

Detective Agatha Catsy

In...

"The Cat and the Raven"

An Adult Animated Comedy Noir

By Erika June Smith

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

A glass of milk rests on a table. FORBODING ORCHESTRATION plays.

Shaky credits dissolve in: "Detective Agatha Catsby in... The Cat and the Raven."

After a full credits sequence, a paw reaches into frame and lifts the milk out.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CITY OF BIG MILK - NIGHT

UPBEAT JAZZ MUSIC fades in.

The metropolitan city of Big Milk is bustling with night life. Its citizens are an eclectic mix of animals and humans à la Bojack Horseman.

The city's pier is lit up by their bright ferris wheel. Its lights sparkle over Lake Honey. CHILDREN giggle in its cars.

TOURISTS wander up Honey Ave. They point at towering skyscrapers and pristine architecture. Some horses beat on pots and pans with their hooves. A CROWD throws them apple chips as tips. There's an electric energy in the air.

One street over, Molasses Street is much less wholesome. Honey Ave's pristine buildings melt into decaying convenience stores, pawn shops, and 24-hour wedding chapels. HOMELESS PEOPLE camp on the street. PEDESTRIANS ignore them.

A junker car whizzes past the pedestrians. Detective Agatha Catsby's 1997 Black Cadillac Deville chases after it. One lone police light flashes on the roof of her car.

CATSY is tough and resilient... the kind of unrelenting cat detective that a city like Big Milk demands. She gains some distance on the junker.

The police chief talks over her radio.

POLICE CHIEF (V.O.)
Catsy, I'm sending backup.

Catsy grabs her radio.

CATSY
No, I've got this.

The junker veers off down an alley. Inside the car, a greasy STREET RAT snickers to himself.

CATSY
Oh, Mother Hen.

Catsy pulls a sharp turn after the rat. He spots her in his rearview mirror.

THE RAT
Rats.

The rat pulls out of the alley and onto a busy shopping street. Traffic is just spaced out enough for him to weave through.

Catsy pulls out shortly after him and zips through the cars. They HONK at each other.

The rat passes a sign that says "street closed."

POLICE CHIEF (V.O.)
(over radio)
For the love of Dog, Catsy. Tell me
what's going on.

CATSY
(into radio)
He's headed for the Milk and Honey
Street Fair.

The rat drives into the street fair. He whizzes past the booths. FAIR-GOERS jump out of his way.

Catsy parks sharply just outside the fair. She jumps out of her car and runs after the rat on foot.

The rat sees Catsy get out of her car. He SNEERS.

CATSY
(shouting)
Stop!

The rat is too satisfied with himself to notice he's barreling towards a giant jar of Honey.

CATSY
Get out of the way!

The fair-goers move just in the nick of time. The rat crashes into the jar of honey, sending it toppling over. He reverses, hoping to avoid the sticky substance, but it's too late. His wheels are coated in honey. There's nowhere he can go.

Catsy flings open the junker's door. She handcuffs the rat.

CATSY

Renoni Thatcher, you are under
arrest for the attempted
assassination of Mayor Pamela
Judge. Anything you say can and
will be used against you in a court
of law.

She drags the rat through the fair. People gather to take
pictures. A few video tape the scene.

The rat shouts at the crowd.

THE RAT

You don't understand. I was trying
to help you. This city is evil. The
milk is unsafe. Beware the milk.
Beware the milk!

Catsy shoves the rat into the back of her car. He pounds on
the window.

THE RAT

Beware the milk!

CATSY

(to the crowd)
Move along. Enjoy the fair.

She drives off.

INT. POLICE STATION - THE NEXT DAY

A Channel Skim News broadcast plays on an overhead TV. BIG
MILK P.D. OFFICERS are gathered around the TV together. They
sip from whiskey style glasses of milk.

Channel Skim airs cellphone footage of Catsy shoving the rat
into her car. News anchor GEORGINA FALCON talks over the
video.

Falcon is (ironically) a mockingbird, but her perfectly done
feathers and makeup could make a peacock jealous.

GEORGINA FALCON (V.O.)

(on TV)

Renoni Thatcher allegedly planted a
bomb in Mayor Judge's office
Tuesday night.

(MORE)

GEORGINA FALCON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The detective shown here reportedly tracked Thatcher down using his online profile "Justice For Cheese" on a site linked to the terrorist group Anti-Milk. Though Big Milk P.D. has declined to release this reporter's name, Channel Skim News has one thing to say to her: Thank you.

BRICK THE INTERN reaches up and turns off the TV. He's a boxy robot who talks like a Google Maps navigator.

BRICK

Let's hear it for Detective Catsy.

The officers CHEER. They take a swig of milk.

BIG MILK P.D. OFFICERS

(singing)

"99 bottles of milk on the wall, 99 bottles of milk, take one down, pass it around, 98 bottles of milk on the wall. 98 bottles of milk on the wall, 98 bottles of milk..."

Catsy motions for them to stop.

CATSY

Okay, that's enough. No more bottles of milk.

OFFICER GARY "THE GOOSE" GARRISON (a lanky mongoose) calls out from the back.

THE GOOSE

The Goose wants a speech!

OFFICERS

(all except Catsy)
Speech! Speech! Speech!

CATSY

I'm not going to do a speech.

The officers BOO her.

CATSY

Fine. We caught the assassin. He wasn't the first, and he won't be the last. Let's catch the next one. End speech.

The officers CHEER. Catsy nods then pushes her way through the officers.

As Catsy passes him, OFFICER HENRY ARMSTRONG (a beefy hammerhead shark) wipes a tear from his eye.

ARMSTRONG
That was beautiful.

Catsy briefly stops to pat Armstrong's back.

CATSY
I wrote it for you, Armstrong.

ARMSTRONG
(sniffling)
Thank you. You inspire me everyday.

Catsy pushes past Armstrong, but just as quickly, she's stopped by Brick (the intern).

BRICK
Hey, Detective Catsy. Could I pick your brain sometime? We could get coffee.

She keeps walking.

AGATHA
You know I don't get coffee with interns.

BRICK
(to himself)
Can't blame a bot for trying.

POLICE CHIEF GRUMBLES stops her. He's a gruff and thick bulldog who's been toughened by years in the service.

Grumbles's human son, STANLEY GRUMBLES, stands beside him. Stanley is around 24 years old but looks like he's still in high school.

GRUMBLES
That was impressive, Catsy. Too beaver dam impressive.

CATSY
(sarcastic)
I do it all for you.

GRUMBLES
Very funny. Have you met my son, Stanley?

CATSY

Your son?

Catsy looks Stanley up and down. He is 100% human.

GRUMBLES

He's my pride and joy. My flesh and blood.

STANLEY

I'm adopted.

CATSY

Ah.

STANLEY

Could I ask you something if you have a moment, Detective?

CATSY

You have 30 seconds.

STANLEY

Uh, okay. Well, as an aspiring detective, I was just wondering... How do you solve so many cases?

CATSY

(smirking)

I'm a clever asshole. That's all you need to know. Stay in school.

OFFICER CHARLOTTE MONROE (a seductive lemur) hangs out by the door. Catsy stops by her.

CATSY

You got a light?

MONROE

Oh yeah.

They leave together.

INT. CATSY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Catsy turns her bathtub's faucet. She watches the water pound into the tub.

CATSY

Finally.

Catsy reaches for the water, but she quickly pulls her paw away. She swipes at the water again.

She pulls away just as quickly. Finally, Catsy sticks her paw fully in the water. She relaxes as the stream flows over her paw.

Catsy unbuttons her trench coat. She lets it fall to the ground. Slowly, she takes off the rest of her clothes.

Carefully, she gets in the tub.

Two things sit on Catsy's windowsill: A black feather and a saucer full of catnip. Catsy picks up the feather first. She sniffs it, closes her eyes for a moment, then sets it back on the sill.

Catsy grabs the saucer of catnip next. She snorts the catnip while the water fills the tub around her.

Catsy sets the saucer back down. She leans her head back. Soon, Catsy slips into sleep.

BEGIN DREAM SEQUENCE.

INT. FAMILY CAR - NIGHT [DREAM SEQUENCE]

Catsy sits in the backseat of a station wagon. Her FATHER and MOTHER sit up front. They're around Catsy's age, but in this dream, she's still her present self.

Catsy's parents LAUGH. She watches them be happy. A voice comes over the radio --

RADIO JOCKEY

And now for "Doo-Wop that Thing" by Lauryn Hill.

CATSY

I love this song, turn it up.

Catsy unbuckles and leans into the front seat. She turns the radio up herself.

CATSY'S FATHER

Aggy, we said not to do that.

CATSY'S MOTHER

She's just a kid, Julian. Come on, sing along. I know you know it.

(singing)

Yo, it's about a thing / If ya feel real good wave your hands in the air.

Catsy's dad SIGHS and joins in.

CATSY'S FATHER
 (singing along)
 And lick two shots in the
 atmosphere!

The whole family sings together and LAUGHS.

FAMILY
 (singing together)
 It's been three weeks since you
 were looking for your friend / The
 one you let hit it and never called
 you again / 'Member when he told
 you he was 'bout the Benjamins?

Catsy is on cloud nine, but out of nowhere, HEADLIGHTS shine into their car. It's too quick for her dad to react. The car slams directly into them.

INT. CATSY'S FOSTER HOME - NIGHT [DREAM SEQUENCE]

Catsy sleeps in the middle of a hardwood floor. Her foster siblings JO and CONSTANCE run past her. Their footsteps wake her up.

Jo and Constance are young, around 8 or 9. Nothing like the adult Catsy before us. Jo runs back to Catsy. She's a wide-eyed sugar glider.

JO
 Come on, Aggy. Play with us.

CATSY
 Okay.

Catsy takes Jo's hand. She starts to get up, but a large figure in high heels kicks her back down. An ALLURING, FEMALE VOICE booms over the room --

THE RAVEN (O.S.)
 Are you sure you want to do that,
 Aggy?

Catsy flips over. A TALL, SLENDER RAVEN stands over her. The roof over the foster home dissolves and The Raven grows taller until she is a giant towering over Catsy.

THE RAVEN
 Come with me.

The Raven reaches down for Catsy. Catsy takes her hand. Just like that, Catsy grows to the size of The Raven. They stand in the night sky.

THE RAVEN
See? That wasn't so bad.

Catsy looks down at Jo and Constance. They stare back up at her.

THE RAVEN
Now, crush them.

CATSY
I can't do that.

THE RAVEN
Then I will.

The Raven lifts her massive heel. Its shadow covers the kids.
As Catsy SCREAMS --

CATSY
NOOOO!

-- The foster home dissolves into:

EXT. SPADE NEBULA - NIGHT

An eerily quiet space nebula. The Raven and Catsy float together like twin fetuses in a galactic uterus. Catsy reaches out to The Raven.

CATSY
I thought you loved me.

THE RAVEN
Love is a funny thing. Isn't it?

The Raven's body decomposes into cells that melt into the nebula. Catsy floats alone in silence. One of The Raven's feathers floats back to her. Catsy grabs it.

THE DREAM ENDS.

INT. CATSY'S BATHROOM - AS BEFORE

Catsy jolts awake. The bathtub, still running, has overflowed. Her bathroom is flooded. Quickly, Catsy stops the water. She looks around at her wet bathroom floor.

Catsy grabs the feather off her windowsill. She thrusts it across the room.

CATSY
 (at the top of her lungs)
 GAHHHHHHHHHHH!

Catsy watches the feather fall slowly to the ground.

INT. POLICE BRIEFING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

The Big Milk P.D. Officers CHATTER around the briefing room. Among them are Henry Armstrong, Charlotte Monroe, and Gary "The Goose" Garrison. Armstrong (the hammerhead shark) looks tough, but he's a big softy. Monroe (the lemur) is confident in her sexuality. "The Goose" is... the Goose.

Catsy is noticeably absent.

The chief's son Stanley Grumbles sneaks his way into the back of the room. He watches the officers at work. None of them seem happy to be there.

Brick the intern swings the door open. He carries a large box of donuts. The officers swarm him.

THE GOOSE
 It's about beaver dam time.

ARMSTRONG
 Did you get any of the ceviche donuts?

BRICK
 They were all out.

ARMSTRONG
 (distracted)
 The tides aren't in my favor today.

MONROE
 Better luck next time, Armstrong.

She opens the donut box.

MONROE
 What is this?

Monroe holds up a perfectly adequate donut.

BRICK
 A banana nut donut.

She sniffs it.

MONROE

Made with artificial bananas?

BRICK

I asked if they had the real banana donuts in the back, but I couldn't convince them to check.

MONROE

Oh sweetie, you can always convince them to check in the back.

(seductive)

Always.

THE GOOSE

Did you at least get a mealworm donut for The Goose?

BRICK

They don't make those.

The Goose punches a desk.

THE GOOSE

Ah come on! The Goose is not happy.

The Goose pulls a flask of milk out of his shirt. He chugs it in anger. The Goose quickly hides his flask as Police Chief Grumbles swings the door open.

GRUMBLES

Take your seats. I don't have much time.

The officers settle in desks around the room.

GRUMBLES

First item of business...

(sniffing)

Is someone drinking milk?

Monroe rolls her eyes.

MONROE

(with air quotes)

It's "The Goose."

GRUMBLES

Hand it over, Garrison.

The Goose hands over his flask. Grumbles chugs the entire thing. He throws the empty flask back to The Goose.

GRUMBLES

Much better. First order of business. The Public Park Pisser has been spotted again, and he's gotten bolder. Yesterday he peed straight into a drinking fountain. Keep an eye out. He's always hydrated. Second order of business. We have a new Detective today. I'd like everyone to welcome Stanley Grumbles Jr. You can call him Detective Grumbles Jr.

Stanley waves nervously.

STANLEY

Hi everyone, I just want to say it is an honor to be working with such a dedicated task force. Together, I know we can catch the Public Park Pee-er.

The officers SNICKER at Stanley.

GRUMBLES

That's a nice sentiment champ, but no one can take the piss out of the Public Park Pisser. Take a seat.

Stanley sits down.

GRUMBLES

Detective Grumbles Jr. will be shadowing Detective Catsby as her apprentice.

The Goose SCOFFS.

THE GOOSE

The Goose wishes you luck.

MONROE

Catsy doesn't do well with partners... or people.

Armstrong leans to Stanley.

ARMSTRONG

Be strong, little minnow.

The door swings open. Catsby stumbles in. She's wearing sunglasses and drinking an all-milk latte.

CATSY

Hey mice, hope you didn't play too much while the cat was away. What are we looking at today?

The room is silent.

CATSY

What's wrong? Cat got your tongue?

MONROE

(under her breath)

Someone tell her. This is cringe-worthy.

The Goose confidently leaves his desk. He throws his arm around Stanley's shoulder.

THE GOOSE

Catsy, The Goose proudly introduces your new partner.

He gestures to Stanley who awkwardly waves. Catsy just glares at them.

INT. POLICE CHEIF'S OFFICE - SOON AFTER

Catsy paces around Grumbles's office. It's filled with chew toys and bones. A serene photo of a dog house in the woods hangs on the wall. Grumbles calmly chomps on a hamburger squeaker toy.

CATSY

No.

GRUMBLES

I introduced you to Stanley.

CATSY

How was I supposed to know that you'd hire your son to be my partner? This is nepotism.

GRUMBLES

This is law enforcement.

CATSY

What if I refuse?

GRUMBLES

You and I both know that would violate our deal with Secretary Hamilton.

CATSY

I'm tired of him controlling my life. Does he think this is what freedom is?

GRUMBLES

It's a whale of a lot better than life in prison.

CATSY

Maybe I can find something else to do for parole. Like take in a family of starving bunnies. No, they'd double in size everyday... How about a cat & rat diplomacy program?

GRUMBLES

Catsy, I know we have our differences, but you're the best detective I've ever worked with. I want my son to learn from you.

CATSY

Really? You'd want him learning from a criminal?

GRUMBLES

You're more than that, and you know it.

Catsy looks Grumbles in the eyes. She half-smiles.

EXT. POLICE CHEIF'S OFFICE - JUST AFTER

Stanley paces outside his father's office. When he hears the knob turn, he races for a seat.

Catsy walks out. He stands to salute her.

CATSY

I guess we're partners now.

Stanley lights up.

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Brick mans the reception desk. Bored out of his mind, he researches how to oil your own bolts online. The phone RINGS. Brick grabs it eagerly.

BRICK
(into phone)
Big Milk P.D. What's the skim? Uh
huh. Slow down. I can only compute
so fast.

Brick takes notes.

BRICK
Yes. I see. On the corner of Tinkle
Street and Leak Avenue? And your
name is? Taika Wizz?
(Realizing)
I'm sorry, could you give me
directions? I'm not quite sure
where Tinkle Street is.

The Goose wanders by. He eats a mealworm sandwich. Brick waves fervently.

THE GOOSE
You short circuiting or something?

BRICK
(whispering)
The "P.P.P." is on the line.

THE GOOSE
If you need to go to the bathroom,
just go.

An elegantly dressed Komodo dragon, MISS MARGO SPADE, enters the police station. She waits patiently.

BRICK
No, the "P.P.P" is on the phone.
(into phone)
I'm sorry, is that close to the
public park and Piss Ave?

THE GOOSE

There's a bathroom around the corner. God, you've been interning here for how many years?

BRICK

(yelling)

I'm talking to the Public Park Pisser!

THE GOOSE

The hell'd you call The Goose?

The other line GOES DEAD.

BRICK

Great, now he hung up.

Miss Spade CLEARS her throat. Brick and The Goose finally notice her.

BRICK

Oh, excuse us, Miss Spade.

The Goose tries to kiss her hand ---

THE GOOSE

Enchanté, Madame Spade.

But she pulls it away.

MISS SPADE

I'd like to speak with Chief Grumbles. It's a matter of utmost haste.

Brick and The Goose run to Grumbles's office.

INT. POLICE CHEIF'S OFFICE - DAY

Miss Spade hands Grumbles a rope dog toy as she takes a seat.

MISS SPADE

My dear Grumbles, I brought you a new toy.

GRUMBLES

You're too kind. To what do I owe this pleasure, Miss Spade?

MISS SPADE

I have a new case for our friend Agatha Catsby.

GRUMBLES

I don't have an officer here by that name.

MISS SPADE

That wasn't Miss Catsby whose face was plastered all over the news?

GRUMBLES

I'm not even sure that was one of our officers. Probably just a rogue agent.

MISS SPADE

You let a rogue agent catch one of our city's top assassins? How clumsy of you.

GRUMBLES

Now, I didn't say that. Well, I did. Beaver dam it, Grumbles. If you dig a hole, you gotta dig yourself back out.

MISS SPADE

Don't fret. I simply want to share my case with you. Then you can decide who would best handle it.

GRUMBLES

I'm perking both of my ears.

MISS SPADE

Three of my family's jewelry stores have been robbed in the past 2 weeks. At first we thought it was an employee, but now, we're not so sure.

GRUMBLES

I see. So if I did have a detective who was quite familiar with the city's underground jewel market, you would want an expert on the case?

MISS SPADE

That would be quite perfect.

GRUMBLES

I have just the officer for you.

Miss Spade smiles.

INT. CATSY'S CADILLAC - DAY

Catsy drives Stanley downtown in silence. An electric swing rendition of "Everybody Wants to be a Cat" plays over the radio.

STANLEY

So what's the coolest part about being a detective?

Catsy turns the music up.

STANLEY

(trying to speak over it)
That's kind of loud.

Catsy turns the music up louder.

STANLEY

(louder)
Shouldn't we get to know each other?

Catsy sings along to the radio.

CATSY

"A square with that horn / makes
you wish you weren't born /
ever'time he plays --"

Stanley turns off the radio.

STANLEY

Detective Catsy, I have wanted to work with you since I was in high school.

CATSY

So, yesterday?

STANLEY

Do you know how inspiring it is to see a former cat burglar working as a detective?

CATSY

Oh, the whole reformed criminal thing?

STANLEY

Exactly! You've changed. You've made yourself better, and now, you're making the world better. I want to learn to be like you.

CATSY

Okay. Lesson number one: people
don't change. We're here.

They pull up outside "Spade & Family." It's one of Margo Spade's extravagant uptown jewelry stores.

INT. SPADE & FAMILY - DAY

Stanley and Catsby enter a lavishly embellished diamond showroom. Stanley is mesmerized by the sparkling jewels. He stares at an expensive necklace.

STANLEY

Woah, how much do you think
something like this costs?

CATSY

12 million dollars.

MISS SPADE (O.S.)

Robin Robbie wore it at the 89th
annual Ostrich Awards.

They turn to face Miss Spade.

CATSY

Hello, Miss Spade.

MISS SPADE

Miss Catsby, I'm delighted your
brilliant mind is here to help.

CATSY

(eyebrow raised)
Uh huh.

Not sure how to break the ice, Stanley eagerly reaches for a handshake.

STANLEY

Detective Stanley Grumbles. We're
honored to be here and happy to
help, ma'am.

MISS SPADE

(chuckling)
Oh no, do not call me ma'am. I feel
like my mother. Come with me, I
have something to show you.

They follow Miss Spade to a back office.

INT. SPADE & FAMILY SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

A GOLDEN RETRIEVER SECURITY OFFICER guides Catsby, Miss Spade, and Stanley through the security footage.

MISS SPADE

Everyday, just after our store closes, our security camera's feeds are cut off across the city and our stores are targeted at random. We've had multiple technicians check the feeds, and they all say our feeds are in flawless shape.

CATSY

An outside source must be cutting them off.

MISS SPADE

Precisely.

CATSY

Was this store targeted?

MISS SPADE

Yes, they stole \$2 million worth of jewelry from this store alone.

CATSY

But they didn't take Robin Robbie's necklace?

MISS SPADE

No, but that case is protected by a key that only I carry.

CATSY

A key wouldn't stop a burglar who's sophisticated enough to cut your security cameras across the city. They're after something else. I need some time alone to look through your security footage.

MISS SPADE

Anything for Detective Agatha Catsby. Bosley, come.

Miss Spade and the golden retriever leave Catsby and Stanley alone with the footage.

STANLEY

This is so cool. I've always wanted to look through security footage.

He pulls a chair up quickly. Catsby rolls her eyes.

INT. SPADE & FAMILY SECURITY OFFICE - LATER

As Catsby shifts through the footage, Stanley watches her every move.

STANLEY

That's interesting, so you use the J key to rewind, the K key to pause, and the L key to fast forward?

CATSY

Yeah, I guess.

STANLEY

You're so smart. I would have used the mouse.

CATSY

Cats aren't exactly fans of mice.

Catsy points at the screen.

CATSY

There.

STANLEY

Oh my Dog, yes! There it is... what are we looking at?

Catsy pauses the footage. She points to Margo Spade on the screen.

CATSY

The targeted stores weren't random. Margo Spade left each of the stores precisely ten minutes before it was robbed.

STANLEY

The burglars don't want the jewelry.

CATSY

(nodding)
They want her.

They stare at a still shot of Miss Spade leaving her shop.

EXT. SPADE & FAMILY - EVENING

Catsy and Stanley leave the shop.

STANLEY

That was exhilarating. We really found something! You want to get some dinner to celebrate? It's almost 6.

CATSY

What?

She checks her watch.

CATSY

I have to go.

Catsy rushes to her car.

STANLEY

Wait, how am I supposed to get back to the station?

CATSY

Call your dad. He'll pick you up.

Catsy drives off. Stanley notices an electric scooter station beside him. He grabs one and follows Catsy.

EXT. BIG MILK CORRECTIONAL FACILITY - EVENING

Catsy parks outside Big Milk Correctional Facility. It's a tall lean skyscraper that from the ground, could pass as any standard municipal building. The rooftop's barbed wire courtyard is the only thing that gives its identity away.

Stanley rolls up on his electric scooter. He hides behind a tree as Catsy speed walks inside.

STANLEY

(to himself)

What are you doing, Catsy?

INT. POLICE STATION - MORNING

Stanley arranges his new desk carefully. It's filled with things that scream Stanley like a "You can do it!" Rosie the River Otter poster and a Super Wombat day planner. He polishes a father son photo on his desk.

Monroe and Armstrong watch him from afar.

MONROE

He's really just going to put that father-son photo on his desk, huh?

ARMSTRONG

I appreciate his sense of interior design. The wee guppy has heart.

MONROE

Rosie the River Otter is an inspired choice.

They wave as Catsby walks in.

MONROE

What's up, Catsby?

CATSY

Oh, you know. Carpe diem.

Catsy passes Stanley on the way to her desk.

STANLEY

Good morning, partner.

CATSY

Hey.

STANLEY

I was thinking maybe we could look at the security footage again today? See if we can catch anything else?

CATSY

Hard pass.

STANLEY

Okay, maybe tomorrow?

CATSY

I wouldn't count on it. I'm doing a stakeout at Margo Spade's apartment tonight.

STANLEY

Seriously? I've always wanted to go on a stakeout.

CATSY

Alone.

STANLEY

But, I'm your partner.

CATSY

I need to do this alone.

Stanley watches Catsby take a seat at her desk. It's completely devoid of any character.

INT. GRUMBLE'S OFFICE - LUNCH

Stanley and Chief Grumbles eat lunch together in Grumbles's office. They have meat-packed sandwiches.

STANLEY

Detective Catsby won't let me come on the stakeout, but I really want to. It feels like she's leaving me out of something big.

GRUMBLES

Listen, Son. When you're dealing with people like Catsby, you can't sit on your hind legs. You need to take matters into your own paws. How do you think I became police chief?

STANLEY

By beating the last chief in a battle of extreme tug o' war.

GRUMBLES

Exactly. You clench that rope between your teeth and pull as hard as you can. You understand?

STANLEY

I think so?

GRUMBLES

Good. Are you going to finish your sandwich?

Stanley shakes his head. Grumbles takes the sandwich. Removes the bread, and eats the lunch meat in one bite.

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT./EXT. MARGO SPADE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Stanley knocks on the door of Spade's expensive penthouse apartment. He wears a poor paperboy disguise and carries some dry cleaning.

Miss Spade opens the door.

MISS SPADE

Yes?

STANLEY

Your dry cleaning ma'am?

MISS SPADE

Ah, set it on the couch, and do be swift. I don't have much time.

STANLEY

You won't even hear me leave, ma'am.

Miss Spade rushes down her hallway. Stanley sets the dry cleaning on her couch. He quietly searches the room for a place to hide. His eyes land on a large armoire.

He opens it. It's filled with linens, but he squeezes his way in.

Moments later, the doorbell RINGS. Stanley watches Miss Spade rush to the front door through a crack in the armoire's doors.

Miss Spade opens the door for Catsby. Catsby is disguised as a maid in a wig, and she rolls in a dirty linen cart.

MISS SPADE

Miss Catsby. Right on time.

CATSY

You'll need this.

Catsby pulls a maid uniform and matching wig out of the linen cart.

MISS SPADE

And you, this.

She hands Catsby an expensive robe.

MISS SPADE

The powder room is down the hall.

Miss Spade and Catsby both disappear from the room. When they return, each is disguised as the other.

Catsy takes a seat on Miss Spade's couch.

MISS SPADE

I've set out some milk if you'd like some.

Catsy pours some milk into a wine glass and leans back. Miss Spade turns out the lights and opens the curtains so that Catsby, disguised as Miss Spade, can be seen relaxing from the window. Catsby turns on the TV. She is lit only by its screen.

CATSY

Have a lovely night, Miss Spade.

MISS SPADE

You as well, Miss Catsby.

Miss Spade, disguised as a maid and pushing the dirty linen cart, leaves the apartment.

INT. MARGO SPADE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Time passes. Catsby watches an old black and white detective film on Miss Spade's TV. Stanley dozes off within the armoire. A gunshot on the TV wakes him up. He peaks through the armoire's crack but nothing has changed.

Stanley relaxes for a moment. Then, the black raven from Catsby's dream crashes through the window. But this isn't Catsby's dream. This is real.

THE RAVEN

Miss Margo Spade. We finally meet.

Catsy stands to face The Raven. As they talk, Stanley cracks the armoire door farther open so he can see.

CATSY

Think again, Raven.

The Raven smirks.

THE RAVEN

Oh, Aggy. It's been a long time. How are you doing, my love?

CATSY

How do you think I'm doing?

THE RAVEN

Well, I hear you've made quite a name for yourself.

CATSY

That doesn't mean horse shit.

THE RAVEN

Come now, let's have a drink, love.

The Raven pours herself a glass of milk. She sits on the couch, and Catsby sits down with her.

CATSY

Don't you want to know why I'm here?

THE RAVEN

Oh, please. I knew one day you'd track me down. I bet you even kept my feather so you wouldn't forget my scent.

CATSY

You're so full of yourself.

THE RAVEN

Maybe, but you always liked that.

Catsy SCOFFS.

CATSY

Just tell me what you want from Margo Spade.

THE RAVEN

I don't want anything from her. My client does, and they're paying very good money to get it.

CATSY

What do they want?

THE RAVEN

That's the kind of privileged information that I'd only give to someone very special.

She starts to undo the ribbon on Catsby's robe, but Catsby pulls away.

CATSY

I'm not your sidepiece anymore.

THE RAVEN

I loved you, Aggy.

CATSY

You never loved me. You used me.
You used Jo. You used Constance.
You ruined our lives.

THE RAVEN

You were all living in your car
when I met you.

CATSY

I wish we had stayed in that car.
Then Jo wouldn't be in prison,
Constance wouldn't be dead, and I
wouldn't be alone for the rest of
my life.

The Raven reaches for Catsy again.

THE RAVEN

Oh Aggy...

Catsy bursts up. She pulls out a gun.

CATSY

I should kill you. Take away your
life and put you in a grave. Just
like Constance.

THE RAVEN

Don't you see, love? You nailed his
coffin. If it weren't for you, Jo
and Constance could be living happy
lives in two-story homes with
families...

CATSY

Shut up, or I will shoot you.

THE RAVEN

Do it. Look me in the eyes, and
pull the trigger.

Catsy aims directly for The Raven's head. She pulls her
trigger back slowly, but it's too much. Catsy shoots at the
ceiling instead.

Catsy drops to the ground. Stanley GASPS at the gunshot. He
tumbles out of the armoire.

THE RAVEN

A partner? Looks like you found
someone else to ruin, Aggy.

With one big swoop of her wings, The Raven flies out of the
apartment.

STANLEY

Holy horse crap. Was that The
Raven?

Catsy pulls a pillow off the couch. She SOBS into it. Stanley
sets his hand on her back.

STANLEY

Hey, it's okay.

CATSY

Go away. I don't want you to see me
like this.

Catsy pushes Stanley away.

STANLEY

I'm not leaving you.

CATSY

Why are you here? I told you not to
come.

STANLEY

I don't know... I thought it was a
good idea.

CATSY

Did you think that maybe I came
alone for a reason? I wanted to
protect you.

STANLEY

From what?

CATSY

Her! The Raven demolishes
everything in her path. She doesn't
care if you're a rookie. She will
eat you alive and leave nothing in
your place. Just a big shell of
nothing that no one can break
through.

Stanley takes a breath.

STANLEY

Look, I know I can't relate to everything you've been through. But I can help. We're partners now. You don't have to be alone.

CATSY

It's fine. I want to be alone.

STANLEY

Forgive me if I'm stepping out of line, but I don't think you do. I don't know who Jo and Constance were, but you loved them so much. When you love that strongly, you want to be loved back.

CATSY

That's pretty deep.

STANLEY

I took a psychodynamic therapy course in college.

CATSY

So, yesterday?

Catsy and Stanley LAUGH together weakly.

CATSY

Jo and Constance were my foster siblings. I still go to the Big Milk Correctional Facility to see Jo.

STANLEY

Is that who you were visiting yesterday?

CATSY

You followed me?

STANLEY

No. Uhm... yes.

CATSY

Huh. You're a better detective than I thought.

STANLEY

Thank you.

CATSY

I'll give you a chance, but no one can know what happened here today. If your dad finds out that this case involves The Raven, he'll take me off of it.

POLICE SIRENS wail outside.

STANLEY

Don't worry. I've got us covered.

Stanley stands up. He reaches out to Catsby, and she takes his hand.

EXT. MARGO SPADE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The street is filled with police cars and flashing lights. Monroe, Armstrong, and The Goose are all there.

ARMSTRONG

I hope Catsby's okay.

MONROE

She is. You know Catsby. She's probably going to walk out of that building with one of Big Milk's most wanted.

THE GOOSE

The Goose isn't worried. The Goose wants to see some action.

Catsy and Stanley exit the building together. Chief Grumbles steps out of a car at the front.

GRUMBLES

What happened? Did you catch the thief?

STANLEY

No, it was a false alarm. Detective Catsby didn't want me to follow her, but I did. She shot at me thinking I was the thief. I'm lucky she aimed for the ceiling.

The officers GROAN.

THE GOOSE

The Goose came all the way out here for this?

As the officers climb back into the cars, Grumbles pulls Stanley aside.

GRUMBLES

You know you can tell me if something happened, son.

STANLEY

I know. It was fine. Just a false alarm.

GRUMBLES

Okay. I know you'd never lie to me. You want a ride home?

STANLEY

No, I think I'll go with Catsby.

Catsy opens the door to her cadillac. She motions for Stanley to join.

STANLEY

I'll see you at home, Chief.

Stanley joins Catsby in her car.

INT. CATSY'S CADILLAC - CONTINUOUS

Catsy turns on her radio.

CATSY

Is music okay?

STANLEY

Yeah.

She turns the radio on higher. It's "Doo Wap (That Thing)" by Ms. Lauryn Hill.

STANLEY

Oh, I love this song.

CATSY

Really?

STANLEY

Well, yeah.

He sings off-rhythm.

STANLEY

"Come again, come again, come again, my friend come again --"

He and Catsby sing together while they drive into the streets of Big Milk.

CATSY

(Singing)

"Guys you know you'd better
watch out / Some girls, some
girls are only about / That
thing, that thing, that thing
/ That thing, that thing,
that thing..."

STANLEY

(Singing)

"Guys you know you'd better
watch out / Some girls, some
girls are only about / That
thing, that thing, that thing
/ That thing, that thing,
that thing..."

The music continues as the cadillac disappears among the skyscrapers and night life of Big Milk...

FADE TO BLACK.

END ACT THREE

TAG

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

Brick relaxes on a public park bench. He sips from a can of oil.

BRICK
Ah, fresh petroleum.

A crossing pedestrain notices Brick.

PEDESTRAIN
Hey, man. Nice nuts and bolts.

BRICK
Oh, uhm. Thanks.

While Brick checks out his nuts and bolts, a pant fly UNZIPS off-screen.

PEDESTRAIN (O.S.)
Almost as good as these nuts...

The sound of PISS hits a tree off-camera.

BRICK
It's the public park pisser!

The PUBLIC PARK PISSER zips up. He sprints off.

Brick drops his petroleum. He chases the PUBLIC PARK PISSER through the park.

BRICK
(shouting)
Stop! You're under arrest by the
Big Milk P.D. intern! Please! I
need the credit to graduate! I've
been an intern for 5 years!

Brick trips on a pebble. He lands face down on the sidewalk.

BRICK
Curse you, P.P.P!!!!!!!!!!

He shakes his fist as the P.P.P. gets away.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW