muscular guy with a beard who looks gruff and tough with battle scars all over his body. You look smoother than I expected.

THOMAS SAND

(Confused but smiling)Uhh thanks?

CARMEN GONZALES

How did you know how we look like?

THOMAS SAND

Easy, Facebook. I checked your profile last week. And I have to say, If I knew you were this hot, I should've met you years ago.

CARMEN GONZALES

oh! So If I'm not "hot" you won't meet with me, is that it?

THOMAS SAND

Yeah, Pretty much.

CARMEN and THOMAS laugh, THOMAS does the Bruce Willis laugh. MARCOS slightly irritated.

CARMEN GONZALES

Was that the Bruce Willis?

THOMAS SAND

I don't know what you're talking about.

CARMEN GONZALES

That's the seductive laugh you keep telling me about? you're doing it on me?

THOMAS SAND

What do you mean? This is my natural laugh.

THOMAS does the Bruce Willis laugh again.

CARMEN GONZALES

Oh my god! It's so cringy... Does it actually work on anyone?

THOMAS SAND

First of all, I'ts not cringy, it's seductive and sexy, and yes! It does work and I'm going to prove it-

MARCOS gets jealous.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Detective! I'm sorry to cut whatever this is, but we need to get back on track.

SCENE 4

THOMAS and CARMEN Stop flirting, they both look at MARCOS and their expression turn to serious.

CARMEN GONZALES

You're right.

Thomas, I didn't give you the full details.

Five days ago, three men were gunned down at a pedestrian crossing. Three of them were sons of well-known powerful families including the only son of Senator Ernesto De Leon.

THOMAS SAND

Do you think it's a political Assassination?

MARCOS VERSOZA

Doubtful, based on the security footage and key witnesses it was more likely have been a road rage altercation turned fatal.

THOMAS SAND

So all this bullshit over road rage?

CARMEN GONZALES

You'll be surprised how common that is.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Suspects are, Jacob Isler and his accomplice Oliver Santos.

CARMEN GONZALES

Although we suspect Jacob is the actual shooter.

Thomas this is a very delicate case and we need to act fast. Because-

THOMAS SAND

I know the situation. I know it too well. Actually every hired gun in the city is talking about it.

Thomas's expression turns very serious and intimidating.

THOMAS SAND

Word on the street is that Senator De Leon and the other families are on the warpath; they have pulled every string and placed a very huge bounty for the capture of those two assholes. And we're not talking about enforcing the law if you catch my drift.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Yeah, We know.

THOMAS SAND

I don't think you do, I don't think you know how big the bounty is, The bounty has so many zeros that it could even make a 90 year old man hard, and since it doesn't require to actually pull a trigger you bet your ass everyone will be looking to collect. Including the police.

(Pauses)

Here's the problem, there's some talk floating around that two idiot detectives are actually planning to do their job by the book and screw the fun for everyone. And I'm thinking, if I know this, what are the chances that the senator with all his ears and connections, knows this as well.

MARCOS Gets a little agitated.

THOMAS SAND

Let's just Imagine he finds out about it and in his frustration he seeks the services of a professional which is known to be the best of the best, yours truly, promises him a lot of money to take care of you both.

(Leans in to Marcos)

Tell me, of all the days, why do you think I decided to meet you in person?

THOMAS stares at MARCOS intimately, MARCOS gets more agitated and he slowly reaches for his holstered gun under the table. After a few moments of tension CARMEN Suddenly bursts out laughing.

CARMEN GONZALES

Oh shut up!

THOMAS expression suddenly turns to playful.

THOMAS SAND

C'mon why'd you have to ruin the fun, I had him!

MARCOS is confused.

CARMEN GONZALES

I couldn't help it; your acting was terrible,

(Imitates THOMAS) "Why do you think I decided to meet you in person?" (laughs).

THOMAS SAND

WHAT! I was very convincing; He was actually reaching for his gun. That alone should have won me an Oscar.

MARCOS getting slowly more and more irritated.

SHORT IMPROV FILLER THOMAS and CARMEN arguing about acting.

MARCOS VERSOZA

So that's your idea of a joke? You came all this way just to be an asshole?

THOMAS SAND

Hey man, Relax. You'll live longer.

MARCOS VERSOZA

I could've shot you.

THOMAS SAND

Yeah like that would happen.

MARCOS angrily walks out; CARMEN looks at THOMAS and follows MARCOS.

INT. OTHER PART OF CAFE- DAY

Scene 5

MARCOS is angrily pacing and breathing heavily; CARMEN follows shortly and calmly approaches MARCOS.

CARMEN GONZALES

Hey! What was that?

MARCOS VERSOZA

You're asking me? You! What the hell was that?

CARMEN GONZALES

He's just joking around I told you he would do that.

MARCOS VERSOZA

I don't give two shits about what that guy does, I'm talking about you! I'm pissed at you!

CARMEN GONZALES

Me? What the hell did I do?

MARCOS VERSOZA

You're laughing, flirting and acting like we're not in deep shit right now! You forgot the reason that we're here and why we need an asshole like that to help us!

CARMEN GONZALES

What?! Just because I'm not as uptight as you it means I forgot? And who the hell are you to tell me how to act?

MARCOS VERSOZA

I'm not telling you how to act, But it seems you're not taking it seriously! I'm worried, I'm anxious and I'm sticking my neck out for you to basically fight this whole city when no one else will. I got your back! And in return I see my partner is just sitting there having fun? How do you expect me to react?

Moments of silence, both are less aggressive.

CARMEN GONZALES

You're right and I'm sorry If I made you feel that way, Just so you know, I am scared, I can't sleep, I can't eat and sometimes I feel like I can't breathe. I'm really really scared.

But meeting Thomas, I don't know, I'm not..I feel like, I'm safe. Like nothing can harm me

(Pause)

Partner, I always got your back, and I appreciate you having mine. We'll get through this together alright?

CARMEN smiles a little and rubs the arm of MARCOS. MARCOS with a little smile nods.

MARCOS VERSOZA

That guy really gets on my nerves.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Sorry about that.

MARCOS and CARMEN sit back down.

THOMAS SAND

Don't worry about it. You guys are on edge, I understand.

CARMEN GONZALES

Seriously Thomas, We just need reassurance, Are you going to help us?

THOMAS SAND

Of course, I told you already, I got you. But I need to know something... Why? Why risk your lives helping a bunch of killers? You know I wasn't kidding about the senator finding out about you two. You guys are probably a target as we speak. So why risk it?

CARMEN GONZALES

You know me, I can't... we can't just stand by when there's injustice, We can't just do nothing knowing that we have the power to stop it. Or at least try.

THOMAS SAND

Chuckles I knew you'd say that.

You know, You're father would be very proud of you.

MARCOS VERSOZA

So, what now?

THOMAS SAND

Now, I'm going to order a sandwich. Didn't have breakfast.

THOMAS signals for the waitress

MARCOS VERSOZA

Do you think we have time?

THOMAS SAND

There's always time for a sandwich.

BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS approaches the table.

BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS

Yes sir?

THOMAS SAND

(In a flirty voice) Hi, I'm in the mood for a sandwich, what do you recommend?

BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS

(Names different vegetable sandwiches)

THOMAS SAND

That sounds good, IF I'M A GOAT! do you have a sandwich with something dead on it?

BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS

(Names a meat sandwich)

THOMAS SAND

Now that sounds good, you guys want anything? Sure?

MARCOS and CARMEN say no.

THOMAS SAND

Alright then I'll have the (Sandwich). But miss, I trust you to make my sandwich with extra PFFT PFFT ok?

BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS

Come again sir.

Thomas does the PFFT PFFT and winks at the waitress, WAITRESS blushes and tries to contain her laugh.

BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS

Yes sir, would you like anything to drink?

THOMAS SAND

Depends, are you available? But no, I'm good.

The WAITRESS Blushes and THOMAS does the Bruce Willis laugh, the waitress excuses herself and leaves.

THOMAS SAND

See! I told you it works. The Bruce Willis never fails.

CARMEN GONZALES

(Playful)Never fails to cringe.

Scene 7

MARCOS VERSOZA

As I was saying I don't think we have time to sit around and have sandwiches. Just this morning there was a report that gangs and contract killers from around the country arrived at the city.

THOMAS SAND

I know. Don't worry it'll be OK Trust me. I'm on it. Just sit back, Relax. Calm down. Sandwich first, then work.

CARMEN GONZALES

Detective, I have learned over the years to trust Thomas, I don't understand his methods and I berated him a lot over the years-

THOMAS SAND

You mean nag. Nag nag nag, if nagging was a sport you would be the next Bruce Jenner.

CARMEN GONZALES

Berate, not nag. Even when his methods and dumb jokes don't make any sense. Let him take point, if he's telling us to relax then let's just sit back and relax. He always do get the man.

MARCOS visibly irritated.

THOMAS SAND

That's how I do. No homo by the way.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Since we're going to just sit down and talk. I was actually wondering that myself, We with all our resources we have hard time catching someone. But you, from what I've heard you make it look easy. How do you do that?

THOMAS SAND

Can't tell you, Old Family recipe. Besides if I tell you I'll be out of a job. How else am I going to afford these leather jackets?

CARMEN GONZALES

Ok fair enough.

So, How about the rumors, are any of them true?

THOMAS SAND

Depends on which one

MARCOS VERSOZA

Did you really kill 4 people using a dog?

THOMAS SAND

Taken aback I.. never heard that one before, and I don't kill. I have a code.

Although I bet that dog had it coming.

I hate dogs; I'm more of a cat person. Dogs are just
vomiting sound

Marcos Scoffs, CARMEN smiles.

CARMEN GONZALES

RIGHT! Dogs are just awful.

MARCOS VERSOZA

How about your real name? can we at least know that?

THOMAS SAND

What's with this guy, Am I being interrogated?

MARCOS VERSOZA

No, I just want to know the name of the person I'm working with, And I know Thomas Sand is not a real name.

THOMAS SAND

You figured me out, Do you really wanna know?

MARCOS Nods.

THOMAS SAND

Well, If you insist.. I'm not Thomas Sand-

THOMAS leans in.

THOMAS SAND

-I'm Bounty Man.

Everyone in silence. MARCOS gets angry.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Seriously?

THOMAS SAND

What? You don't like it? I think it sounds cool. Bounty man. The dark knight of bounty.

CARMEN GONZALES

You went from the Man of Zanshin to Bounty man?

THOMAS SAND

I only used that once! And now everyone is calling me that?!

CARMEN GONZALES

It does sound better than a batman wannabe name.

THOMAS SAND

HEY! Underneath this manly exterior, lies the heart of a man with a lot of feelings, and you have hurt every one of them.

CARMEN GONZALES

Chuckle That's so stupid.

THOMAS SAND

You're that so stupid.

CARMEN strokes the arm of THOMAS, MARCOS notices it and gets jealous and very angry.

Scene 8

MARCOS VERSOZA

Enough of this bullshit! This guy is wasting our time with his stupid and childish jokes. You may find it amusing but I'm not having any more of this nonsense. EITHER YOU GO TO WORK NOW AND FIND JACOB ISLER OR WE WONT PAY YOU! SIMPLE AS THAT!

Everyone at the restaurant is silent and staring at them.

CARMEN GONZALES

Detective! Calm down and take your seat.

MARCOS VERSOZA

WHAT! YOU GOT NOTHING TO SAY! YOU WORKING FOR A FEE RIGHT THEN GET TO IT!

CARMEN GONZALES

DETECTIVE! TAKE A SEAT!.. NOW!

MARCOS VERSOZA

YOU SHUT YOUR MOUTH! YOU'RE NOT MY COMMANDING OFFICER YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!

THOMAS SAND

Hey, I suggest you listen to her and sit your ass down.
Or else.

A man hysterically ran out the café.

MARCOS VERSOZA

Or else what? You're going to hit me?

THOMAS SAND

Or else that guy who just ran outside will get away.....

That was Oliver Santos.

MARCOS and CARMEN

rush to the outside to pursue OLIVER THOMAS remain seated.

Scene 9

Thomas slowly stands up, Approaches the counter, BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS gets in front of him seductively.

BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS

Sir your order will be ready in just a minute.

THOMAS SAND

I'll have the sandwich to go?

TWO GOONS approach THOMAS from behind and one of them inconspicuously sticks a pistol on his lower back. BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS expression changes to angry.

BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS

Take him to the back, find out what he knows about Jacob.

BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS leaves, THOMAS widely smiles.

EXT. FRONT OF CAFÉ - DAY

Scene 9

CARMEN and MARCOS chase OLIVER to the outside of the café; they point the gun at him and order him to freeze. OLIVER stops running, turns around and frantically runs towards CARMEN and MARCOS to attack them. CARMEN and MARCOS easily knock him out with a combined martial arts attack. They holster their weapon and while they were checking on OLIVER a group of **Thugs** approach them.

THUG 1

Yo guys, Do you mind if you let go of our friend? We need to take him home.

CARMEN GONZALES

Step back! Your friend is under arrest.

THUG 1

Look ma'am, I know he's not the nicest guy but his mother is worried sick about him and she asked us to come pick him up. So please we strongly insist that you let him come with us now.

Thugs circle around CARMEN and MARCOS

MARCOS VERSOZA

Hey Assholes beat it! This is a police matter.

THUG 1

Relax hommie! We are not here to cause trouble we are just six unarmed men "for now" who are asking for a favor. Our

crew is on the way and I suspect they will be as friendly and unarmed as us. So please for the last time give him to us or we will be forced to take him. We don't wanna hurt nobody.

CARMEN Whispers to MARCOS.

CARMEN GONZALES

Can we take them?

MARCOS VERSOZA

One way to find out.

CARMEN GONZALES

Alright! Follow my lead.

Just... Don't draw your weapon, They're just kids.

CARMEN and MARCOS fight SCENES CARMEN VS 4 MEN, MARCOS VS 4 MEN. Both emerge victorious but are exhausted.

In the middle of the fight, BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS cuts in, takes off her shirt.

BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS

I'LL HANDLE THIS BITCH!

Everyone makes room for CARMEN and BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS TO FIGHT 1 on 1, AFTER a long and grueling fight, CARMEN wins by applying a front triangle choke which knocks the waitress unconscious.

Carmen is injured and beat up, the remaining thugs are approaching them to finish the fight But THOMAS out of nowhere grabs a thug by the back and knocks him out.

CARMEN GONZALES

THOMAS!

THUG 1

WHO THE HELL!

THOMAS SAND

Mind if I join the fun?

THUG 1

GET HIM!