

Flight or Plight

Story and Screenplay by

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EXT. TIJUCA NATIONAL PARK - DAY

A scenic view of the jungle, brimming with life.

BRANDY KIMOTO (V.O.)
South America. Where else can you
find highly exotic species of
majestic creatures besides China,
Scotland or even Mauritius--
especially birds?

Various birds, of all shapes and sizes, frolic.

BRANDY KIMOTO (V.O.)
Yes, from the Blue Macau to the
Magnificent Frigatebird, these
birds give us humans a glimpse of
the beauty of their natural
environments.

Birdwatchers and explorers appreciate the birds' grandeurs.

BRANDY KIMOTO (V.O.)
Legend has it that millennia ago, a
mythical bird, named the
Perfeccalva, created South America
as we know it as paradise for birds
regardless of species, gender and
birth place.

The Nazca Lines are seen from above as we soar up into the
sky with various birds.

BRANDY KIMOTO (V.O.)
However, its greatest wish was for
humankind to return the favor to
birds by bringing fortune to them.
There are two treasures for us, to
serve and protect.

EXT. AMAZON RAINFOREST - DAY

Activists are chained up to trees. Bulldozers loom nearby.

BRANDY KIMOTO (V.O.)
Either the homes of the birds...

Activists brace for impact.

BRANDY KIMOTO (V.O.)
Or the birds we love and care.

A gang of poachers surround forest rangers with caged birds.

BRANDY KIMOTO (V.O.)
Of course, it would have been
simpler if good triumphed over evil
more often.

MONTAGE - ENDLESS BIRD POACHING

- The Pantanal: A lumberjack throws a SCREAMING activist into
the alligator-infested lake.

- Poachers toss bound and gagged forest rangers into the van
alongside the caged birds.

- The Atacama: A flock of Socotra cormorants flee from
poachers.

BRANDY KIMOTO (V.O.)
Our perseverance and daring deeds
were not enough...

Poachers capture several of them with sacks and nets.

- Airport runway: Poachers and a pilot load NOSIY caged birds
into a cargo plane.

BRANDY KIMOTO (V.O.)
To serve justice on behalf of
birdkind.

The cargo plane takes off; poachers snicker as they enjoy
their cash payments.

BRANDY KIMOTO (V.O.)
As a result...

EXT. LOS LAGOS - LLANQUIHUE LAKE - DAY

Various birds evacuate from the forest and fly high into the
sky.

BRANDY KIMOTO (V.O.)
Birds forcibly left South America
behind for a new paradise to avoid
losing more loved ones to corrupt
humans.

REVEAL: BRANDY KIMOTO, documentary host. She looks directly
into the lens of a camera as she speaks.

BRANDY KIMOTO

We cannot allow fear to ruin the beauty and wonders of South America this way any longer. But, too, we cannot predict how soon a miracle will come. Not even the likes of--

A storm BREWS. Brandy notices.

BRANDY KIMOTO (CONT'D)

What the--

A mystical beam CUTS straight through the dark clouds and into the middle of the forest.

BRANDY KIMOTO (CONT'D)

(confounded)

Oh, my God!

Brandy starts to sprint toward the beam. The camera follows, then goes static.

EXT. LOS LAGOS - FOREST - DAY

With the camera now back on, Brandy continues to press forward. SCREAMING POACHERS emerge from the bushes and run in the opposite direction. One of the them catches hold of Brandy.

POACHER

The end is coming! Too late to repent!

The poacher resumes fleeing. Brandy regains sight of what lies ahead.

Camera still rolling, Brandy arrives at a long beam.

BRANDY KIMOTO

Is this... the end?

THE PERFECALVA, mighty and intimidating, emerges from the beam.

BRANDY KIMOTO (CONT'D)

Is that the... The one and only Perfeccalva?!

The Perfeccalva notices the camera. The bird SCREECHES and lunges for it. The camera goes static again.

EXT. MARACAIBO - COAST - DAY

Sunny day with clouds scattered all over the sky, forming spots of shadow on the ground.

On two boats at sea are a group of casually dressed fishermen, some with fishing hats. Besides them, there are a couple of boats. They all CHATTER and LAUGH.

Back on the shore, PHILIPPE, 40, arrives at the end of the pier with fishing equipment. He preps a lure on a fishing line.

PHILIPPE

Alright, son. Watch how the pros really bring home the bacon.

Lost in thought, MAURICIO, 7, holds a fishing rod and tackle box, not paying attention to his father.

PHILIPPE (CONT'D)

Or shall I say bring home the fish?

Philippe chuckles while casting his line far out. Mauricio YAWNS. COLLECTIVE NOISE draws his attention.

A group of pelicans scatter all over the shoreline on rocks, on top of wooden cabins and in the water. Another group ascends and flies over the shore.

Mauricio observes the flying pelicans. Some of them execute a "U" formation towards the water and begin fishing next to the fishermen.

Other pelicans press onward into the horizon.

MAURICIO (O.S.)

Father, why don't those pelicans stay here?

Philippe stares at the sky with Mauricio.

PHILIPPE

Because their own instincts said so. They tell them to go to other fishing spots for tastier fish. Even sometimes, they tell them to go for something better than fishing.

MAURICIO

Yeah...
(beams)
Better than fishing.

MONTAGE - MAURICIO'S CHILDHOOD AND TEENAGEHOOD

- TITLE CARD: One month later

A white and brown PELICAN flies at midair, then descends into the lakeside.

Mauricio puts up his art gallery, rough and ready with unique school drawings on display.

A PASSERBY arrives at the gallery.

PASSERBY

(to Mauricio)

Say, you have interesting works of art. Are those from other artists at school?

MAURICIO

Oh, no. All of them are mine. They are for sale. If you like, depending on exquisiteness, I can sell you any of them from 345 Bolivianos to--

DANIELA (O.S.)

Mauricio!

Mauricio turns to DANIELA, 38, his mother.

DANIELA (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

MAURICIO

I'm making a fortune.

Daniela inspects the drawings, turns to the passerby.

DANIELA

Forgive me, sir. But this gallery is not open yet. It needs further inspection.

MAURICIO

(flabbergasted)

What?

Daniela starts taking down one drawing at a time. The passerby shrugs and moves on.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)

Mother, selling fish is not enough. We need to--

DANIELA

I know you want to make money from more than just our family business. But it'd be best that we should invest more on what this family had started.

MAURICIO

But Mother--

DANIELA

No buts. Not even what-ifs. Let it go.

Mauricio looks defeated.

- Outside Mauricio's family house: Philippe finishes loading empty crates into the van.

MAURICIO (O.C.)

You promised.

Philippe turns to the scowling Mauricio, 12, with art portfolio cases.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)

You're supposed to help me sell art in Chile.

PHILIPPE

I know, but now there's a bigger fish to fry at Caracas. So--

MAURICIO

Literally?!

Mauricio THROWS his load then GROWLS and storms off. Philippe looks worried.

- At the coast: Mauricio, 16, at his art gallery again. Residents and tourists ignore him as they pass by. He looks across the street where a cheerful high schooler has her own gallery of modern art. Lots of people are stopped admiring her art.

Mauricio examines his own artwork and SIGHS.

From the distance, the same pelican from eight years ago, watches Mauricio. The pelican looks sad.

OLD JOSÉ (O.S.)

Hey, Stuart.

The pelican turns to OLD JOSÉ, 60, mischievous, holding a fish.

OLD JOSÉ (CONT'D)
Let's have lunch together.

Stuart takes off, but only at street level.

OLD JOSÉ (CONT'D)
(panicked)
Wait. Come back.

Stuart weathers through passersby and light traffic. Old José pursues amidst everyone's confusion.

OLD JOSÉ (CONT'D)
I made turtle soup just for you,
too!

- Mauricio, 19, sits on the muddy earth with his arms, hugging his legs, chin laid on his knees. He watches other millennials showing off artwork to their fans. He SIGHS.

- At Mauricio's family house: Mauricio, Philipe and Daniela have dinner at the table.

PHILIFE
(to Mauricio)
Tomorrow, we'll sail beyond the
coast of Maracaibo for tastier
fish.

Philipe looks at his son, hopeful.

MAURICIO
Oh, yes. That's fantastico.

Philipe and Daniela trade anxious looks.

DANIELA
(to Mauricio)
Don't you want to help leverage the
success of a business with your
family?

MAURICIO
I'm just tired today.

Mauricio takes a bite of his food.

- In Mauricio's room: Paintings of diverse birds and fish across the walls. Mauricio takes them down one by one. Packs them neatly in his suitcase, together with his essentials.

Mauricio tidies his room then writes a letter on his desk while drinking soda. Finally, he places his cell phone adjacent to the fully composed letter.

- At Terminal De Pasajeros: Mauricio scours the departure board. He gets a ticket at the ticket booth.

The bus departs with a sullen Mauricio aboard. Stuart spots the bus and follows from Maracaibo to Terminal de Transporte Cali the next night.

Mauricio looks at the sleepy buildings as he meanders through the streets of Cali. The sun starts to break.

EXT. CALI - DAY

TITLE CARD: 3 Years Later

Lots of hustle and bustle in the city. Amongst a row of stores and restaurants is EAT AT SAM'S.

SAM (V.O.)
Listen up, warriors.

INT. EAT AT SAM'S - KITCHEN

Mauricio, now 22, stands forth alongside the rest of the crew. Restaurant manager SAM, 42, macho and disciplined, marches from him to MANUEL, a waiter.

SAM
One of the toughest food critics in South America will be dining at this fine mess hall tonight. And our new prize is better than maintaining three stars.

MANUEL
What's wrong with just three stars these days?

SAM
Don't question me! You, Luis and Maria better up your charisma. Our special guest must have a good first impression.
(to the rest)
Jorge, you man the cashier. Mateó, Tomás and Felicity, you strategize your formations with our best ingredients and equipment.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

Jamal, be swift in keeping this war room spick and span every minute. Same goes for you, Mauricio.

Long glare from Sam to Mauricio.

SAM (CONT'D)

But first, you have to accomplish a special mission.

MAURICIO

(curious)

Special mission, sir?

EXT. CALI - SHOPPING DISTRICT - DAY

Mauricio looks at a list of good luck charms.

MAURICIO (V.O.)

Cornicello, horseshoe, Dala horse, elephant trinket, four-leaf clover cereal...

Mauricio shakes his head.

MAURICIO

Since when did successful people start taking superstitions seriously?

Mauricio notices an artist struggling to sell fine art. Another artist nearby sells minimalistic paintings with ease. Mauricio SIGHS.

A pack of stray cats rush past Mauricio. He follows them to...

EXT. CALI - ANOTHER DISTRICT - DAY

The stray cats watch Stuart start his ascent.

Mauricio spots Stuart at a higher altitude.

Stuart keeps going. He looks down. Everything below him distorts together into a vortex. He GASPS; loses consciousness and starts to plunge.

Mauricio witnesses the drop in horror. He drops his bag and races toward the falling bird. Stuart falls faster.

Mauricio opens his arms. Stuart lands in his arms. Mauricio PLOPS his bodyweight down still holding the bird and PANTS heavily.

The cats watch in suspense.

MAURICIO
Hey... Are you okay?

Stuart starts to MUMBLE.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)
(perplexed)
What?

Stuart MUMBLES more.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)
Can you... Talk?

One of the stray cats, SUNSHINE, trembles.

SUNSHINE
OMG! Is he dead?!

The cats GASP at Sunshine. Mauricio turns to her, more perplexed. The cats start to back away slowly. The biggest cat, NAPOLEON, moves toward Sunshine.

NAPOLEON
(whispers)
Don't get any more excited. When I say "run", you--

STRAY CATS
(to each other)
Run!

The cats scatter. Napoleon follows.

NAPOLEON
Hold on. I'm the Alpha cat here!

EXT. EAT AT SAM'S - ALLEYWAY - DAY

Stuart is on the ground, still passed out. He GROANS as he starts to wake.

MAURICIO
Hey... Are you okay?

Stuart SCREAMS.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)

Whoa!

Stuart SCREAMS again and punches Mauricio's face.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)

Ow!

Mauricio shakes it off then leans towards Stuart, uneasy.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)

Can you... Talk?

Stuart considers carefully.

STUART

Squawk, squawk, squawk.

MAURICIO

Liar. You're faking it.

(beat)

Oh, look. A big juicy salmon!

Stuart spins around.

STUART

Where?!

MAURICIO

Aha! You can talk!

STUART

(embarrassed)

Please forget what you have seen today. If you make it known to the world, Mauricio, you will--

MAURICIO

(stunned)

Wait, how do you know my name?

Stuart fidgets.

STUART

I, eh...

Stuart starts to act like a fortune teller.

STUART (CONT'D)

I can see everything in your heart and mind. In fact, I predict--

MAURICIO
(unimpressed)
Did you get the cats at your
service?

Stuart has had it.

STUART
Will you please let me finish?
Otherwise, everyone will find us
freaky.

Mauricio looks around to see if anyone is around. There's no
one.

MAURICIO
Who are you? How do you know me?
And what the heck were you doing?

STUART/FORTUNE
I... Am... Fortune, a mythical
being sent by my own kind to help
unfortunate souls, mainly you,
become fortunate. I was supposed to
fly higher to foresee your real
fortune. So far, I can see that you
have to get out there again in
order to become successful in the
world of art. Now to--

MAURICIO
Wait a minute.

FORTUNE
What?!

MAURICIO
Are you the one whom my mother kept
shooing away? The one who showed up
at my apartment window?

Fortune doesn't know how to respond.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)
And come to think of it...
(serious)
Were you at my home spying on me
for years? Then all the way to Cali
and now expecting me to return to
my parents?!

Pause.

FORTUNE

Let's just assume your parents have been curious what you're been up to out here. Anyway, I predict that once you leave Cali, you will find yourself on a path to real fame and fortune. And--

MAURICIO

Yeah, right. I totally predict that I would only believe it if lightning strikes me.

RUMBLE. Mauricio and Fortune look up at the sky. A dark storm brewing.

FORTUNE

May I warn you about wishful thinking?

A bolt of lightning SHOOTS straight between Mauricio and Fortune.

Mauricio scrambles to the back door.

INT. EAT AT SAM'S - KITCHEN

Mauricio rushes in.

SAM

Alright, warriors. I got news from our food critic. The bad news is he came down with food poisoning from a one star restaurant yesterday. So tonight is a no show for him.

Most of the crew is relieved.

MAURICIO

What about the good news?

SAM

Negatory. We have worse news and that is...

Sam notices something.

SAM (CONT'D)

A pelican?

Mauricio sees Fortune perching on Sam's head, startled. Everyone else turns to see it as well.

MAURICIO
(to Sam)
Oh, that...

Mauricio nervously CHUCKLES.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)
I found the best good luck charm
for you.

BOOM! Chaotic NOISE from the dining hall.

INT. EAT AT SAM'S - DINING HALL

Sam peeks through the serving window and GASPS.

A flock of THUNDERBIRDS, fierce and unruly, harass the customers. Jorge and others run amuck.

INT. EAT AT SAM'S - KITCHEN

Sam turns to Mauricio, fierce.

SAM
Jamal, broom.

Jamal hands over the broom to Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)
You shoo away those flying rats.

Sam shoves the broom to Mauricio.

SAM (CONT'D)
Bring your pelican, too.

Fortune GULPS.

MAURICIO
(perturbed)
Me? But why?

SAM
I like to see how effective your
good luck charm can be to me. Now
go to it!

INT. EAT AT SAM'S - DINING HALL

Armed with the broom, Mauricio and Fortune BARGE out from the kitchen doors to better examine the situation.

A Thunderbird on a table, pecks on some food, oblivious.

Mauricio takes a deep breath then lets out a BATTLE CRY and guns for it. He WHACKS away the Thunderbird. The thunderbird falls to the floor unconsciousness.

Mauricio and Fortune look around. The other Thunderbirds glare at them. Electrical SPARKS fly around the room.

EXT. EAT AT SAM'S - CONTINUOUS

Mauricio and Fortune dash out of the front door. The thunderbirds pursue. Right into...

EXT. CALI - STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Mauricio and Fortune are on the run. The notice more Thunderbirds coming at them from the storm. The birds terrorize citizens on the go.

FORTUNE

Oh, no. Not now!

MAURICIO

(to Fortune)

What are you saying?!

Lightning bolts SMACK hit the ground. Mauricio and Fortune YELP and narrowly evade every one of them in addition to the Thunderbirds in their path.

Still in pursuit, the Thunderbirds fly past the alleyway. Therein, Mauricio and Fortune - along with a stray cat - pop out from the dumpster then jump out and race off in the opposite direction.

EXT. CALI - ANOTHER DISTRICT

More Thunderbirds chase stray cats, including Sunshine and Napoleon. Mauricio and Fortune continue to run amidst the citizens' hysteria.

MAURICIO

Fortune, tell me what's going on.

FORTUNE

I heard from some indigenous kooks
in Chile about this doom and gloom.

Mauricio and Fortune dodge another lightning bolt then regroup.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)

A creature named the Perfeccalva...
It's supposed to lead its own army
right after humanity wipes out the
last living bird.

MAURICIO

Why now when there are still birds
around?

Mauricio and Fortune swerve from a Thunderbird head-on.

FORTUNE

I better find a better atmosphere
where I can fly higher at better
ease. Then we need to get to the
bottom of this.

MAURICIO

But do you have any idea where to
start?

FORTUNE

I have bird instincts... I don't
care how to start.

MAURICIO

What?!

A minivan with bombastic paint ABRUPTLY STOPS in the pair's
course. Mauricio YELPS.

The driver, XAVI, 36, cheerful and youthful with curly hair
and a thin mustache, lowers the window.

XAVI

Mauricio?

Mauricio can't believe his eyes.

MAURICIO

Xavi? What are you doing here?

Jolting lightning bolts STRIKE behind Mauricio and Fortune.

XAVI

Quick, amigos. Hop in. Pronto!

Mauricio and Fortune climb aboard at the back of the minivan.
All REVVED up the minivan SPEEDS off.

EXT. CALI - BORDER

Xavi's minivan leaves the city.

INT. XAVI'S MINIVAN - DAY

Mauricio and Fortune, quietly seated at the back, trade long stares with Xavi.

MAURICIO

(awkward)

So, Xavi... How's your life after our last time in Maracaibo?

XAVI

Oh, just nothing. I've been helping hitchhikers get to better places.

MAURICIO

Do you remember talking to me about your dream of migrating to California?

Fortune raises his eyebrow.

XAVI

Oh, yes. I was supposed to ask my cousin, Iago, for help. But after making another visit to your hometown, I have to bring you back to your parents.

Mauricio senses.

MAURICIO

What's going on over there?

XAVI

I found out that your family business has been suffering from a fish shortage. And do you remember Brandy Kimoto from a yet-to be-released documentary?

MAURICIO

Yeah, I heard rumors about her death.

XAVI

Well, everybody has been blaming the Perfeccalva for it.

XAVI (CONT'D)
Plus the fish shortage and now the
crazy weather in many parts of
South America.

Suspicion grows in Mauricio.

MAURICIO
But it can't be mad at all of us...

XAVI
What I learned from one rumor was
the Perfeccalva lost it when there
was too much bird poaching.

MAURICIO
What about Maracaibo?

XAVI
Even if there hasn't been bird
abuse in your home, the Perfeccalva
will not spare it. We have to
evacuate the people from there.

Mauricio looks at Fortune. Fortune shakes his head. M

MAURICIO
No, Xavi.

XAVI
What?

MAURICIO
If anyone expects me to help my
family, our best chance is this
pelican.

Mauricio points to Fortune.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)
And I bet you're wondering why I'm
bringing it along.

Xavi looks confused.

XAVI
I haven't asked why. But how can
the fate of South America be pinned
on this pelican?

MAURICIO
It's a fortune teller.

Fortune nods.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)

It can see the future by flying at great heights.

Fortune nods again.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)

And I'm wondering if your home - where we should going now - could be the right place for him.

Fortune's eyes open wide.

XAVI

Well, my home has wide open space...

Xavi smiles widely.

XAVI (CONT'D)

Sure. After all, I have been crazy enough to believe in supernatural things for years.

Mauricio smiles at Xavi. Fortune seems uncertain.

MAURICIO

Fantastico! Tell me again: where's your home?

EXT. ROAD TO MINCA

Xavi's minivan presses on toward the horizon.

XAVI (V.O.)

Minca, Colombia. Here we go!

ON TV: Weatherman PAUL SOTO gestures alongside the weather map of South America.

PAUL SOTO

A storm is still bombarding Colombian cities, most notably Cali, with lightning and electrified birds. And it has become stranger than ice birds in the southern region of South America three years ago. More hazardous than lava birds in Brazil five years ago. Even above the freak oil spill sixteen years ago.

INT. RESTAURANT OFFICE - NIGHT

An indistinguishable MAN views the TV.

On the screen, Paul continues.

PAUL SOTO
 If you're planning to leave
 Colombia for a greener pasture,
 better make flight reservation with
 a private pilot, for...

The telephone RINGS. Paul continues to talk distinctively.
 The man, MONGER, answers.

MONGER
 Start talking. Can't waste too much
 precious time.
 (beat)
 Still on a pelican hunt? Eh, amigo?

The man reaches for a book from the bookshelf.

MONGER (CONT'D)
 You now need to swap your busted up
 car for a car from me?

The man returns to his chair.

MONGER (CONT'D)
 Deal. Better make sure the
 pelican's alive.

The man opens the book. TITLE: THE LEGEND OF THE PERFECCALVA.

MONGER (CONT'D)
 Who knows what secret it has?

EXT. MINCA VILLAGE - NIGHT

The minivan stops by a house. Behind it is a lush waterfall.

ANGIE, 33, brimming with unbridled joy, runs out the door and
 towards Xavi.

ANGIE
 Cousin!

XAVI
 Hey!

Mauricio gets out of the car and stares at the waterfall in
 amazement.

ANGIE
I can't believe this. Why didn't
you tell us you were coming?

XAVI
Uh... Surprise!

They LAUGH.

Another woman walks out the house, ALEJANDRA, 44, a serious
expression on her face.

ALEJANDRA
Xavi, it's you.

Xavi is spooked by her presence.

XAVI
Hey... Yeah, I decided it was time
to help you out with something.

ALEJANDRA
I see.

ANGIE
We're so happy to see you!

She hugs him again. Alejandra turns her back on them and
walks inside the house.

From inside the car, Fortune observes the scene. Angie wheels
back and notices him.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Holy guacamole. Is that a pelican
inside your car?

Xavi scratches the back of his head.

XAVI
Yeah, yeah. It's Mauricio's.

ANGIE
Who?

Xavi points at Mauricio. Mauricio waves.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Oh, you! Sorry, I didn't see you
there behind the minivan. Nice to
meet you!

Angie goes to hug him. Mauricio seems uneasy but then accepts
it.

Angie walks to the minivan and waves at Fortune.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Oooohhhh! This is loco! You have a
pet pelican?

MAURICIO
Well, he's not my pet.

ANGIE
Alright. What is he?

Mauricio trades looks with Fortune.

MAURICIO
I'm going to help him fly higher.

Angie is mesmerized.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)
I figured that your home has wide
open space.

ANGIE
(more enthusiastic)
Well, you're in luck. This house is
within the wide open space.

MAURICIO
Yeah, I can see that.

ANGIE
Anyhoo, let's go inside the house.
We're just finishing dinner, but
there's plenty of food left for
you, guys.

Xavi grabs his stuff.

MAURICIO
Thanks, but we lost our appetites
along the way.

Fortune gets out of the minivan and stares at the waterfall's
height. Angie notices Fortune's doubtful face.

ANGIE
Are you sure? He could use some
rest.

Fortune nods.

MAURICIO
(to Angie)
He's all pent up. Have fun with
your fam!

Mauricio grabs and escorts him away. Fortune struggles to break free. Confusion grows further in Angie.

EXT. WATERFALL - NIGHT

The waterfall ROARS from top to bottom.

FORTUNE (O.C.)
What's the rush? I can spare some
of this night on a date with
leftovers first.

Mauricio and Fortune stand at the base of the waterfall.

MAURICIO
You said you need a better
atmosphere where you can fly
higher.

FORTUNE
At more ease. Besides, I am an old
pelican.

MAURICIO
Take as much time as you need.

Fortune thinks.

FORTUNE
Rhetorical question: What would you
do when you start to feel dizzy
once you look down from a great
height?

Mauricio SIGHS and rolls his eyes.

MAURICIO
Just go slow and steady. If not,
keep looking up.

FORTUNE
Alright.

Fortune warms up.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)
Stand back.

Fortune starts ascending slow and steady. Mauricio watches.

Fortune reaches the middle of the waterfall. Looks down. Vortex again. GASPS. Starts to feel dizzy but quickly snaps out.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)
No, no, no. Better look up.

Fortune fixes on the sky. Builds up momentum. Struggles to stay focused.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)
Keep looking up.

Fortune nears the top of the waterfall, amazing Mauricio. Fortune beams with hope.

Darkness shrouds the sky making it pitch black.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)
What the...

Everything else disappears. The giant face of Old José appears, confusing Fortune. Old José transforms into a devil and BREATHES FIRE at him with a ROAR.

Fortune plummets.

MAURICIO
Whoa!

Mauricio races into the river.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)
Don't worry. I got you.

Unconscious, Fortune nears the rock. Mauricio stops at the rock, ready to catch him. Fortune SPLASHES behind him. Mauricio turns to him. Fortune surfaces, STRUGGLING FOR AIR.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)
Fortune, what did you see?

FORTUNE
I see... I see...

Fortune glares at Mauricio.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)
Twinkling little stars above your noggin!

Fortune springs towards Mauricio and attempts to land but hits Mauricio in the face instead.

MAURICIO
Hey! What gives?

FORTUNE
You stink at this!

MAURICIO
What's another prediction about the Perfeccelva?

FORTUNE
Only a palooka would stand up to such monstrosity!

ANGIE (O.S.)
Holy guacamole!

The pair stop brawling then turn to Angie slowly.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Your pelican can talk?!

Mauricio smiles awkwardly.

FORTUNE
Squawk.

LATER

The trio sits.

ANGIE
(to Fortune)
So let me get it straight. You can really see the future by flying higher?

FORTUNE
Let's just say I need a better atmosphere than here. Plus a better assistant...

Fortune points to Mauricio.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)
Than this birdbrain.

Mauricio scowls at him.

ANGIE
(to Mauricio)
And you... You need hints from him
on how to save South America.

MAURICIO
Actually, I need hints in solving a
crazy mystery.

Angie seems unimpressed.

ANGIE
You don't look very confident.
Nowhere to go?

MAURICIO
Where did you get that idea?

ANGIE
Call me crazy but I'm a
psychologist. I can't help it.

Mixed expressions from Mauricio and Fortune.

FORTUNE
Great. Can you tell how truly crazy
Mauricio can be?

ANGIE
Yes...

Angie jokingly pokes Mauricio's belly.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
By his gut. And it's telling him to
help out my family.

Mauricio senses trouble in Angie.

MAURICIO
What's going on with your fam?

ANGIE
My sis and her boyfriend, Iago, had
been part of my family for years.
But then he stopped being there for
her, because he has been so caught
up with rescue missions.

MAURICIO/FORTUNE
Rescue missions?

ANGIE

Yes. I had counseling with them on his Savior's Complex, but they were too busy thinking about breaking up.

FORTUNE

Rescue missions, Savior's Complex...

Fortune realizes.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)

I see where it's going.

MAURICIO/ANGIE

Where?

FORTUNE

Iago has been busy saving people's lives from the final judgement of the Perfeccalva. He's searching for a way to end the disaster.

ANGIE

As a matter of fact, Iago is a pilot. But that's not the point.

Fortune gives a desperate look to Mauricio.

FORTUNE

Mauricio, you have to convince Iago to come along with us. He can stop the Perfeccalva.

ANGIE

But guys, he--

MAURICIO

How can we be sure that he's a fighter?

FORTUNE

He has a fighting chance. That's my prediction.

EXT. MINCA VILLAGE - NIGHT

Nothing seems to be stirring at Xavi's house.

INT. XAVI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

DISTINCTIVE CHATTER and TRASH TALK coldly chill the modest house with tropical charm. One by one, Angie, Mauricio and Fortune peer around the doorframe.

Iago and Alejandra are in an argument; Xavi struggles to break it up.

FORTUNE

(whispers to Mauricio)

There's our chosen one. Remember the lines I wrote for you.

MAURICIO

(whispers)

But just because he's a pilot doesn't mean he'll have to fight the Perfeccalva - even in the air.

ANGIE

(whispers)

I'll help.

FORTUNE

(whispers)

No, Angie. Mauricio must do all the people pleasing. Just enjoy the performance.

ANGIE

(whispers)

Okay.

Mauricio ambles to Iago, Alejandra and Xavi.

ALEJANDRA/IAGO

Why can't you stop being a workaholic?/Will you stop acting like a nagging wife?/I'm not a nag, you thick-headed robot./But I'm not single-minded compared to you.

XAVI

Guys, guys, can't we work this out?

MAURICIO

Uh, hi.

The trio wheels to Mauricio.

ALEJANDRA/IAGO

(agitated)

What is it?

Pause.

MAURICIO

(nervous)

I, uh... I have a, uh... An important message for Iago.

XAVI

Look, amigo. I do appreciate what you're doing. But maybe another time.

IAGO

(to Xavi)

One moment. I'd like to hear him out.

MAURICIO

Angie told me you're a pilot.

ALEJANDRA

Angie... What am I gonna do with her?

IAGO

I expect Xavi to tell you about me, not Angie.

MAURICIO

There's a mystical creature named the Perfeccalva that needs to be stopped.

ALEJANDRA

Seriously?

IAGO

I heard about that monster. I have been flying people to safety for a long time.

MAURICIO

Yeah, yeah. And you're the only one who can stop it.

Fortune observes, more hopeful.

IAGO

Oh, really? Will I be handsomely rewarded for that?

Mauricio looks at Fortune. He returns him a confused shrug. Mauricio shifts his attention back to Iago, awkward.

MAURICIO

Uh, fifty-fifty.

Pause.

ALEJANDRA

I'm sorry. But Iago has better things to do here.

IAGO

(to Alejandra, angrier)
Here?! I have paying customers to fly. They want to escape from Colombia. But I wouldn't have to work overtime if I hadn't been looking out for more refugees.

ALEJANDRA

Oh, leave that rescuing to the professionals. As a permanent house guest, you have to help me out on everything in this home.

Mauricio doesn't like where this is going. Xavi flashes a worried look to Mauricio.

XAVI

Now you've done it.

IAGO

I am helping you out making money for you and your family.

ALEJANDRA

But not that way.

MAURICIO

Guys, guys...

XAVI

Mauricio, let me handle it.

Fortune and Angie continue to watch, grimacing.

IAGO (O.S.)

You're my orugita. Don't you want to live life like I used to?

ALEJANDRA (O.S.)

Leaving this home behind is not living life!

MAURICIO (O.S.)

C'mon, you two. You're a lovely couple.

Unrest rages on. A CAT SCREECH followed by DOG BARKS. Fortune and Angie turn to the front door.

A DOG chases a CAT, wrecking everything in their path.

ANGIE
(horrified)
Rey? Mona Lisa?

Mona Lisa and Rey dash towards Angie and Fortune and encircle them, spooking Fortune, too.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
You two, cut it out.

Mona Lisa escapes from the circular motion. Rey follows.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Ai, ai, ai! Not the kitchen again!

Angie pursues the two pets to the kitchen. Fortune watches.

SHAKESPEARE (O.S)
To be here or not to be here. That
is the question.

Fortune slowly turns to a black cat with a menacing face,
SHAKESPEARE. He looms towards Fortune.

FORTUNE
Who are you?

SHAKESPEARE
It is the moon and the east is me,
Alejandra's cat. Call me
Shakespeare.

Fortune GIGGLES.

SHAKESPEARE (CONT'D)
What are you biting at me, bird?

FORTUNE
Excuse me, but your name doesn't
match your accent.

Shakespeare GROWLS.

SHAKESPEARE
Doth thou dumb bird think thou are
welcome here?

Fortune takes a few steps back, uncomfortable.

SHAKESPEARE (CONT'D)
Well...

Shakespeare extends his claws, shiny.

SHAKESPEARE (CONT'D)
Doubt that I see.

Shakespeare MEOWS and runs towards Fortune. Fortune flies away in the nick of time.

FORTUNE
Ha! Bite my head, loser!

Shakespeare jumps extremely high, gets to Fortune and starts clawing him. Fortune makes PELICAN NOISES, frenzied.

Fortune glides towards the group in unrest and right past them. Shakespeare continues to fight him. Everyone watches, startled.

MAURICIO
Fortune!

XAVI
Whoa!

ALEJANDRA
What's that pelican doing with my cat?!

Mauricio runs after the two brawling animals in an erratic orientation.

MAURICIO
I'm coming!

Mauricio grabs Shakespeare by the tail. Fortune, in more agony, keeps flying forward with the others in tow. They SMASH through furnishings one after another. E

MAURICIO (CONT'D)
(to Shakespeare)
Let go of him!

Angie storms out from the kitchen holding Mona Lisa and Rey by their scruffs.

ANGIE
(to Mona Lisa)
If you don't stop pulling pranks on poor ole' Rey, I--

Angie and the pets spot the commotion. She shifts her attention to Mona Lisa and Rey.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
All your arepas will be Shakespeare's.

Mona Lisa and Rey understand. They exchange looks and nod.

Angie releases the pets. Mona Lisa and Rey charge toward the brawlers.

Rey goes first as he tackles Mauricio. Mona Lisa leaps onto Shakespeare and knocks him off. Attacks. Fortune watches the catfight, then SMACKS into the wall and PLOPS over.

Shakespeare knocks away Mona Lisa then goes after Fortune. Mauricio recovers.

MAURICIO

Fortune!

Mauricio catches up with Shakespeare. Rey rushes in front of the injured Fortune. SNARLS. Mauricio and Shakespeare walk back.

ANGIE (O.S.)

Shakespeare.

Mauricio and Shakespeare turn to Angie. She walks towards them with a stern face. Alejandra, Iago and Xavi follow behind.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

(to Shakespeare)

You loco gato. How dare you attack our guest?

Shakespeare HISSES at Angie.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Oh, no. Don't give me that look. If you don't have appreciation for our guests, then stay out. Otherwise, I'll tell Alejandra about how much you brag about your obsession with her canaries.

Alejandra looks at Angie, surprised.

ALEJANDRA

You know my canaries went missing because of him?!

Shakespeare trades his stunned look with Mauricio then gives up.

ANGIE

Now go make up to Fortune.

Shakespeare petulantly ignores Angie.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Come on. I know you don't want to play lucha libre with Mona Lisa and Rey.

Shakespeare sees the other pets' vicious faces. Blows raspberries in disgust then ambles over to Fortune and cuddles.

Mauricio turns to the smiling Angie, amazed.

MAURICIO

Angie, you said you're a psychologist.

ANGIE

Oh, about that...

(giggles)

I have been practicing on animals before I can try on people.

MAURICIO

If you can tame animals that way, then that means...

Mauricio realizes out of confidence.

ALEJANDRA

Oh, don't pay attention to my sister. She watched too much of Dr. Dolittle and Babe.

IAGO

Angie recommended I bring Shakespeare along as my emotional support animal one time.

XAVI

Samesies.

Alejandra wheels to Iago and Xavi, annoyed.

ALEJANDRA

Quiet, you two.

MAURICIO

Pop quiz, Angie. If you can turn an angry cat around, could you do the same on the Perfeccalva?

ANGIE

Well, I'm aware that the
Perfeccalva is more of a mythical
creature than an ordinary animal...
So sure, why not?

IAGO/XAVI/ALEJANDRA

(perturbed)

What?/Really?/You got to be kidding
me.

A villager, INIGO, bursts in, PANTING.

ALEJANDRA

What is it now, Inigo?

INIGO

Ven rápido. Sabes que generalmente
salgo de mi casa cada hora y luego
vuelvo a ella, porque tengo
problemas para vivir sola allí
durante tanto tiempo. Bueno, estaba
en camino a la tienda de
conveniencia sin prestar atención a
las montañas. Y normalmente no me
tomo mi tiempo para ellos, pero
esta vez no estaba prestando
atención, y yo--

XAVI

Whoa, whoa. Slow down.

IAGO

You know that we don't have spare
time for your tongue twisters.

INIGO

It's the Ice Birds. They're coming!

EXT. MINCA VILLAGE - NIGHT

Behind the houses and buildings, parts of the forest and the
mountains are already frozen in ice. Everyone notices them,
uncertain.

ANGIE

I thought the Ice Birds were
freezing Uruguay for years.

IAGO

Poachers in Uruguay. They used to
get what they deserved.

(MORE)

IAGO (CONT'D)

I heard they have been getting away with advanced technology.

MAURICIO

(more concerned)

So some of the ice birds left there for a new territory.

IAGO

My theory, exactly.

(pauses)

We must leave Minca, pronto.

Alejandra grows more alarmed.

ALEJANDRA

Now? Never!

MAURICIO

Alejandra, may I borrow your sister for a while? I know how she can help us save our homes.

Fortune shakes his head. Alejandra defends Angie.

ALEJANDRA

We don't do favors for you or even Xavi.

ANGIE

Only you, sis.

ALEJANDRA

What?

ANGIE

I can do a better job helping Xavi find a real job than you think. I don't mind a long adventure with Mauricio more than you could imagine. If you want to be better than me in something, go out there!

ALEJANDRA

Are you forsaking your family?!

MAURICIO

Listen, Alejandra. If none of you leaves before the Ice Birds can close in, you'll put your family in more real danger. You have to trust us.

Alejandra sees desperation in everyone's eyes, including the pets'.

ALEJANDRA

Fine. Make sure Angie stays in one piece. Plus Iago needs to give me a free ride.

Everyone else smiles.

IAGO

My rides are always free for you and your family.

Iago and Alejandra warmly embrace each other. Shakespeare joins in. Fortune goes for them but Mauricio grabs him and pulls back. Fortune looks irate.

ANGIE

Alright, Mauricio... Where shall we go?

MAURICIO

I need more answers from Fortune.

Fortune turns his head away from Mauricio.

XAVI

I have to go to Santo Dominigo and check on the hitchhikers I dropped off. How about I drop all three of you at Quito?

MAURICIO

Yeah, that's a great idea!

LATER

Maurico, Fortune and Angie climb aboard into the minivan. Xavi turns on the ignition. The minivan departs the village of Minca and into...

EXT. QUITO - DAY

A regular weekday in the city. Movement but not much of a crowd.

EXT. QUITO - HOTEL - DAY

The trio exits from the minivan and examines the hotel at its grand scale. Xavi drives off.

MAURICIO

Angie, is it true that you had made lots of money from animal therapy?

ANGIE

Absolutely. I made bucket loads from helping a movie star's horse get over its aquaphobia. You should have seen me tricking it into swimming in the ball tank.

FORTUNE

Too bad I couldn't watch Animal Planet in Maracaibo.

The trio walks through the front doors. From a distance, Old José, unnoticeable, spies.

INT. QUITO - HOTEL - DAY

The trio walks out of the elevator. It's a super silent hallway.

FORTUNE

Thank Neptune for a nice manager, huh?

MAURICIO

Yup.

ANGIE

I can't believe she is a big fan of talking bird movies.

MAURICIO/FORTUNE

Keep dreaming.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DUSK

The door opens as the trio enters. Mauricio turns on the lights. Fortune flies to the curtain.

MAURICIO

Okay, so we're just spending one night here. Otherwise, we'll be broke in no time.

ANGIE

Us broke?

Mauricio closes the door and puts away his bags with Angie. Fortune opens the curtain to reveal a rather nice view of the street.

FORTUNE
Will we taking a bus to Peru?

MAURICIO
I guess so. Xavi won't likely be back for us very soon.

Angie walks to the bathroom.

ANGIE
I'm gonna take a shower.

MAURICIO
Okay.

Angie closes the bathroom door.

FORTUNE
Mauricio, may I have a word with you?

Mauricio and Fortune sit on the bed.

MAURICIO
What's up?

FORTUNE
Why Angie instead of Iago?

MAURICIO
Because she can tame the Perfeccelva.

FORTUNE
If we hope for that Thornberry to have a better fighting chance than Iago's, I know one national park where she can train.

MAURICIO
She doesn't have to be a fighter. She just needs to be compassionate and understanding. If you don't believe me, why not you fly higher for another prediction?

FORTUNE
(impatient)
You saw me what happened back at Minca.

MAURICIO

I'm totally sure this city has a better atmosphere for you.

FORTUNE

There's never a better atmosphere for me!

Fortune SIGHS.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)

I lived with my family at a river in Chile. But many residents over there called me Plight for every stroke of bad luck I brought upon them. Including the oil spill.

MAURICIO

And you and the others had to leave Chile for a new home?

FORTUNE

(more sobered)

After a long time of scouring all over South America, my wife suggested that we should permanently reside in California as it was one of the best lands for opportunities. I preferred to check out our old home for any sign of fortune. We got into a big fight and were forced to go to go separate ways. I flew into a storm which was rumored to be the work of the Perfeccelva. It happened so fast. Too fast, perhaps.

Suspense builds up more in Mauricio.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)

After the storm, I was alone and lost. A ship of fisherman found me on the sea and saved my life. A veterinarian that happened to be on board kept me alive. And when I was healthy enough to stand on my feet, I realized I was in Venezuela.

MAURICIO

How come you didn't return home to your family sooner?

FORTUNE

I did want to return sooner. But the fact is... I'm afraid... Of flying higher. The higher I go, the more afraid I get. I can't live with it. There is only one thing that can change my fate.

MAURICIO

What's that?

FORTUNE

You.

Mauricio falls into perplexity.

MAURICIO

But... I'm not your only hope. You're my only hope - for having a better life.

FORTUNE

No, Mauricio. It's all you. I watched you age for years in Maracaibo and then Cali. You had been hoping for more meaning in your life. A happy place in the world of art - or even someone to replace your ex-girlfriend.

MAURICIO

I tried dating just for some experiences.

FORTUNE

I'm not even confident in Angie as your other source of confidence. But I have so much hope that you can find a way to save my old home and bring back my family. Even if it means proving my instincts wrong.

MAURICIO

On stopping the Perfeccalva?

FORTUNE

Maybe... More than that.

Mauricio wonders. A KNOCK at the door.

CLEANING LADY (O.S.)

Room service!

MAURICIO

(whispers)

Okay, Fortune. You remember the drill.

FORTUNE

(whispers)

Of course, I do. As obliged by a mandate of nature.

Mauricio approaches the door and opens it. A CLEANING LADY, awkwardly stands before him.

MAURICIO

You're not the waiter. And where's the food?

The cleaning lady shakes her head.

CLEANING LADY

Oh, silly me. I must have forgotten to bring it from the kitchen. Happens when I have to juggle two shifts at the same time.

Mauricio is suspicious, the cleaning lady starts to barge in.

CLEANING LADY (CONT'D)

Now make way. I--

Mauricio resists.

MAURICIO

I just got here. There seems to be a mistake.

She struggles to break through.

CLEANING LADY

(non-convincing
woman's voice)

Oh, see it as a complimentary service. Opportunities like this don't happen at this hotel everyday.

Fortune stares a little bit at the cleaning lady on the other side. Something is oddly familiar about her.

MAURICIO

But nobody says "yes" to everything.

CLEANING LADY
And you cannot think too much.

MAURICIO
Just go!

CLEANING LADY
Let me in!

Fortune's eyes opens wide.

FORTUNE
You!

Mauricio turns to Fortune, dread sinking in. The cleaning lady scowls.

CLEANING LADY
Time to go home, Stuart.

Mauricio returns his attention to her.

MAURICIO
Stuart?

She SLAMS Mauricio by the door and rushes to Fortune. Fortune evades her. Mauricio goes after them, fast and furious.

INT. SHOWER - NIGHT

Angie SINGS out loud. Hears BUMPS and FALLS from outside the bathroom. Then silence.

ANGIE
Huh?

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Angie, wrapped with towel, rushes out of the bathroom. FREAKS OUT.

The room in shambles: broken lamps, randomly thrown bags and a messy bed. No sign of her friends.

ANGIE
Mauricio? Fortune?

FORTUNE (O.S.)
Mauricio!

Angie rushes towards the hallway. Peers.

EXT. QUITO - HOTEL - NIGHT

Mauricio bursts out from the front entrance and spots Old José, next to an orange muscle car, discarding his old cleaning lady disguise. Mauricio guns for him as José walks around the muscle car to the driver's seat. José is about to open the door...

MAURICIO

You!

José freezes. Mauricio sees Fortune, with a wrapped beak, inside the car in the backseat. Fortune returns Mauricio an optimistic face.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)

Old José, what are you doing?

Awkward and anti-climatic silence.

OLD JOSÉ

Mauricio.

Mauricio seems to calm down, but still in his firm posture.

MAURICIO

What are you doing here, gramps?
And why are you taking that pelican
with you?

OLD JOSÉ

Stuart? Well, Stuart is my pelican.

José points to Fortune.

MAURICIO

What?

José walks closer to Mauricio.

OLD JOSÉ

It's fine, kiddo. I'm not
kidnapping him. I'm just taking him
back to my place, that's all.

MAURICIO

But... I don't remember you
adopting him. Besides, his real
name is Fortune.

José smiles in contempt.

OLD JOSÉ
Oh, a fortune telling pelican. What
did Stuart tell you?

Mauricio glances at Fortune.

MAURICIO
He told me...

Mauricio realizes.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)
We have to save his old home.

OLD JOSÉ
Is that so?

José CHUCKLES. Something fishy about him.

OLD JOSÉ (CONT'D)
And I thought he told you that he
ran away from Maracaibo, wandered
all over South America and found
you as my replacement. Forcing me
to search for him for years without
any means of tracking. I'm too old
and tired for all that.

MAURICIO
Yeah, that's why everyone calls you
Old José. Or better yet, Loco José.

José turns grim.

OLD JOSÉ
I hate that name. When I bring
Stuart back to Maracaibo, he better
tell us how to find better fish.
Almost all our lakes have been
destroyed. You do realize we all
need the money - even your family
business.

Mauricio doesn't believe him.

MAURICIO
But no money in the world could
solve all problems. And you can't
just sell anything priceless
without hurting.

OLD JOSÉ
Oh yes, I can.

José slowly draws a cleaning spray.

OLD JOSÉ (CONT'D)
Why don't you go back to your
parents?!

José SPRAYS Mauricio's face. Mauricio SCREAMS.

OLD JOSÉ (CONT'D)
Find another pelican. This one is
mine.

José enters the muscle car and drives away. Mauricio's eyes hurt as he kneels on the floor in pain. Angie arrives at his side.

ANGIE
Mauricio, what's going on?

MAURICIO
It's Old José. He gonna ruin
Fortune.

ANGIE
Fortune's in trouble?

A taxi stops by the hotel's pick-up/drop-off point. Mauricio rushes at it with Angie in tow. Opens the door.

Mauricio points to the muscle car at the intersection. It's a red light and there are other cars were in front of it.

The taxi driver smiles and nods. He SNAPS his fingers and neck. Mauricio and Angie enter the taxi. It DRIVES OFF.

The light turns green and traffic moves. The taxi follows the muscle car in a high speed chase.

INT. MUSCLE CAR

Old José looks in the rear view mirror, sees the taxi following him.

OLD JOSÉ
Give me a break!

Fortune looks as well; notices the taxi with Mauricio and Angie in it.

EXT. STREETS

Old José drives inside a fancy building's parking lot. The taxi follows. José parks, takes Fortune and runs away towards the elevator.

The taxi stops; Mauricio and Angie jump out, leaving the door open.

TAXI DRIVER
Hey! You have to pay!

ANGIE
Whoops! Sorry!

Angie returns to the taxi driver.

José waves and smiles as the elevator doors close. Mauricio pays attention to the number displayed at the floor indicator. The elevator stops at the penthouse. Angie catches up.

MAURICIO
Uh, Angie. I need you to wait for me with Fortune. Just a few moments.

ANGIE
But Mauricio... What if he manages to come back before you?

Mauricio takes the second elevator next to it, and enters.

MAURICIO
I won't take too long. Just stay put.

Mauricio presses the penthouse button. Angie looks dispirited.

INT. HALLWAY

The elevator arrives at the penthouse. Doors open. Mauricio walks out.

It's a fancy hallway. At the end of it, there's the entrance of what seems to be a fancy area. A WAITER stands at the entrance.

MAURICIO
Hi, have you seen an old man carrying a pelican?

WAITER
Yes. And who are you, please?

MAURICIO
Where did he go?

The waiter rolls his eyes.

WAITER
He went inside.

Mauricio barges in.

INT. SUPER FANCY RESTAURANT

The place is outstandingly beautiful. One of those five star restaurants where the richest of the rich eat. It's crowded with customers, every table is taken, by groups of two, three, four and some tables have large numbers of customers going up to ten.

Lots of warm yellow lights. A jazz pianist plays on his big PIANO, located in the center of the restaurant. Waiters constantly move between tables, serving food.

Mauricio, low-key, scans the area. He can see there is a deck with more tables, fancier than inside. He spots Old José, standing next to the table, but Fortune is nowhere to be seen.

Mauricio marches to José. José notices him, as do the customers at their tables.

MAURICIO
(serious voice)
Where's the pelican, José?

OLD JOSÉ
None of your business. You should worry about going back home.

Mauricio is now steps away from the table.

OLD JOSÉ (CONT'D)
Your parents are miserable since you ran away. Aren't you ashamed?

MAURICIO
That's besides the point. Now, where is he?

MONGER (O.S.)
Let me handle this.

Mauricio turns to MONGER, dressed in the finest of suits. He reaches for Mauricio for a handshake. Mauricio reluctantly shakes hands with him.

MONGER (CONT'D)
Come with me, kid.

Mauricio is confused. He follows Monger across the restaurant and into the kitchen.

INT. FANCY KITCHEN

It's a busy and NOISY night in the kitchen. Sounds of pans, utensils, fire, various chefs and all that jazz.

MAURICIO
Who are you?

MONGER
I'm the owner of the restaurant.
Señor Monger is my name.

Monger stops and signals for Mauricio to do it as well.

MAURICIO
I just want the pelican. That old
man took him from me and--

MONGER
What do you drink?

Mauricio is confused.

MAURICIO
I don't drink.

MONGER
Soda? A coke?

MAURICIO
I...

Monger signals to a random waiter.

MONGER
A coke, please.

The waiter rushes to it and brings the can. He hands it to Mauricio.

MAURICIO
Thank you.

The waiter nods.

MONGER

So... You want the pelican?

Mauricio holds the can, but looks like he has no intention of drinking it.

MAURICIO

He's my friend.

Monger nods while also finds it strange.

MONGER

Are you're also a friend of... Oh, I don't know... Some mythical birds.

Mauricio is stupefied.

MAURICIO

I seem to be lost here.

MONGER

José told me that your friend can predict the future. So far, an affirmative way of making more fortune.

MAURICIO

Is that so?

MONGER

When I was younger than you, I wanted to be successful like everyone else at my age. I didn't like to be left behind. After not too long, I became a hit in food business. Right where we are. At this restaurant of mine, we do some extraordinary cuisine. We're one of the most notorious restaurants in all of Ecuador. But no harm dabbling with fortune telling.

Mauricio BREATHES louder and heavier. Sweat runs down his forehead.

MAURICIO

What made you be sure about it?

INT. FOOD SUPPLY ROOM

The lights are all out. The door opens before the shadows of Mauricio and Monger. Monger turns the light on.

There are dozens of cages. Inside each of them, there are pelicans of all types and colors.

Mauricio GASPS. He immediately spots Fortune.

MAURICIO

There you are!

Mauricio starts to run to him. Monger immobilizes him. Mauricio looks at Monger.

MONGER

While specializing in pelicans...

The pelicans all start making PELICAN NOISES.

MONGER (CONT'D)

We have been making the best out of inflation from the bird shortage. All the credit went to vengeful mystical birds, such as the Perfeccalva.

MAURICIO

What? No way.

PELICAN #1

Hey, kid. Get us out of here!

PELICAN #2

I can't believe it!

PELICAN #3

Thank you!

Mauricio seems dumbfounded.

PELICAN #3 (CONT'D)

What, you don't believe pelicans can talk?

Monger LAUGHS in genuine disbelief.

MONGER

(to Mauricio)

Don't bother with these imitations.

Mauricio turns to Monger.

MAURICIO

How can they be fake?

MONGER

Before serving pelican meat, we hold interrogations with the pelicans. Whether they hold invaluable information about the Perfeccelva or not. And by the way, that old man outside... He's one of my supplier.

Disbelief and pure despair strike Mauricio.

MONGER (CONT'D)

I have nothing else to show or tell you. So there's nothing I can do for you.

Anger burns in Mauricio.

MAURICIO

You can't cook my friend. Are you insane?!

MONGER

I can do whatever I want.

Monger SIGHS then takes a deep breath.

MONGER (CONT'D)

Come on, time to go.

Monger grabs Mauricio by the arm and flings him out. Mauricio fights back. He escapes and runs away. Monger activates his radio.

MONGER (CONT'D)

Security, stop the kid in the yellow Adidas shirt.

Monger gets close to Fortune, intimidating.

MONGER (CONT'D)

That's a nice kid. He really cares about you. I could only wish to keep you for a long time.

Monger LAUGHS villainously and puts his face side by side with Fortune's, separated only by the metal bars.

MONGER (CONT'D)

You may be worth so much more than the others.

Monger gestures to the rest of the pelicans.

MONGER (CONT'D)
 But not mythical enough to be like
 the Perfeccalva.
 (more sinister)
 Now tell me... What do you know
 about the Perfeccalva?

INT. SUPER FANCY RESTAURANT

The customers are startled as Mauricio runs out of the kitchen. He bumps into a waiter holding numerous dishes. Food spills all over the floor.

Mauricio runs all the way. He sees the security guards approaching by both sides. One group has the immobilized Angie, kicking thin air.

ANGIE
 Ai! Let me go, you!

MAURICIO
 Angie, you're supposed to wait for
 me.

SECURITY GUARD
 (to Mauricio)
 You're coming with us.

MAURICIO
 Not until you go easy on her.

SECURITY GUARD
 We don't follow conditions.

A stray cat attacks the security guard from behind.

SECURITY GUARDS
 Hey, get it offa me!/Where does it--

ANGIE
 (smug)
 Not even this condition?

A few at a time, more cats emerge from many sides of the area, surprising everyone else. Even from underneath one of the tables. They overwhelm the guards. A few customers film the scene.

Angie breaks free and subdues a couple of guards.

MAURICIO

You talked the cats into our rescue mission?

ANGIE

They told me how cruel Monger is to pelicans. So we set up an ambush.

Monger appears and witnesses the commotion, dismayed. He is followed by Old José.

MONGER

Where did all those cats come from?

They spot Mauricio and Angie.

MONGER (CONT'D)

You!

OLD JOSÉ

You scoundrels!

The cats assault the two. Monger struggles to get out. He recognizes the cat targeting at him, MR. HAIRBALL.

MONGER (CONT'D)

Mr. Hairball?

MR. HAIRBALL

Yeah, and this is what you get for ruining my stardom!

Mr. Hairball continues to scratch Monger in the face.

Mauricio rushes to Angie.

MAURICIO

Hurry. Let's get outta here.

ANGIE

But wait. What's about Fortune?

Fortune glides out from the kitchen doors and through the commotion.

MAURICIO/ANGIE

Fortune!

Fortune flies past the duo.

FORTUNE

Quick. Follow my tail feathers.

The two comes after him into the hallway. Monger, finally free, with Mr. Hairball in his hands, notices them.

MONGER

This is gonna ruin my reputation.

All the captured pelicans from the food room suddenly come barging in, scaring all of the customers. One of them LAUGHS and films the scene.

Monger FREAKS OUT.

MONGER (CONT'D)

Security, stop these birds!

Security guards try to contain the pelicans, but fail as they fly out of the penthouse.

The customers record on their phones as stray cats keep fighting and more pelicans escape to...

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Elevator doors open. Mauricio, Fortune and Angie bolt out and head further into the city.

ANGIE

Hey, guys...

MAURICIO

Can't rest now. That sicko is still after us.

ANGIE

Actually, how did Fortune manage to escape by himself? And help the other pelicans?

FORTUNE

It may be too complex for you to comprehend.

FLASH TO:

EXT. MAURICIO'S FAMILY HOUSE - DAY - FLASHBACK

TITLE CARD: 13 Years Ago

Fortune spies on Mauricio unlocking a van's driver's door with a hairpin. Philipe smiles at Mauricio opens the door.

PHILIPE

Thanks for being my personal locksmith.

Philipe rubs Mauricio's head.

PHILIPPE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
You could be my spare van key.

BACK TO:

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

MAURICIO
Wait, you spied on me picking locks
back at home?

FORTUNE
Not just for your father. There are
some seriously forgetful drivers in
Cali. Plus, I had been carrying
pins in my throat sac for awhile.
Kind of a hobby.

Mauricio and Angie are astounded.

ANGIE
Whoa.

MAURICIO
And I thought you'd struggle to
wash your pouch with just your
wings.

Residents SCREAM. The trio halts, horrified.

Residents flee from FIRE BIRDS, breathing fire and spewing
lava everywhere.

FORTUNE
Fire Birds?

ANGIE
From Brazil?

MAURICIO
Fortune, did you tell Monger about
Angie or the Perfeccelva?

Fortune hesitates.

INT. SUPER FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Monger and Old José monitor the staff cleaning up the mess. A
POLICE OFFICER arrives.

MONGER

(relieved)

Ah, the police. I'd like to make an urgent report.

POLICE OFFICER

Not right now. The PD got word about the Fire Birds' attack on Quito. If you don't comply with us and evacuate right now, they will destroy you along with your restaurant.

MONGER

Right now?

Monger turns to José.

MONGER (CONT'D)

Old José, you're done with pelicans. As of now, you're on mystical birds.

OLD JOSÉ

(in disbelief)

But Señor Monger... You expect me to make sure those poached birds will be served on fancy platters?

Monger grabs José and glares at him.

MONGER

It's bad enough that the thieves have tarnished my restaurant. They better not ruin the big event. Do I make myself loud and clear?

José gulps.

MAP OF SOUTH AMERICA

Red dot on Quito. A red line dots from there to the city of Chile. Finally onto...

EXT. LOS LAGOS - LLANQUIHUE LAKE - DAY

Mauricio, Fortune and Angie march. The lakeside looks not only lonely, but battered by a mix of thunder, ice and fire.

MAURICIO

Is this your old home?

FORTUNE

Yes, the water is alright now. But I don't remember how the oil spill turned it into shambles.

ANGIE

And I don't recall a time when mystical birds worked together in one place.

MAURICIO

Anyway, we better be one step ahead of Monger.

FORTUNE

You should know I didn't disclose everything I know about the Perfeccalva. Even he wouldn't believe that Angie is South America's only hope.

ANGIE

In case you already forget, I kicked some goons' butts. I can do it again if you want more proof.

FORTUNE

Perhaps if hadn't spent so long at pit stops. No thanks to Mauricio.

MAURICIO

Fortune, we don't need her to be tough enough. We need her to be reasonable to the Perfeccalva.

FORTUNE

As if words can speak louder than actions these days.

Mauricio halts; the others sync his movement, too.

MAURICIO

There.

Mauricio points to the forest.

EXT. LOS LAGOS - FOREST - DAY

The trio hikes further.

MAURICIO

According to Xavi and some news articles I read, Brandy Kimoto came here and ran into the Perfeccalva right before it killed her.

FORTUNE

It can't kill anyone... It should have tried starting a good chat. Better with tea and cakes.

The trio arrives at the spot, empty and barren, where the beam last took place.

ANGIE

Is this where the Perfeccalva was summoned?

From a tree, something hidden on the move spies on the trio.

MAURICIO

Yes. And since then, it has been roaming all over the forests of Chile according to another source.

The hidden thing swiftly shifts to the bush.

FORTUNE

But with its own army, why would it stick around in Chile?

The hidden thing creeps towards the trio, slow and steady.

MAURICIO

Maybe it doesn't want to create unwanted attention.

FORTUNE

(sarcastic)
Like me?

MAURICIO

Well, you--

A streak of lightning ZIPS out from the bush and around the trio speedily repeatedly lapping them causing them to be dizzy.

Ice frosts the bush, catching the trio's attention. It then spreads out, around the trio to the beam spot.

FORTUNE

(anxious)
What's going on?

The trio sees fire suddenly ENGULFING the bare tree which reduces itself to a streaming lava that heads for the beam spot and fuses with ice.

The lightning breaks out from the loop. It COLLIDES with fire and ice together. The fused elements begin to shapeshif. They gradually turn into one giant bird, shocking the trio.

ANGIE

Is that...

FORTUNE

It can't be.

Before them is the Perfeccalva in the flesh.

Mauricio and Fortune slowly walk backwards.

MAURICIO

Uh, alright, Angie. You're on.

Mauricio rapidly walks away. Fortune follows.

FORTUNE

Mauricio, don't you think you should back her up?

The Perfeccalva SCREECHES and raises its wings, shooting mixed elements in the form of ghost lights. The elements fly over the pair and land in front of them then materialize into a Thunderbird, an Ice Bird and a Fire Bird.

MAURICIO

(intimidated)

No, Fortune. I believe in her.

Mauricio and Fortune move to the right. More elemental birds take shape and block their path. The pair turns to another exit - only for it to be guarded by more birds.

Angie sees her friends in peril. The Perfeccalva makes another piercing CRY. She shifts her attention to it, a little nervous.

ANGIE

Oh, uh... Hi, Perfeccalva.

The Perfeccalva fixes its angry stare at Angie.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

My name is Angie. I heard that you're the creator of South America - only for birds.

The Perfeccalva further furrows its eyebrows.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

And I heard that you've in a bad mood ever since my people have been messing around with your kind.

The Perfeccalva CRIES again, only quiet yet deadly.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

You have to excuse them. They were uneducated about how to share this country with others. They're just human like me. And being human means making stupid mistakes but undoing them, too. It just takes time.

The Perfeccalva remains firm. The elemental birds still remained fixed on Mauricio and Fortune. The pair continues to observe the conversation.

FORTUNE

(to Mauricio)

This is going nowhere. We better get her outta here.

MAURICIO

Give her another moment. Angie's still got it.

ANGIE

(to Perfeccalva)

I know you don't believe in my kind. But that doesn't mean you should take national cleansing into your hands... I mean, your wings, you can fly. Why not take a long vacation your kind and let us take over? I heard there are birds in China, England and Africa that are dying to have fun with you. And--

The Perfeccalva lets out a louder SCREECH in front of Angie. Desperation rises in her.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

What part of this don't you understand? Can't you let go of your grudge?!

The Perfeccalva starts to inhale, generating strong energy in its beak. Mauricio and Fortune sense bigger trouble.

FORTUNE

That's it. It's a flop!

Fortune glides towards Angie.

MAURICIO

Fortune!

The Perfeccalva EMITS a stream of energy at Angie. Fortune clutches her with his feet and lifts off. A miss for the Perfeccalva.

The Perfeccalva aims for Fortune at a higher altitude with Angie in tow.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)

Oh no, you don't!

Mauricio guns for the Perfeccalva while evading the elemental birds' melee and ranged attacks. It starts to take off. Mauricio grabs onto the Perfeccalva by the tip of the tail feather.

EXT. OPEN SKIES

The Perfeccalva shoots towards Fortune and Angie. Angie spots it from below.

ANGIE

Fortune, fly forward!

Fortune complies. The Perfeccalva makes more misses. Mauricio, still hanging on, SCREAMS as it keeps ascending. It stops.

The Perfeccalva locks onto the pair, further away. Zips towards them. Mauricio SHRIEKS more.

Angie sees the Perfeccalva picking up more speed.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Faster, Fortune. Faster.

Fortune flies higher.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

(dismayed)

Not higher! More forward!

FORTUNE

It's better to go up than forward.

The Perfeccalva follows the same path. Mauricio looks down and becomes terrified at the sight of everything below. The elemental birds continue in pursuit firing at him but without luck.

Fortune looks down, it becomes a distorted vortex again. He pulls away the Perfeccalva, Mauricio and the elemental bird then GASPS, shakes his head and continues to look up.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)
Better... Go... Up.

Darkness in the sky returns, irking Fortune.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)
Please, no more Old José. No more
Old José.

A female pelican and two young pelicans appear in front of him. He starts to recognize.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)
My wife? My two sons?

Fortune's family flies away. Fortune gives chase. He spots a Thunderbird hovering above his family and begins sparking electricity. Fear grips Fortune.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)
Look out from above!

The Thunderbird SMACKS Fortune's family in one lightning bolt.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)
No!

Fortune's family plummets to the abyss. Fortune rockets towards them but the distance between them widens at every height.

ANGIE (V.O)
Fortune, snap out of it. We're
gonna crash.

Fortune and Angie head straight into...

EXT. LOS LAGOS - LAGO RUPANCO

ANGIE
Fortune!

EXT. OPEN SKIES

The Perfeccalva is still in pursuit. Mauricio, still under fire, pulls himself up to its back. The Perfeccalva prepares another energy blast as it closes in.

Mauricio strangles the Perfeccalva, redirecting the blast upward. The Perfeccalva struggles to shake him off and emits more aimless blasts - right in the direction of the hunting elemental birds, one by one. The elemental birds drop down.

EXT. LOS LAGOS - LAGO RUPANCO

Angie witnesses the elemental birds falling into the forest. Then Mauricio and the Perfeccalva, fighting in a downward plunge.

ANGIE
(horrified)
Mauricio!

Fortune's family and the darkness evaporate. Fortune notices the lake dead ahead.

FORTUNE
Whoa!

Fortune pulls up and glides forward, missing the splash. He nears the trees. Fortune and Angie PANIC. CRASH!

Mauricio and the Perfeccalva are still in a brawl. They CRASH into the water and sink to the bottom. The Perfeccalva goes deeper.

Angie DIVES in. She reaches Mauricio and brings him up to the surface.

Fortune, disshelved, waits in suspense at the bank. Angie pokes out of the water, GASPING. Fortune's dismayed look turns hopeful.

Angie swims to Fortune, dragging Mauricio along.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)
(more comforted)
Mauricio!

Angie performs CPR on Mauricio.

ANGIE
Please, Mauricio. Wake up.

Mauricio regains consciousness and looks at his companions.

MAURICIO
Angie? Fortune?

Fortune beams.

FORTUNE
Thanks goodness, you're well!

Mauricio gets up.

MAURICIO
Hey... Where's the Perfeccalva?

Angie and Fortune trade sorrowful glances.

ANGIE
You... Drowned it.

Mauricio turns to the lake. Falls into disbelief.

MAURICIO
No... It can't be over. Not like
this.

Fortune SIGHS.

FORTUNE
We're so sorry.

Silence.

ANGIE
So now what?

FORTUNE
Well, now that the Perfeccalva is
gone, things should start going
back to normal.

MAURICIO
Is that another prediction?

Fortune seems more conflicted.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)
I think not.

FORTUNE
(perplexed)
Huh?

ANGIE

Mauricio, I know there could have
be a better resolution with the
Perfeccalva. But it'd best if you
accept what has happened and move
on.

Mauricio grows furious.

MAURICIO

What? And try again selling works
of art?

Mauricio storms off. Angie goes after him, concerned.

ANGIE

Mauricio?

Fortune follows her.

ANGIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Mauricio!

INT. MUSCLE CAR - DAY

Old José scans the lake, phone to his ear.

MONGER (V.O)

Are they gone?

OLD JOSÉ

Sí, and I don't think they'll
bother us anymore.

EXT. LOS LAGOS - LAGO RUPANCO

José gets out of his car and turns around.

OLD JOSÉ

Okay, boys. Time to fish out the
big one.

Divers with a giant fishing net get out of a vehicle. A
moment later cargo trucks with poachers and elemental birds
in electric cages pull up.

EXT. LOS LAGOS - FOREST - NIGHT

Mauricio wanders aimlessly, still fuming. Angie and Fortune
trail him, now a bit exhausted.

ANGIE

Mauricio, where are you going?

MAURICIO

I'm searching for a better fortune teller.

FORTUNE

You expect me to read a better fortune for you? You proved me wrong in everything.

MAURICIO

Oh, yeah. I did. I put faith in Angie instead of Iago. I expected Angie to reason with the Perfeccalva instead of fighting it. Now I have to find a bird that doesn't depend on atmosphere for fortune telling.

FORTUNE

(offended)

Of course, if you had let me find a better atmosphere in times of need, that poor creature would be still alive.

MAURICIO

(angrier)

But why during a high- flying chase?

FORTUNE

I thought it was the best time.

Mauricio halts; realizes. Glares at Fortune.

MAURICIO

Wait a minute. Now it makes sense. You can't predict anyone's future. You just assume. You just come up with some stupid facts and blow them up big time. And I bet you don't really have a family.

Fortune cannot tolerate any further. Angie watches the two, dumbfounded.

FORTUNE

My family is real. They're somewhere in California now.

MAURICIO

If you're right about that, why not find a better atmosphere right here in Chile?

ANGIE

(desperate)

That's enough, you two. None of you are responsible for the downfall of the Perfeccalva. Now will you please tell me where we should go next?

Fortune shifts his attention from Angie to Mauricio.

FORTUNE

Remember back in Cali when you predicted lightning would literally hit you?

MAURICIO

Yeah, why?

Fortune SIGHS.

FORTUNE

I didn't believe you could be a more unfortunate soul at all.

Mauricio seems stunned. Fortune splits and heads into a different direction.

ANGIE

Fortune, where are you going?

FORTUNE

I need to keep a close eye on Chile and see if things begin to return to normal.

Angie starts to go after Fortune.

ANGIE

But what about your--

Mauricio grabs Angie's hand.

MAURICIO

Let him be, Angie. Let us hope his family can return to their old home.

Mauricio marches on. Angie follows, more despondent.

MONTAGE: RETURN TO MARACAIBO

- Angie and Mauricio, on opposite sides, lie on the ground beside a campfire at night. The fire blazes but they are restless.

- In another part of the forest Fortune is perched on a barren tree, awake as he scans the environment in a still abnormal state.

- Mauricio and Angie trek deeper into the forest. They notice the sky above, still otherworldly. They come upon a cargo plane in a tribal village.

ANGIE

Isn't that...

Alejandra and Iago escort indigenous people into the plane.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

(in sheer joy)

My sis and Iago?!

Angie makes a speedy start to the plane. Mauricio gives chase, unhurried.

- Fortune returns to the Los Lagos lakeside. Still see no sign of progress.

- Iago's cargo plane takes off and flies into the open skies with everyone on board.

- The cargo plane touches down at La Chinita International Airport. Everyone climbs out and onto the runway.

XAVI (O.S)

Hey, Mauricio.

Mauricio spots Xavi and waves with a weak smile, at his minivan. He returns the same expression.

MAURICIO

Oh, hi, Xavi.

EXT. MAURICIO'S FAMILY HOUSE - DAY

Xavi's minivan arrives. Mauricio gets out and looks at the front of the house then takes a deep breath. He goes to the front door and attempts to open it but it's locked.

MAURICIO

What the...

Mauricio produces a pin from his pocket. He starts to pick at the lock. Xavi approaches.

XAVI

If I were you, I should stop over at your family business instead of here.

INT. MAURICIO'S FAMILY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

The door opens. Mauricio peers in. The area seems desolate.

MAURICIO

Hello?

Mauricio goes in.

MAURICIO (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

I'm home.

INT. MAURICIO'S FAMILY HOUSE - DINING ROOM

Mauricio enters.

MAURICIO

Mother?

No sign of Daniela.

INT. MAURICIO'S FAMILY HOUSE - KITCHEN

Mauricio enters.

MAURICIO

Father?

Philipe isn't there, too.

INT. MAURICIO'S FAMILY HOUSE - BATHROOM

Mauricio opens the door and looks around.

MAURICIO

Anybody?

There is no one.

INT. MAURICIO'S ROOM

Mauricio enters. Looks around. All the decor remains the same. Mauricio SIGHS.

XAVI (O.S.)
I'm so sorry, amigo.

Xavi hands Mauricio a cellphone. Mauricio looks up at him. It is time.

MAURICIO
Hi, Mother.

DANIELA (V.O)
Finally. You crazy kid!

EXT. LOS LAGOS - LLANQUIHUE LAKE - DAY

Fortune watches over the landscape, still in disarray. Looks up at the sky. SIGHS.

Fortune looks down at his feet. A small pool of darkness SPRINGS UP and spreads across the ground. His anxiety rises.

The pool starts pulling at Fortune's feet. He flaps vigorously and breaks free then flies to a tree branch and perches.

Fortune witnesses the darkness devouring everything on land. Now a tree where he is standing. He GASPS; flies upwards from one branch to another - all the way to the top. The darkness catches up to him.

Fortune ascends. He looks down while hovering. A black hole appears, sucking at him. Fortune FREAKS OUT.

Fortune flies higher with more strength. Stumbles upon his wife and sons. Darkness captures and transforms his family into vicious ravens. They SCREECH at Fortune.

Fortune sees a sparkling light above. He shoots up while struggling more from the swallowing black hole and the ravens. He sees South America turn from green to dark grey. He then flies through it, resulting in its dissipation.

The light begins to shrink. Fortune speeds up in his upward movement. Sees faces of angry wild animals.

PUMA
You're not Fortune. You're Plight.

PENGUIN

You ruined our lives, Plight.

Fortune attempts in vain to mute the animals.

SWAN

What makes you think you can predict happy days, Plight?

PUDÙE

Only for things to become worse, Plight.

CHUACO

Why can't just you follow your wife's advice, Plight?

HERON

Yeah; happy wife, happy life, Plight.

ANIMALS

Plight, Plight, Plight, Plight,
Plight, Plight, Plight, Plight,
Plight, Plight!

Fortune opens his eyes and cannot believe what he sees...an angry Mauricio, blocking the light a few yards away.

NIGHTMARE MAURICIO

You brainless, useless, arrogant bird. You led me all the way to Chile for nothing. You don't know what I have been going through in all my life. You are not Fortune. You are really Plight!

Nightmare Mauricio SCREAMS at Fortune, hurling him down towards the pursuing ravens. Fortune recoils in the nick of time. He flies up against the persisting SCREAM. He enters the mouth and towards the light. Just one more foot to go.

The dark atmosphere VANISHES with everything else in it. Fortune scans the environment - no trees at this altitude. He looks down at the lake, now everything is smaller but no vortex. Looks up, now closer to the clouds. Confidence grows in Fortune.

FORTUNE

I did it. I'm no longer afraid of tall heights. What else could stop me?!

Light SHROUDS everything around Fortune from top to bottom. The sight of the white void irritates him.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)

Now what?!

Mauricio's paintings appear before Fortune, surrounding him. He beams a smile at the mesmerizing depictions of birds and fish. Finally an unseen painting. Fortune's pouch hangs low.

EXT. MARACAIBO - COAST - DAY

Mauricio sits on the muddy earth with the same gloomy posture from three years ago. Even this place is devoid of fishermen and locals.

Mauricio looks at a speck in the sky from a distance. It enlarges itself as it dives towards him. The sight of it at closer range astonishes Mauricio.

MAURICIO

You were flying higher than higher?!

REVEAL: Fortune.

FORTUNE

You bet, kid.

Fortune CRASHES into Mauricio. They hug.

MAURICIO

Fortune, you flew all the way from Chile? Without hitchhiking?

FORTUNE

Yes, and I didn't have to find a better atmosphere to read a better fortune.

MAURICIO

Oh, that...

Mauricio's gladness seeps away.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)

It's already too late. Everyone already abandoned Maracaibo. My family moved to California over a week ago. I'm due to leave here soon, so I can reunite with them and help them with their new business.

FORTUNE

You can't leave South America so soon. You still have unfinished business to attend to.

MAURICIO

If I could really bring everything back to normal in Maracaibo--

FORTUNE

You can choose to live in the past or move onto a glorious future - only after my prediction can be fulfilled. I have predicted that you will paint a grand picture of the Perfeccalva, whether for sale or not. You will bring it to an exclusive dinner party somewhere in Venezuela and show it to a potential fat cat. Once he or she loves it, South America will be restored.

Mauricio turns away from Fortune.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)

C'mon. I implore you to--

Mauricio SHUSHES him.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)

Don't shush me, Mauricio. You proved my visions wrong. But this time, I'm right. So--

MAURICIO

Quiet, Fortune. I'm trying to see something.

FORTUNE

What is it, Mauricio?

MAURICIO

There will be a dinner party.

EXT. CARACAS - DAY

One at a time, cargo trucks enter the city.

MAURICIO (V.O.)

But we gotta hurry.

INT. CARGO TRUCK

The Perfeccalva, almost drained, struggles to break out from the paralyzing cage.

MONTAGE: MAURICIO'S NEW PAINTING

- The abandoned art supply store: Mauricio tries to open the front door. It's locked. He rushes out, returns with a crowbar and SMASHES the window. Fortune, flabbergasted, watches him enter into and exit it with oil painting supplies.

- Family house: Mauricio sets up the easel in the middle of the living room and stares at the blank canvas. Fortune watches.

FORTUNE

Artist to my heart, here's how I envision the Perfeccalva in your painting. Basically, it's--

MAURICIO

Fortune, I got this.

- Mauricio's bedroom: Fortune barges in and scours. He spots art books on the bookshelf and mindfully searches every page with classic artworks for inspiration.

Fortune returns to the living room, carrying an art book.

FORTUNE

Mauricio, I found the style that well suits your vision.

Fortune watches Mauricio already at work on the painting - like a frantic painter. Mauricio stops and inspects his work of art; as does Fortune, who is doubtful.

Pulling back we see an abstract painting made of irreverent shapes and colors.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)

Uh, Mauricio... That's not how I saw the Perfeccalva in my prediction.

MAURICIO

(confident)

Look hard, Fortune.

Fortune complies, he focuses then smiles at the painting, astonished.

FORTUNE

Oh, now I really see it. Keep painting like a madman!

Mauricio resumes on his work, more frantic now.

- Mauricio hides his painting with a breathable sheet then nods at Fortune.

EXT. MAURICIO'S FAMILY HOUSE - DAY

Mauricio opens the front door whilst carrying the painting.

MAURICIO
(dumbfounded)
Angie?

Angie stands in front of Xavi's minivan, troubled.

EXT. MARACAIBO - AIRPORT RUNWAY

Angie pushes Mauricio and Fortune out of the airport and towards Iago's cargo plane. Mauricio and Fortune look horrified as they see Old José, smiling and waving at them.

Mauricio and Fortune attempt to flee. Angie deters.

ANGIE
Don't worry, you two. He's done
with bird hunting - for good.

Mauricio and Fortune look at each other, anxious.

EXT. CARACAS - PLAZA VENEZUELA - DUSK

The plaza is packed with VIPs from all over the world, seated at fancy tables. Monger rises; CLANGS his wine glass with his teaspoon.

MONGER
Oh my dear rich and famous friends,
over the years, we were warned by
nutcases about the Perfeccalva's
final judgement upon mankind. They
accused us of sentencing birdkind
to extinction. But we finally
proved them wrong.

The VIPs exchange mixed reactions.

MONGER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Humankind triumphs over the
supernatural and the unknown. Thus
we showed them who is truly in
charge of our existences and our
destinies.

MONGER (CONT'D)
 Thus let us celebrate our victory
 with our entree...

Monger SNAPS his fingers. The chefs arrive with the exhausted Perfeccalva, tied up on a spit.

MONGER (CONT'D)
 Roast Perfeccalva!

The VIPs GASP. The chefs start roasting the Perfeccalva.

THAI VIP
 (disgusted)
 Mr. Monger, we can't eat the
 Perfeccalva. It's an animal spirit.

MONGER
 Don't worry. It tastes like
 chicken.

EXT. ROAD TO PLAZA VENEZUELA - NIGHT

Old José's muscle car at high speed.

OLD JOSÉ (V.O.)
 That's the prediction?

INT. MUSCLE CAR - NIGHT

Mauricio, Fortune and Angie sit at the back in one row. José drives in the front.

MAURICIO
 Yes, gramps. According to Fortune,
 I can only help the Perfeccalva if
 one of Monger's rich guests loves
 my painting.

OLD JOSÉ
 Well, he'd better love it. I saw
 some chefs tasting mystical birds
 they had cooked. They acted loco
 and got sent to the cuckoo
 hospital. I even warned Monger, but
 he didn't care.

ANGIE
 And José came to me for help. As if
 birds aren't the only creature the
 Perfeccalva has in mind for its own
 army.

MAURICIO
Another kind of army?

Mauricio and Fortune look at each other.

MAURICIO/FORTUNE
Oh, no.

EXT. CARACAS - PLAZA VENEZUELA - NIGHT

The waiters serve the VIPs cooked elemental birds. The VIPs examine their dishes, hoping for something edible about them.

Security guards patrol the perimeter. A VALET stands at the podium. Old José approaches him.

OLD JOSÉ
A table for a friend of Señor
Monger - plus two.

Mauricio with his painting and Angie, disguised as 19th century socialites, stand behind him.

VALET
Do they have invitations?

José presents three invitations to the valet.

VALET (CONT'D)
Very well, then. Right this way.

The valet leads the trio into the party.

ANGIE
(whispers)
What do you know, José? You really
do know the best costumes and
styling techniques.

OLD JOSÉ
(whispers)
I didn't just perform in plays,
movies and TV shows, you know.

MAURICIO
(whispers)
Okay, you two keep your eyes on
Monger and everybody else. I'll go
find the lucky guest.

Angie opens her mouth.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)

(whispers)

And no, Angie. Don't think about
kicking Monger's butt.

Angie frowns. The group splits behind the Valet's back.

Angie and José look around. They notice the Perfeccalva,
suffering from the eruptive flame below it.

The Perfeccalva's body starts to REEK dark vapors. Angie and
José sense greater danger.

Mauricio spots a MEXICAN VIP seated at a table. He rushes to
her.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)

Buenos noches, señorita. Lovely
evening, eh?

MEXICAN VIP

Yes, it is beautiful.

Mauricio presents his veiled painting to her.

MAURICIO

Would you find this charming?

Mauricio unveils the painting. The other VIPs look as well at
the abstract painting of the Perfeccalva; beautiful yet hard
to look at with its striking hand-painted visuals.

MEXICAN VIP

Oh, that...

Mauricio beams with hope.

MEXICAN VIP (CONT'D)

I'm afraid I cannot give you my
honest opinion of this. I'm a CG
art fanatic.

Mauricio glowers.

Angie and José detect dark vapors coming from the VIPs'
dishes. They watch closely as a Norwegian VIP, munches on
elemental bird meat.

Mauricio persists on his art showcase.

MAURICIO

(to another VIP)

What about you?

FRENCH VIP

Non, merci. I admire art only from
the Louvre.

MAURICIO

(to another VIP)
What do you think?

SINGAPOREAN VIP

Not interested.

MAURICIO

(to another VIP)
Could you spare a sec?

The American VIP is glued to social media on his phone.
Mauricio scowls at him.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)

I take that as a no.

Monger meets and greets the VIPs. He notices Mauricio
struggling to exhibit his painting and marches towards him.

Angie and José turn their attention from the VIPs to Monger.

OLD JOSÉ

Leave this to me.

José takes off. Angie looks back at the Norwegian VIP,
collapsed on the ground and SUFFOCATING. Some of the other
VIPs notice as well.

José intercepts Monger.

OLD JOSÉ (CONT'D)

Oh, Señor Monger. Any luck with
American hotties?

Monger attempts to get around José. José continues to block.

OLD JOSÉ (CONT'D)

Wait, my friend. I happened to bump
into Lexi Medrano.

MONGER

I'm busy, José.

OLD JOSÉ

She may be a college kid. But she
has years of wisdom ahead of her.

MONGER

Will you get of my way?

Monger **SHOVES** José to the ground then briskly walks to Mauricio. Mauricio, still begging VIPs, doesn't notice him.

British VIP approaches Monger.

BRITISH VIP
Pardon me, Mr. Monger.

Monger wheels to the British VIP.

MONGER
What is it?!

BRITISH VIP
I like to make a complaint
regarding the appetizers.

The British VIP points to the Norwegian VIP in greater agony. Angie tries to comfort him.

MONGER
(attempts to regain
composure)
Oh, nothing's serious about those.
He just couldn't take the chill,
the heat or the zap from our unique
creations. So...

The Norwegian VIP starts to turn blue - literally. Angie, Monger and several others witness his slow but further transformation, stunned.

MONGER (CONT'D)
Stay longer.. For... The main
course.

Mauricio gives up. Brings his painting to another table of VIPs eating. More VIPs **FALL OFF** from their seats and **STRUGGLE FOR AIR**.

MAURICIO
Oh, no. Are they...

The Perfeccalva, half awake, watches more VIPs in transformation, one by one.

ANGIE
Please... Don't do this.

The Norwegian VIP's head morphs into the Ice Bird's head and awakes with glowing eyes. He ascends before everyone, now an intimidating **ICE BEAST**. **THUNDER BEASTS** and **FIRE BEASTS** ascend, too. The Perfeccalva makes a **PIERCING CRY**.

The mystical beasts commence the onslaught, sending everyone SCREAMING and running for their lives. Monger turns to security.

MONGER

Don't just stand there. Seize them!

Security guards charge towards the beasts. The beasts overwhelm them, irritating Monger.

MONGER (CONT'D)

Useless!

Mauricio keeps displaying his painting to the frantic VIPs.

MAURICIO

Hey, there. Check out this painting. Do you like modern art? You can have it for free.

Fortune gets to Mauricio.

FORTUNE

Mauricio, we gotta get outta here.

MAURICIO

Fortune, I'm not leaving here until someone gets my painting.

FORTUNE

About that... I double checked my foresight. None of those top hats is your prized fat cat.

MAURICIO

Like they don't care.

The Thunder Beast launches a lightning attack on the pair. They evade and flee.

Angie evacuates the VIPs and the injured security guards.

ANGIE

Everybody, this way.

The Ice Beast EXTINGUISHES the rotisserie's fire. The Fire Beasts approach the ropes that bind the Perfeccalva.

MONGER

Everyone, calm down.

Monger turns to the inhaling Fire Beasts.

MONGER (CONT'D)
(panicked)

No!

The Fire Beasts FLAMETHROW the ropes, freeing the Perfeccalva from the spit. The Perfeccalva casts a force field unto itself, then Monger.

MONGER (CONT'D)
Hey! What do you think you're doing?

The Perfeccalva gives a weak but angry stare at Monger. BURNS him mercilessly.

José shifts his attention from the panicking crowd to the HOLLERING Monger, frightened. He is followed by Angie; finally Mauricio and Fortune.

The Perfeccalva begins to LEVITATE itself. Mauricio and Fortune sprint to Monger.

MONGER (CONT'D)
(recognizes Mauricio)

You!

Mauricio exhibits his painting to him.

MAURICIO
Monger, how do you like my painting?

MONGER
Do you think I have moved onto art curating?

The force field BURNS Monger more in pain.

FORTUNE
(to Mauricio)
It's no use. We gotta go.

Fortune makes a head start. Stops and turns to Mauricio. Mauricio seems to be distracted by something up there. Fortune quickly returns to him.

FORTUNE (CONT'D)
What are you thinking?!

Pause.

MAURICIO
Fortune, hoist me up.

Fortune looks up and sees the Perfeccalva, still aloft.

Fortune latches onto Mauricio with his painting by his feet. Ascends to the Perfeccalva.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)
Hey, Perfeccalva. I have a gift for
you.

Mauricio shows his painting to the Perfeccalva. It pays no attention.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)
Fortune, bring me closer to it.

Fortune nods and complies.

MAURICIO (CONT'D)
Well, what do you think?

The Perfeccalva observes all the wild shapes and colors. Mauricio and Fortune remain firm. The Perfeccalva gives a harder look. The mystical beasts enclose Mauricio and Fortune in the air as well as everyone else on land. Monger struggles to break out.

The shapes start to GLOW. The Perfeccalva looks closer. The airborne beasts prepare to attack.

Angie defends the menaced crowd from the creeping beasts. The force field BURNS Monger in more excruciating pain.

The shapes FORM into the Perfeccalva and an ancient young child. The Perfeccalva recalls.

FLASHBACK
MONTAGE BEGINS:

- Stone Age South America: The Perfeccalva watches a CAVEBOY, helpless without anywhere to go.

The Perfeccalva comforts the Caveboy.

- Throughout the days: The Perfeccalva teaches the Caveboy how to nurture and protect prehistoric birds. They have fun together.

- Cave: The Caveboy etches a drawing on a wall. The Perfeccalva grins as he looks at a picture of the Perfeccalva and the Caveboy reaching for each other with joy.

EXT. CARACAS - PLAZA VENEZUELA

The Perfeccalva smiles wider, almost teary-eyed as do Mauricio and Fortune.

The Perfeccalva notices the mystical beasts, about to make the next move on the pair. Everyone else, frightened, brace themselves. The Perfeccalva ROARS. The beasts desist. Mauricio and Fortune shift their attentions to the flying beasts, nervous.

The airborne beasts BELLOW back in revolt. The Perfeccalva lets out a louder CRY. Everyone else above and below watch, confounded. The airborne beasts descend to the ground and join the others.

Mauricio looks at Fortune.

MAURICIO

So now what?

The Perfeccalva lifts its wings, focused. All the otherworldly environment and the sky melt away. Everyone at the party and all over Venezuela watches in amazement as the mystical beasts glow and revert to their human selves.

Angie looks up at Mauricio and Fortune while CHEERING along with the crowd.

ANGIE

You did it, Mauricio!

The Perfeccalva smiles and nods to Mauricio and Fortune. They smile back. The Perfeccalva departs into the horizon. Mauricio turns to Fortune.

MAURICIO

So... Can you foresee better things to come after all the cleanup?

FORTUNE

Yes, it is highly likely.

Mauricio and Fortune looks down at Monger, who GROANS from his burns. The police arrives.

MONGER

Oh, good. The cops. The Perfeccalva had escaped. It's on its way to another part of South America. And as for the Quito thieves--

The police officer CUFFS Monger up. Drags him away.

MONGER (CONT'D)
 Hey! What's the meaning of this?

POLICE OFFICER
 You're under arrest for an illegal
 business with bird suppliers and
 poachers.

Monger finds Old José among the police officers and suspects.

MONGER
 (furious at José)
 You can't squeal. Are you insane?!

POLICE OFFICER (O.S.)
 You have the right to remain
 silent.

José, mischievously grinning, shows off his hands in police
 cuffs to Monger.

PAUL SOTO (V.O.)
 South Americans, rejoice. Starting
 with Venezuela, all your homes are
 returning to normal as they should
 be.

The police tosses Monger into the police car.

PAUL SOTO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Thanks to the legend that started
 all the national weirdness, the
 Perfeccalva.

José jumps in.

EXT. TIJUCA NATIONAL PARK - DAY

The Perfeccalva CHANNELS a stream of light on abnormal trees
 and ground. Restoration is underway.

PAUL SOTO (V.O.)
 The Perfeccalva is currently on the
 job.

The Perfeccalva spots the arriving activists with restorative
 resources.

PAUL SOTO (V.O.) (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 Yet, its number one priority all
 the while is...

The Perfeccalva welcomes them. The activists join in, elated.

PAUL SOTO (V.O) (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 Inspiring all ages to tend the
 wonders of our continent.

The Perfeccalva works on more trees.

EXT. AIRPORT RUNWAY - DAY

Poachers begin to trade caged birds with the pilot. Two large shadows fall upon them. The thieves turn their attention to see a Fire Bird and Ice Bird with activists as their riders.

LATER

The activists and the elemental birds chase the SCREAMING poachers and breathe ice and fire at them.

EXT. MINCA VILLAGE - DAY

Hustle and bustle between the residents as usual, but more than before.

PAUL SOTO (V.O.)
 For residents who fled from
 thunderstorms and ice in Colombia,
 you can return to your normal
 lives.

At Xavi's house, Alejandra, donning an explorer outfit and backpack, exits and locks the front door.

PAUL SOTO (V.O.)
 That is if they wish to.

IAGO (O.S)
 Hey, Alejandra.

Alejandra turns around to see Iago, Xavi, Angie and the pets at the minivan.

IAGO (CONT'D)
 Ready for some weeks of North
 America adventures?

Alejandra grins.

ALEJANDRA
 Nah, I was thinking around the
 world in eighty days.

Alejandra departs.

EXT. LOS LAGOS - LLANQUIHUE LAKE - DAY

Paul stands at the lakeside, back to its former glory.

PAUL SOTO

But best of all, bird refugees of
the past can return here as their
original paradise. Even here in
Chile.

Paul points to the forest where birds of all kind are
returning.

On the bank, Fortune looks at the sky and doesn't recognize
any familiar birds up there. He SIGHS.

PELICAN WIFE (O.S.)

Honey?

Fortune turns around, surprised to see his PELICAN WIFE and
their TWO SONS.

FORTUNE

I can't believe it!

PELICAN WIFE

It is you!

The couple hug.

FORTUNE

I can't believe this! I thought you
were coming home from California.

PELICAN WIFE

Actually, we went on a flight path
from Staten Island. Had to keep a
young hermit company for years. By
the way, you look older, but that's
okay.

FORTUNE

Thanks. And you're still looking
great in spite of getting older.

SON #1

Mom, who's that?

PELICAN WIFE

Guess.

Son #1 keeps looking. He seems to be clueless.

SON #1

No idea.

Wife notices her husband's anxiousness and gives the son a friendly slap on the wing.

PELICAN WIFE

Don't you recognize your father?

SON #2

What? No way!

SON #1

Are you joking?

FORTUNE

It's me. The plight is over and your fortune has come true.

The sons run to hug Fortune.

EXT. MARACAIBO - FISH RESTAURANT - DAY

Everybody lines up at the front. Something big in there is trending...

INT. MARACAIBO - FISH RESTAURANT

The diners crowd the entire establishment as they enjoy the upbeat MUSIC, hip decor and exquisite fish served by waiters. But it's the new array of Mauricio's paintings, all wildly inventive, that they come for the most. All the paintings collectively depict the journey of Mauricio and friends.

Mauricio, now the restaurant proprietor, savors the respect and admiration.

Philipe and Daniela come to Mauricio, fulfilled.

PHILIPPE

Well, Mauricio... If you can't find a better spot for tastier fish, make one.

DANIELA

I agree. Thank goodness our lives in Marina Del Rey didn't last long.

MAURICIO

Yup. This is one fantastico spot we're never gonna leave.

The three starts checking on the diners together.

PHILIPPE (O.S.)
(to Mauricio)
So, tell me. Do you have any idea
for your next painting?

On one of the walls is a painting of the ultimate paradise between humans and birds. In it are Mauricio and all his loved ones, along with the Perfeccalva and the elemental birds.

MAURICIO (O.S.)
Let me see... I can't wait for it.