

SONGBIRD

"Fitting to a T"

Written by

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FineDay.com/#contact

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EXT. BY THE BANKS OF THE DELAWARE RIVER - DAY

SUPER: AUGUST 1683

It's not the famous painting of Philadelphia founder WILLIAM PENN signing the treaty with the Lenape Chief TAMMANY brought to life, but almost.

There's less formality as COLONISTS and NATIVE AMERICANS sit in a circle enjoying a friendly conversation. Penn speaks a Native American language with the Lenape Chief.

Off to the side, SONGBIRD an 18 year old Lenape girl wearing a traditional Lenape wrap watches the conversation with amazement.

ELIZABETH a plain 24 year old white woman in Quaker garb approaches Songbird.

ELIZABETH

Didst thou know that Governor Penn and Chief Tammany share a deep amity, so that they dost pay each other visits within their dwellings, conversing in the tongue of the Lenape tribe??

SONGBIRD

That's lovely, but what good is it, if-

ELIZABETH

Verily, I know. But dost recall Penn's epistle to the Chief?

SONGBIRD

King Charles gave Penn a land grant here to rid England of an irritating fighter for human rights. So Penn wrote to Chief Tammany calling him the Lenape King.

ELIZABETH

And spake of Love. I do quote.. The king of the country where I live, hath given unto me a great province therein, but I desire to enjoy it with your love and consent that we may always live together as neighbors and friends.

(end quote)

I do assure thee, it was not idle prattle.

(MORE)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

We Quakers escaped religious persecution in England to dwell here in concord and affection with thy folk. It can still be done. Tis never too late.

Songbird gives Elizabeth a look of disbelief.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

I did my utmost to assist, when I came hither isolated and alone, I--

SONGBIRD

Wait, are you...

ELIZABETH

Elizabeth Haddon at thy service.

SONGBIRD

My father is going to be impressed! He's a--

ELIZABETH

Lenape chief. And thou art his daughter, Songbird. I observe Chief Two Feathers and hold faith in his wish to mend ancient wounds.

SONGBIRD

Then you know he's not a big fan of William Penn's family. Penn's love for my people was destroyed by his sons when--

ELIZABETH

Devil Dogs! Both of his sons!

Nearby people turn to look at Elizabeth.

SONGBIRD

I know.

An average looking colonial man called T heads toward Songbird and she goes to him.

SONGBIRD (CONT'D)

(to T)

That anger seems out of place for a peaceful Quaker. Is she speaking my thoughts?

T

My interest is remote viewing and out of body travel.

(MORE)

T (CONT'D)

I'm not an historian, but her words
sound authentic.

SONGBIRD

I memorized Penn's letter. Maybe
I'm putting words in her mouth.

Elizabeth joins Songbird and T.

ELIZABETH

(to T)

Hello.

SONGBIRD

Elizabeth, I'd like you to meet
Squire T.

Elizabeth nods.

ELIZABETH

(to Songbird)

Did thou reference placing words in
someone's mouth? I hope sorcery is
not your--

SONGBIRD

No, no. This situation is hard to
explain, but...he will.

Songbird gestures to T.

T smiles.

T

Well, the truth is...

T takes a breath.

T (CONT'D)

We're probably able to access the data stream of information in this and other time periods, because the most advanced physics shows us that all experience is actually a virtual reality simulation created by a fundamental field of consciousness that serves a reality to each of us fractal parts as if we're players in a video game, in order for us to have experiences and make decisions that will help evolve the insightful and loving qualities of the greater unified field of consciousness.

Elizabeth looks blankly at T.

SONGBIRD

(to Elizabeth)

Or, as you might say, we're all part of God.

ELIZABETH

Ah!

A dog BARKING can be heard.

SONGBIRD

Oh. That's trouble. I have to go.
I'm sorry.

T

Time's up anyway.

Songbird sits down in yoga lotus position and closes her eyes. Her native garb morphs into pajamas.

As her surroundings fade away, T morphs into a glowing golden orb.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SONGBIRD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Still in lotus position, Songbird opens her eyes.

On the floor in front of her is a large print of the famous painting "Penn's Treaty with the Indians."

Songbird's cell phone rings.

SONGBIRD

(to phone)

You go first. Tell me what you experienced.

While she listens, Songbird gets up and looks out the door of her modern day lower middle class bedroom.

Across the hall, a dog WHIMPERS at a closed door.

SONGBIRD (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Oh no.

(to phone)

I gotta go!

(calling down the hall)

Dad!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHIEF TWO FEATHERS' HOME, HALLWAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The dog, a forty year old couple CHIEF TWO FEATHERS in pajamas and his concerned wife BETTY stand with Songbird at the open door of a bedroom that looks like it was decorated by a teenage boy.

BETTY

(to Chief Two Feathers)

You have to go after LJ.

SONGBIRD

(to Chief)

I'll go too. Cause I need to tell you what happened!

CHIEF TWO FEATHERS

What happened?

SONGBIRD

I saw Chief Tammany talking with William Penn and I spoke with Elizabeth Haddon! Haddon Avenue? Haddonfield? Haddon Heights? You can't throw a stick in South Jersey without hitting a Haddon. She--

BETTY

(to Songbird)

Honey, what does this have to do with LJ?

SONGBIRD

Nothing. But I wanted you to know I
went out of body and back in time!

Chief Two Feathers turns and heads toward his bedroom.

SONGBIRD (CONT'D)

Dad, Elizabeth Haddon said she
watches you!

CHIEF TWO FEATHERS

Good. She can watch me get dressed.

SONGBIRD

(to Betty)
It was real.

BETTY

Even if it was a dream, staring at
that painting for weeks is bound to-

SONGBIRD

It wasn't a dream. I just talked to
my teacher. Before I told him what
I experienced, he described
everything to a T.
(surprised)
Described to a T!

BETTY

He corroborated what you--

SONGBIRD

T is what he calls himself. I made
like a play on his name.

BETTY

This is not the time to play. Dad
has to stop LJ. Your brother could
go to jail this time!

SONGBIRD

I'll help Dad find him. Don't
worry.

EXT. GRISTMILL RUINS - NIGHT

The destroyed remains of a very old grist mill poke out from
the banks along a turbulent fast moving tributary still
showing the effects of a recent large storm.

LJ (Little Jay) a handsome athletic Native American 17 year old boy strips down to his bathing trunks and dons goggles.

As he slides under the water, his flashlight beam illuminates a jumble of old and new objects piled up against the wreckage of the mill.

EXT. FARMLAND MEADOW - NIGHT

Two stylishly-dressed mafia goons, heavy set VINNIE and buff ANTHONY climb over a fence onto a muddy area, as they head for the woods at the edge of the meadow.

VINNIE

Look at what this shit is doing to my shoes!

ANTHONY

It's called mud. You didn't have mud in Chicago?

VINNIE

I didn't have a boss tell me to drop my cannoli and run out of a beautiful party to tail some friggin-

ANTHONY

He'd tell you to ignore what's happening right next door?

VINNIE

What's the rush? He'd tell me to take the Cannoli. And maybe an extra one, just in case.

EXT. GRISTMILL RUINS - NIGHT

As LJ struggles to pull something onto the bank, JAMES KERN an angry man with a shotgun appears out of the darkness.

KERN

LJ get out! This is the last time you'll trespass and vandalize my property, cause you're going to jail. You heard the judge.

From behind Kern, Anthony and Vinnie step out of the shadows.

ANTHONY

Whoa! Mr. Kern, let's be reasonable.

(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

This could turn out to be sacred ground. The first Indian reservation in America, who's exact boundaries were lost to history.

KERN

That's my grist mill.

LJ

This stuff isn't part of the mill. The storm and the flood brought it down from upstream. So it could have come from known Lenape territory. Besides, our reservation had grist mills. This could be one of ours.

ANTHONY

Maybe this whole area is sacred ground.

KERN

So sacred you want to turn it into God damn casino. I don't want anything to do with a shady deal between Indians and your types that they won't let into Atlantic City!

VINNIE

(offended)

Types?

ANTHONY

(to Vinnie)

It's OK, he's upset.

LJ

(to Kern)

We don't have a deal. I'm just trying to document my ancestor's life.

ANTHONY

(to Kern, enunciating)

Cultural anthropology.

(to LJ)

Keep going, kid.

(to Vinnie)

Help him.

As LJ and Vinnie pull the object out of the mud, it appears to be a large trunk.

Kern racks his shotgun and points it at LJ and Vinnie.

KERN

Stop!

Anthony puts his pistol to Kern's head.

ANTHONY

You stop.

A gun touches the back of Anthony's head. It's held by a handsome very fit 40 year old man DETECTIVE DUCASS.

DET. DUCASS

No, Anthony. You stop.

Without turning around, Anthony hands his gun back to the detective.

ANTHONY

Sounds like Detective Douchebag has joined the party.

DET. DUCASS

I preferred watching your boss's party.

(to Vinnie)

Gun on the ground, slide it over.

Anthony nods and Vinnie complies.

VINNIE

(to Anthony)

You know this guy?

DET. DUCASS

(to Vinnie)

Detective Ducass, New Jersey
Criminal Investigations Bureau.

Ducass cuffs Anthony.

ANTHONY

Really?

Anthony turns around.

DET. DUCASS

Brandishing a weapon, Terrorist threats. It's a long list.

VINNIE

I was just helping an innocent kid who was threatened with a shotgun.

ANTHONY

Me too.

LJ

(to Ducass)

It's true! But I won't press charges against Mr. Kern, if you'll just let me go. OK?

DET. DUCASS

LJ, Anthony is not the only one going to jail tonight. I'm not going to lie for you. And I don't think your father would want me to.

LJ

Maybe he would want a favor from an old high school buddy.

DET. DUCASS

Ask him.

Det. Ducass points behind the group.

They all turn to see that Songbird and Chief Two Feathers wearing jeans and a baseball cap have stepped into the clearing.

VINNIE

Do all you people live in the woods? What the hell is going on here?

SONGBIRD

You've been tracked by a great Lenape Chief.

CHIEF TWO FEATHERS

No, she got us here-
(to Songbird)
But I don't know how.

Songbird points at the trunk.

SONGBIRD

Maybe that was calling me.
I think LJ found your missing trunk.
(to Det. Ducass)
Someone stole it from the museum.

LJ wipes mud off the side to see a small label.

LJ
 (reading)
 Chief Two Feathers.

DET. DUCASS
 Open it.

LJ and Vinnie unsnap the latches and pry open the case.

VINNIE
 Holy mother!

LJ
 It's a body!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA COMPLEX - DAY

Astral Songbird with legs crossed in lotus position with her eyes closed, flies above the pyramid complex toward the Great Pyramid.

SONGBIRD
 Almighty creator of love and light,
 I pray that you will guide me and
 protect me on my astral travels.

Songbird opens her eyes and lands on top of the pyramid.

What appears to be a PHARAOH lands in front of her.

SONGBIRD (CONT'D)
 T? Is that you?

T / PHARAOH
 As the Pharaoh Ramses II.

SONGBIRD
 This is amazing! I could really
 enjoy this if I wasn't so upset.

T / PHARAOH
 I don't blame you for being upset.
 Your father is under investigation
 for murder?

SONGBIRD
 The victim was a guy named Mr.
 West. A year ago, my father got in
 a big public fistfight with West,
 because he got drunk and made a
 pass at my mom.

T morphs into orb form.

T / ORB
 (telepathically)
 But you think--

SONGBIRD
 The mafia killed West. I just have
 to prove it. With your help.

T morphs into an Egyptian soldier and salutes

T / SOLDIER
 I'll do what I can.

SONGBIRD
 Can you come to New Jersey? In
 physical form?

T / SOLDIER
 (joking)
 Is that a ploy to get me to reveal
 my true identity?

SONGBIRD
 No!

T / SOLDIER
 I can help you from my home. You
 can do this.

SONGBIRD
 All I can do on my own is somehow
 connect to a painting. There's no
 painting of West being murdered.

T / SOLDIER
 I think what you're doing is
 psychically connecting to the
 artist's subconscious to remote
 view his thoughts about the
 painting. So maybe you could learn
 to remote view specific--

SONGBIRD
 But that would just be extending my
 perceptions. You pulled me out of
 my body to go to colonial times and
 now here. I need to learn how to do
 that on my own.

T / SOLDIER

It's not all me pulling you. We're pulled toward each other. There's an energetic attraction we have that I can't explain.

SONGBIRD

Can't or won't? Are you in some kind of secret military program?

T / SOLDIER

All I can tell you is what I know. When I was out of body and came across you for the first time--

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. ABOVE A SMALL NEW JERSEY TOWN - NIGHT

A few houses have light coming from windows. But one house has a light shining through the roof.

T (V.O.) [VOICE OVER]

Your energy signature was like a beacon pulling me toward you.

As T moves toward the house, the beacon morphs into the glowing outline of Songbird sitting on the floor in lotus position meditating.

Getting closer, a glowing light in the area of Songbird's heart can be seen to grow out past the boundaries of her outline, which fades away leaving just a beautiful glowing golden orb.

T (V.O.)

I saw you as a soul or essence like you see me now.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA COMPLEX - DAY

Songbird looks at T in his orb form.

SONGBIRD

We call it spirit. It's beautiful.

Songbird sees birds fly by.

SONGBIRD (CONT'D)

This whole thing is beautiful.

T morphs into an IBIS.

T / IBIS

Even an Ibis? The sacred bird of Egypt.

SONGBIRD

How do you do that?

T / IBIS

The same way you manifested your clothes in the colonial experience - focus. Remember, it's the kind of control you have when you're lucid dreaming.

SONGBIRD

I'm not a lucid dreamer. I hardly ever wake up inside my dreams.

T / IBIS

But that's when you can practice. We're in the same higher frequency malleable reality right now. You can change how you look. Try changing your hands.

Songbird holds up her hand and concentrates.

SONGBIRD

I think it might be working.

She shows both hands to the Ibis.

SONGBIRD (CONT'D)

This one has my usual - Big Apple Red. But I think the polish on this hand might now have like a little hint of Rouge Noir, which I never wear.

The Ibis looks back and forth between the two hands trying to see a difference in the virtually identical shades.

T / IBIS

Maybe next time something less subtle, like cat paws. Play around with it.

SONGBIRD

Maybe later. As mother would say,
this is not the time to play. What
can we do to save my dad?

T reverts to his golden orb shape.

T / ORB

(telepathically)

That calls for my best warrior
angel look...

T morphs into a visage of large winged Archangel holding a
sword.

SONGBIRD

Are you doing Archangel Michael?

T / MICHAEL

I think this is how he's supposed
to look.

SONGBIRD

So you believe in angels?

T / MICHAEL

I can see how guardian angels could
be a logical part of a
consciousness created reality
simulation.

SONGBIRD

Each player gets assigned a helper?

T / MICHAEL

The game can get pretty rough,
especially since your avatar
usually loses awareness of its
connection with you as the player,
when it drops down into the arena
of physical time space.

SONGBIRD

So maybe the Guardian Angels are
there to whisper in our avatar's
ear that it's just a game and we're
really eternal beings having a
temporary experience.

T / MICHAEL

Which is why I think the answer to your question about how to help your dad is to talk to your Guardian Angel, or higher self, God, Source, whoever you can connect to for light filled loving guidance.

SONGBIRD

I did pray, but all I heard was that I should stick with my schedule and I'll find what I need.

T / MICHAEL

What's on your schedule?

SONGBIRD

I'm going to sing at an old folks home.

T / MICHAEL

A lenape song?

SONGBIRD

No, I wrote it for my Mother. She's a Christian who's been praying for international friendship and world peace.

T / MICHAEL

Then it's for all of us. And maybe it will lead you to a clue for helping your father.

SONGBIRD

I hope so.

T morphs into a glowing golden orb and Songbird waves goodbye.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY - DAY

The community room has an audience of OLD PEOPLE watching Songbird and a small CHORUS of old folks getting toward the end of Songbird's song.

SONGBIRD

(singing)

From the morning to the night,
you'll have a friendship win

(MORE)

SONGBIRD (CONT'D)

like in India where they say, Ach-
Chha-Din

CHORUS

(singing)

Just want to say, we hope you have
a fine day

SONGBIRD

(singing)

Our friends in China say Měihǎo de
yītiān [May How Duh-ee See En]
Next door in Russia Khoroshiy den

CHORUS

(singing)

Just want to say, we hope you have
a fine day

SONGBIRD

(singing)

This is the present, It's time to
get along
That's why we're singing this song

Au Revoir, Auf Wiedersehen,
Sayonara, Hagonee [Hahk Go Ney]
It's what the Navajo say -

It's not goodbye, it's we'll see
you along the way -

SONGBIRD & CHORUS

(singing)

Just want to say, we hope you have
a fine day -
Just want to say, we hope you have
a fine day!

The audience bursts into APPLAUSE as the singers take their bows. Everyone in the room seems very happy, except an old lady MRS. METZGER, who looks around at the other members of the audience with an angry scowl.

Songbird's congratulations and chatting with her fellow singers is interrupted when her cell phone rings.

Off to the side, Songbird talks on her phone.

SONGBIRD

(to phone)

Thank you for returning my call.

(a beat)

(MORE)

SONGBIRD (CONT'D)

But I thought you were buddies. You know he's innocent!

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. DETECTIVE OFFICE - DAY

Det. Ducass sits at a desk cluttered with paperwork, while he speaks with Songbird on the phone.

DET. DUCASS

(to phone)

Even if it was my department, they wouldn't assign me to investigate a personal friend.

SONGBIRD

(phone)

But aren't you starting your own private detective agency?

DET. DUCASS

(to phone)

The paperwork isn't done and I'm still on the force. It could be trouble.

SONGBIRD

(phone)

It could be good practice. Please!

DET. DUCASS

(to phone)

It's lunchtime. I could just happen to visit DiNapoli's museum and ask a few questions.

RETURN INT. ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY - DAY

Songbird is very pleased.

SONGBIRD

(to phone)

I'll see you there! Thank you!

As songbird puts away her phone, Mrs. Metzger steps up to her.

MRS. METZGER

I heard the news about your father
and I just want you to know, I
don't blame him for killing Mr.
West. He probably figured West was
a sinner, just like all these
sinners in here!

SONGBIRD

My father is totally innocent!

MRS. METZGER

Innocence is a rare commodity these
days. Did you know old folks homes
have the highest rate of venereal
disease? These old hippies here are
like disgusting, sex crazed--

SONGBIRD

I'm sorry, I have to go.

MRS. METZGER

Are you a virgin?

SONGBIRD

I have to meet someone. I'm sorry.

Songbird turns to leave.

MRS. METZGER

Don't do drugs!

EXT. DENAPPOLI'S INDIAN MUSEUM - DAY

The fence that Vinnie and Anthony climbed over separates the Kern farm from a farm with a large barn near the fence and a farmhouse a little farther away.

The Barn has a parking lot with two cars in it and a sign which reads, LEARN ABOUT AMERICA'S FIRST INDIAN RESERVATION!

Songbird stands at the door with Det. Ducass, who presses a button on the door with a small sign that reads BUZZ ATTENDANT.

After pressing the button, the SOUND of the door UNLOCKING can be heard.

WALL SPEAKER

Welcome to the museum. Please step
inside and I'll be right with you.

Across the street, a 42 yr old black man ALVIN emerges from a small house and heads toward the barn, waving.

ALVIN
(calling)
I'm coming!

INT. MUSEUM - DAY

The barn houses a fairly modest collection of Indian relics.

At the entrance, Det. Ducass and Songbird stand next to a cheap closed coffin with a sign that reads, REMAINS FOUND ON THIS FARM.

Lying on top of the casket under a sheet of plexiglass are very old tattered Lenape garments. A sign reads, AUTHENTIC LENAPE CLOTHING ON THE REMAINS.

A photo on the wall shows a skeleton in the ground wearing the Lenape garments.

ALVIN
When West disappeared, we all
thought he was living the life out
in the world somewhere.

DET. DUCASS
You got one of the letters he sent
out?

ALVIN
Post marked Philly airport. He
apologized to everyone in the
neighborhood for bringing Mr.
DeNappoli into our lives.

DET. DUCASS
When was the last time you saw
West?

ALVIN
At his going away party.
(to Songbird)
You were there.

Songbird nods.

SONGBIRD
I told Det. Ducass about it, but I
think he should hear what you
remember.

ALVIN

Well, it was West, Kern and his ex,
me and my wife, about five other
families from the neighborhood and
of course, people from the Lenape
tribe.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. BARN/MUSEUM - NIGHT

The relics look the same except for the casket, which has no
signs or garment display.

MR. WEST, a 40ish handsome man speaks with a group of party
attendees.

MR. WEST

I sold everything. Even the car is
gone. I'll get a ride to the
airport tomorrow, fly to South
America and maybe head over to
Cuba, or Bermuda. I could keep
going, cause I not gonna have to
work for quite a few years.

ALVIN

Damn! DeNappoli must of paid you a
bundle!

Follow by his HENCHMENT, ROBERT DENAPPOLI, a large, sharp-
dressed man in his fifties enters and overhears the remark.

DINAPOLI

You'll all see why I paid a big
bundle, when I tell you about the
plans I have for this place.

MR. WEST

Everybody, this is Mr. DeNappoli,
the new owner.

Everyone gathers around. DeNapolli gesture to the coffin.

DENAPOLLI

I know you want to give this
skeleton a proper burial, but I
think it would better serve you, if
it was featured at the door of the
museum, which would be in a room on
the ground floor of ... the
greatest casino in the world, right
here on Indian land!

Everyone is surprised. Many are concerned.

CHIEF TWO FEATHERS

Mr. DeNappoli, I don't think the state will consider this Indian land.

DENAPOLLI

This skeleton was buried on my property!

CHIEF TWO FEATHERS

A scientist from Princeton just came down to examine it. It's not Lenape, it's European, German - Hession.

MR WEST

(to Mr. Denappoli)

They were mercenaries hired by the British to fight the colonists. Some of them deserted, lived in the woods and traded with the Lenape.

DENAPPOLI

You swindled me, you son of a bitch! You're going to live to regret this, if you even live. Which you won't, if I don't get my money back!

Mr. DeNappoli and his henchmen storm out of the party.

END FLASHBACK

Det. Ducass takes it all in.

ALVIN

And then West got drunk and hit on her mom and paid the price with a good whooping from her dad.

EXT. MUSEUM BARN - DAY

A large fancy car stops at the driveway to the farmhouse. Vinnie gets out of the back and heads for the museum door.

INT. MUSEUM DAY.

Alvin, Songbird and Det. Ducass are near the door.

ALVIN

So he pays me to come over and watch the place, if people want to visit.

DET. DUCASS

Do they?

ALVIN

No. Not since-

Vinnie hustles in holding his phone and looks around.

VINNIE

(to phone)

Besides, Alvin, the only people in here are the Indian girl and detective douche bag.

Det. Ducass shrugs off the remark, as Vinnie listens to the phone.

VINNIE (CONT'D)

(to Alvin)

The boss is coming. He says don't answer any questions.

Alvin gestures at the casket.

ALVIN

I was just saying, nobody comes in since they found out this is fake. It's no secret.

VINNIE

It's fake?

SONGBIRD

The clothing is Lenape, but the skeleton is Hessian.

VINNIE

Hessian?

Mr. Denappoli comes through the open door.

DENAPPOLI

(to Vinnie)

Yep. This poor guy came all the way from Germany just to be killed by the Jersey Devil!

VINNIE

The what?

DENAPPOLI

The Jersey Devil. He left claw and teeth marks all over the skeleton.

DUCASS

Or a bear did.

DENAPPOLI

Oh no. The Jersey Devil is very real. That's why we're going to start a new promotion for the museum, educating the public about this monster.

Denappoli points to a display on the wall with a painting of a flying biped creature with cloven hooves, leathery bat-like wings, small arms with clawed hands, a forked tail and a horse-like head.

ALVIN

(to Vinnie)

Forest rangers say they've seen it.

VINNIE

You all believe there's a devil in the forest?

DENAPPOLI

Not just any forest. We're right at the edge of-

(reading from the wall)

The largest open space between Boston and Washington D.C -- a vast 1.1 Million acre of protected wilderness in New Jersey known as the Pine Barrens.

VINNIE

With a devil that looks like a friggin cartoon?

DENAPPOLI

You don't believe forest rangers? How about Napoleon Bonaparte's brother?

VINNIE

Napoleon?

DENAPPOLI

(reading)

Napoleon's brother abdicated his throne as King of Spain in 1813 and moved to New Jersey, where he claimed to see the Jersey Devil. He hoped to kill it and take the body as a trophy.

(to Vinnie)

You can't argue with facts and that's a fact! Look it up!

DUCASS

(to Denappoli)

Since you can't argue with facts. Isn't it true that you threatened to kill West for cheating you?

DENAPPOLI

My lawyer is on his way. We're closing the museum early today, so--

Denappoli gestures for everyone to leave.

EXT. MUSEUM - DAY

Denappoli, Vinnie, Ducass and Songbird come outside.

DUCASS

(to Denappoli)

There were a lot of witnesses to your threat.

DENAPPOLI

I was upset, but I didn't kill West. Frankly, I couldn't find him. Besides--

(to Vinnie)

Was there concrete in the trunk or did West have cement shoes?

VINNIE

The trunk had a few holes that let in the water, but no cement to weigh it down. Amateur work.

DENAPPOLI

(to Ducass)

I rest my case.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Chief Two Feathers, Betty and Songbird are near LJ and his lawyer, who are facing a stern JUDGE.

JUDGE

You really disappoint me, Little Jay.

Everyone is surprised to see Chief Two Feathers stand up.

CHIEF TWO FEATHERS

Your Honor, can I say something?

JUDGE

Chief, considering your current legal difficulties, I'd be very careful, if I were you.

CHIEF TWO FEATHERS

Yes, Sir. But every time LJ comes before you, I try to get his lawyer to submit a document they always say is irrelevant. So I'm gonna go out on a limb and personally ask you to consider it.

JUDGE

What is the document?

The Chief holds up a piece of paper.

CHIEF TWO FEATHERS

The 1778 Treaty with the Delawares, which is what the English called us. In section 16, the Lenape nation was invited to head a group of other tribes and form a state with representation in congress.

JUDGE

In return for their help fighting the British. I know the history. Why do you think I allowed your son to get away with 9 consecutive contempts of court? I know your people were cheated by the federal government. But your reservation members chose to leave our state. I hope in your papers you have your leader's farewell letter to our legislature.

Songbird nods at the chief.

CHIEF TWO FEATHERS

(to Judge)

I don't need it on paper, Sir. My daughter has memorized all the relevant documents.

JUDGE

The bench recognizes Songbird.

Songbird stands.

SONGBIRD

When we accepted the invitation of the Oneida tribe in Northern New York to eat out of their bowl, our spokesman, Wilted Grass wrote to the New Jersey legislature, quote, "Not a drop of blood have you spilled in battle; not an acre of our land have you taken but by our consent. Nothing but benisons can fall upon New Jersey from the lips of a Lenni Lenape."

JUDGE

(to Songbird)

Thank you, Songbird.

(to Chief Two Feathers)

Your complaint, sir, is with the feds, not with our state.

(to LJ)

Where you Sir, must obey our laws. Or next time Little Jay, I swear I will give you a real sentence.

LJ nods.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Case dismissed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BEJING - ROOF OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY - DAY

Songbird and T as a DRAGON sit on the peak of the main palace.

SONGBIRD

We need to go to that going away party. There's obviously no painting, but maybe someone has a photo.

T / DRAGON
Psychometry.

SONGBIRD
Discovering facts about an event by touching objects associated with it.

T / DRAGON
The museum has a lot of objects that would have been at the party.

SONGBIRD
I've only tried it with paintings, but I can try at the museum. Just make sure you're there. And if I start to see the party, help pull me out of my body and maybe we can go back in time again.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ALVIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alvin's wife MEREDITH stands in the doorway speaking with Songbird.

Mr. Kern drives along the road.

INT. KERN'S CAR - NIGHT

As Kern passes Alvin's house, he notices Songbird pointing toward the museum.

INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Songbird comes inside.

MEREDITH
I'll be right back.

As Meredith exits, Songbird looks at the wall next to the door where there is switch labeled "Museum Door Lock."

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Mr. Kern makes a U-turn.

INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

MEREDITH comes back to Songbird.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
He's finished his bath. He'll be
here in minute.

SONGBIRD
I'm sorry for all the trouble.

MEREDITH
No, hon, I'm sorry for your
troubles. Your dad's a good man.

SONGBIRD
You met him at the party?

MEREDITH
Yeh, I was feeling good - talked
the ears off of everybody. Except
poor Mr. Kern. He left early.
Missed the hubbub with DeNappoli
and missed your dad's big bout with
Mr. West.

SONGBIRD
Why'd Mr. Kern leave early?

MEREDITH
West invited Kern's ex to the
party. I could see it bothered him.

SONGBIRD
You think there could have been
something going on between Kern's
wife and--

MEREDITH
West was... how should I put it--

SONGBIRD
A sinner?

MEREDITH
Reckless. He tried hitting on me,
but I never told Alvin. Cause he
would have killed him!

Alvin enters wearing pajamas and a bathrobe.

ALVIN
Who woulda killed who?

MEREDITH

Me, gonna kill you for getting in
your pajamas! Aren't you going to
walk her?

(to Songbird)

He saw a bear in the woods the
other day.

ALVIN

In the woods! They don't come up in
the parking lot.

SONGBIRD

Please don't bother. I'll be fine.

Alvin presses the button to unlock the museum door.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Mr. Kern sits in his parked car with the lights off watching
Songbird cross the road into the museum parking lot.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

As Songbird heads for the museum door, she listens to her
phone.

DET. DUCASS (RECORDING)

It's Ducass. Leave a message.

SONGBIRD

(to phone)

I think our man might be Mr. Kern.
He may have caught his wife with
West. I'll explain tomorrow.

INT. KERN'S CAR - NIGHT

With a pained expression, Kern shakes his head.

BEGIN FLAHPACK

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Mr. Kern sits in his parked car in the same place with the
lights off watching the going away party guests drive away.

INT. KERN'S CAR - NIGHT

Kern watches the last car disappear into the distance.

MR. KERN

Bye Bye Evelyn. Sure you don't want
to stay and see me be a good
neighbor?

Kern drives into the parking lot.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MUSEUM - NIGHT

Mr. West stops writing a note to answer his cell phone.
He stands up a little wobbly from alcohol and the beating by
the chief.

MR. WEST

(to phone)

I called because I want you to come
back to the party.

West LAUGHS LOUDLY with his back to the door, so that he
doesn't see Kern come inside.

MR. WEST (CONT'D)

(to phone)

Evelyn baby, that's no way to talk
to your old lover boy. Come on
back. I got one more apology letter
to write to guess who-- you're
dumbass husband.

(a beat)

Not for doing you! For bringing
DeNappoli into the neighborhood. I
can't apologize to everybody except
corney Kern!

Enraged by what he's hearing, Kern picks up a Native American
stone tomahawk.

MR. WEST (CONT'D)

(to phone)

Come on! I need to do you-I mean to
see you. Hello?

As West puts his phone away and turns, Kern smashes him on
the side of his neck.

Kern tumbles into the Chief Two Feathers' open trunk.

MR. KERN

You were having an affair with my
wife? That's why she left me?

Kern raise the tomahawk to finish off West.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Mr. Kern drives toward the museum.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MUSEUM - NIGHT

Songbird is sitting cross legged next to the display of stone
tomahawks.

As she puts one down and picks up the next one, Mr. Kern
sneaks in behind her.

Songbird holds the stone to her forehead.

SONGBIRD

(to the stone)

You have energy that's not from
ancient times. Fingerprints! I
should be careful about- What? T?
Is that you? What's wrong?

Kern pulls a large sharp knife from its beaded leather sheath
on display.

Songbird hears, turns around and SCREAMS as Kern lunges at
her.

Kern chases Songbird around the museum, while she throws
exhibit objects at him.

Near the back door, she trips.

As Kern is about to stab her, Vinnie comes in the front door
and shoots, grazing Kern's shoulder.

Kern grabs Songbird from behind with the knife to her neck.

KERN
(to Vinnie)
Put the gun down or I'll slice her
throat!

Mr. Denappoli rushes in.

DENAPPOLI
Kern, don't do something stupid.

KERN
Oh I am stupid. West ruined my
life, but I was too stupid to know
it was him.

A very out of breath Alvin rushes in still in pajamas.

DENAPPOLI
(to Mr. Kern)
Just let the girl go. You're
bleeding. You're not going
anywhere.

KERN
Yeh? Good luck following me.

Kern pushes Songbird to the floor and races out the back door
into the woods.

Everyone hustles toward the back door.

ALVIN
It'd take more than luck to track
him. He knows those woods better
than anybody.

As Alvin checks on Songbird, DeNappoli and Vinnie look out
the open door toward the pitch black woods.

In the distance, there's a LOUD GROWLING, then SCREAMS from
Mr. Kern.

Vinnie turns to DeNappoli.

VINNIE
The Jersey Devil!

DeNappoli solemnly nods in agreement.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Songbird, LJ, Chief Two Feathers, Betty and Det. Ducass are having a meal.

Det. Ducass passes around a photo. It shows him standing in front of a small office with a sign that reads, FINE DAY DETECTIVE AGENCY.

SONGBIRD

You named it after my song?

DET. DUCASS

I love that song and I figure you should be part of the agency. If you're interested, you could start as my assistant.

Songbird happily nods.

SONGBIRD

I think the job would fit me to a T.

LJ

What does that even mean?

CHIEF TWO FEATHERS

Something to do with a builder's T-square being accurate.

BETTY

(to LJ)

She's making a reference to the name of her imaginary friend.

SONGBIRD

(to Betty)

He's not imaginary!

BETTY

Your invisible friend.

SONGBIRD

T is very real.

(to Det. Ducass)

And he's going to help us solve crimes.

Stepping up to the table in time to hear Songbird's statement is a handsome 21 year old RICK DUCASS

RICK
(to Songbird)
Then my father is in good hands.

DET. DUCASS
Everybody, this is my son Rick, who
is late for some reason.

RICK
I'm really sorry. I ran into a
problem with the school I'm
building.

DET
Rick builds virtual reality worlds.

SONGBIRD
Like with the headsets?

RICK
Yes. If you're interested I'd be
happy to show you sometime.

SONGBIRD
I'm interested.

END