

Bird Song

By

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1

INT. BEACH HOUSE. DAY

We see a mysterious FEMALE FIGURE, wearing a shawl, sitting in a cane chair at the far end of the room, looking out through a window overlooking a beach with crashing waves. The Female Figure has her back to us. We hear the sounds of the crashing waves and seagulls beyond.

The room feels odd, the colors slightly off and over saturated.

We see ABIGAIL 'ABIE' SAMANTHA BAKER, age 29, at the other end of the room. She looks pale and her eyes are dark rimmed. She takes a piece of chalk from her jacket and draws a square on the floor.

Two small girls appear inside the square, dirty and disheveled, aged 9 and 13 respectively. The girls look haunted. They sit, absently drawing pictures in chalk on the floor. Two heavy boots approach one end of the square, the girls look up at the owner pensively.

A MALE FIGURE crouches down into view and leers at the two girls.

Abie starts to speak. Her voice sounds strangely altered.

ABIE

(To the Female Figure)

Do you think I revisit this too often?

No reply.

(ABIE CONT'D)

It's nearly time. I need you to be ready.

Still no response. Abie closes her eyes.

2

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM. SECTION SIX. DAY.

We see Abie in another room. She is no longer pale, nor are her eyes dark rimmed.

Her eyes are shut. She opens them.

We see a stark, futuristic interview room. Blue lights.

In the center of the room, a metal table. On the table is a lamp, an ash tray and a curved perspex device that looks electronic. Seated at the table, in wrist and ankle cuffs, is Abie. She wears a prison uniform.

(CONTINUED)

She smokes a cigarette, looking bored and irritated. Or is she? She looks around the room. There are seemingly no security cameras or any kind of monitoring going on. Yet she takes great pains to check an incisor with her tongue as discretely as possible.

ABIE

Hey! Are you people going to fucken interview me in here or what?

The door opens and a woman, ASTRID ELIZABETH MASON, age 25, enters. She is immaculately well groomed, suited, a real no-nonsense professional type. She carries a manila folder containing a dossier on Abie.

Astrid gets to the table and immediately reaches across, taking Abie's cigarette from her lips and extinguishing it in the ash tray. Abie moves to protest but relents.

Astrid places the manila folder on the table and then sits. She opens the folder away from her, obscuring the contents from Abie.

Inside, lying atop the other papers, is a perspex disc (Astrid's computer access card) and a weathered photo.

The photo shows the man from Scene 1, with his hands on the shoulders of the two young girls from Scene 1. The girls look wounded and fearful. The man has a satisfied grin on his face. The photo looks like it was taken from some sort of cellar.

Astrid's looks at the photo, her face tightens.

She takes up the perspex disc and slots it into the curved perspex device. A holographic screen is projected from it displaying a Police intranet.

ASTRID

Access Request, Police Minos System. Voice Recognition, Astrid Elizabeth Mason.

We hear a musical tone, like a computer alert. A pleasant, lilting female voice is heard from the perspex device.

VOICE

Voice recognized. Access granted.

ASTRID

Interview started twenty fifth of May, two thousand and forty, fifteen eighteen hours. Section Six Interrogation Room. Subject, Abigail Samantha Baker, age, twenty nine; Detective Sargent Mason conducting the interview.

Astrid looks at Abie.

(ASTRID CONT'D)

You know why you're here, Abie?

ABIE

Stabbed some cunt in the eye.

ASTRID

Your victim was Trevor Reid,  
Deputy Commissioner of Section  
Six. Were you aware of that?

ABIE

Always someone important. One  
small dick looks the same as  
another to me.

ASTRID

You didn't just stab him, you  
wrenched his eye out with a cork  
screw. I'd like to know why.

Abie leans forward suggestively.

ABIE

Come closer and I'll tell ya.

She grins. Astrid stares at her gravely. Abie sits back,  
sighs.

(ABIE CONT'D)

He tried to assault me.

ASTRID

Who put you up to this, Abie?  
You're not bright enough to have  
done this on your own.

ABIE

I'd only tell you, sweetness.

Abie nods at the perspex device.

ASTRID

You won't go on record?

Abie shakes her head.

(ASTRID CONT'D)

All right, Abie.

Astrid removes her access card from the the perspex  
device. The holographic screen shuts off.

(ASTRID CONT'D)

Speak.

ABIE

I need to whisper it in your ear.

Astrid crosses her arms. No dice.

(ABIE CONT'D)

I'll tell you exactly who's behind this, Astrid. But on my terms.

Astrid bristles impatiently. She stands and moves cautiously beside Abie. She takes a stun gun from her belt and sits it on the table heavily.

ASTRID

Understand?

Abie nods. Astrid leans down slowly, placing her ear next to Abie's mouth. Abie opens her mouth and licks the same incisor from before.

Suddenly Abie slams her hands down on the arm Astrid holds the stun gun with. She lurches forward, trying to bite Astrid's neck.

Astrid pulls away at the last moment, punching Abie in the mouth with her free arm. Astrid stumbles backwards.

(ASTRID CONT'D)

You...you tried to bite me.

Abie recovers, her face twists in pain and she groans.

(ASTRID CONT'D)

You fucken bitch!

Astrid slams the stun gun into Abie's ribs, electrocuting her. Abie screams. Astrid throws Abie to the floor and starts kicking her repeatedly in the stomach.

(ASTRID CONT'D)

You tell me, you fucken dyke! You tell me who wanted Trevor hurt! Who's behind this smear campaign? I know Trevor, he would never...you tell me who's trying to hurt my man!

Astrid stops herself, knowing she's revealed too much. Abie catches her breath, looking up at her in triumph.

ABIE

Your what?

(CONTINUED)

Astrid trembles, she goes back to the table and takes out the photo from the manila folder, looking at it.

ASTRID

There is no smear campaign, is there?

Abie just stares at her. Astrid kneels beside Abie and shows her the photo.

(ASTRID CONT'D)

Trevor, you've already met.

Abie's breathing intensifies. Astrid points to the little girl, aged 9.

(ASTRID CONT'D)

That's me. That little girl. I have no memory of this.

ABIE

Astrid, I...

ASTRID

You know where I found this? At our home, where me and Trevor live. After your attack I broke into the safe where he keeps his old files; I was just trying to help the case.

Abie looks like she might be sick.

ABIE

It will be a lot easier to explain...if you let me inject you, with this.

Abie motions to her incisor. Astrid points to the other girl aged 13.

ASTRID

Is this you? It's the only thing I could think of. If it's not a smear campaign, it's the only reason why you would've attacked him.

Abie moves to placate Astrid.

ABIE

You have to trust me.

Astrid jabs her finger at the photo.

ASTRID

Caus I know that look, Abie.  
I've seen it before. Did he...

Abie starts to reach for Astrid.

ABIE

You inject on the skin or into  
the bloodstream. The jugular  
work's best; fast release.

Astrid grabs Abie by the shoulders and slams her against a wall.

ASTRID

You tell me, damn it! Tell me why  
I can't remember?

Abie closes her eyes.

3 INT. BEACH HOUSE. DAY

Abie, now pale with dark rimmed eyes, moves towards the Female Figure.

ABIE

She knows. What should I do?

The Female Figure's voice is almost unrecognizable.

FEMALE FIGURE

Tell her. She deserves to know.

Abie looks over to the square where the Male Figure brushes the hair of the 13 years old girl. He looks at the 13 year old smugly and she returns his gaze hatefully. The 9 year old girl on her side, sucking her thumb.

Abie closes her eyes.

4 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM. SECTION SIX. DAY.

Abie opens her eyes. Sans paleness and dark rimmed eyes. She looks at Astrid.

ABIE

You're not real, Astrid. You're  
an artificial identity I planted  
in my sister sixteen years ago.

Astrid sits back.

(ABIE CONT'D)

Your purpose was to get close  
enough to the man who raped us,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

(ABIE CONT'D) (cont'd)  
Trevor Reid, to kill him. I was supposed to inject you with your real identity, the one who would deliver the final blow, my sister, Elenore.

ASTRID  
Bull shit.

Abie points to her incisor.

ABIE  
She's been living here for sixteen years. In this device in my tooth. Waiting for our 'super cop' to rise up through the ranks.

ASTRID  
Your *what*?

ABIE  
We designed you. Or rather we had street vendors design you.

ASTRID  
You're talking about 'reality merchants'?

ABIE  
We used the technology already in place. If people want to be somebody else, they can. By law, it's required to bring back their original identities, but...pay certain people enough. They'll make it stick.

Astrid stands, walks away from Abie.

ASTRID  
No, no, I don't accept this...

ABIE  
What do you remember of your childhood, Astrid, before your foster parents?

ASTRID  
How did you...?

Astrid shudders. Abie gets to her feet.

ABIE  
Give me your neck, Astrid, and I will release you from your pain.



Astrid makes a mad scramble for the stun gun, which has fallen in the fray, and holds it out at Abie.

ASTRID

You stay away from me!

Abie advances on her calmly.

(ASTRID CONT'D)

Get back Abie!

ABIE

Emma. Emma is my real name.

ASTRID

I don't give a shit what your name is - get back!

ABIE

Will you be able to live with yourself after this, knowing that you're a lie?

ASTRID

Just...just...what happened to the two girls?

ABIE

He kept us locked in a cellar. Just two abandoned street kids. And he got to play 'God'. But one night he came in drunk and left the door open. The rest you know.

ASTRID

And did you program me to fall in love with him?

ABIE

Yes. I'm sorry. We wanted the final blow to come from someone he cared about.

Astrid drops the stun gun, sinking to her knees.

ASTRID

Get over here before I change my mind.

Abie moves to Astrid and kneels beside her, drawing back Astrid's hair and exposing her neck.

ABIE

For what it's worth, thank you.

(CONTINUED)

ASTRID

Go to hell.

Abie hesitates, then moves her mouth over Astrid's jugular vein, sinking her incisor into her neck. Astrid gasps. Abie closes her eyes.

5 INT. BEACH HOUSE. DAY

We realize that this is what the inside of Abie's tooth device looks like. An artificial reality for ELENORE to wait in while Astrid served her purpose.

Abie opens her eyes. She is now pale with dark rimmed eyes again. She moves over to the Female Figure.

ABIE

It's time. Time for you to go home.

The Female Figure stands, turning to us. It is of course, Elenore (But we recognize her face as Astrid's). The beach scene in the window behind her dissolves into darkness.

Elenore moves to a door at the far end of the room we have hitherto not seen.

The Male Figure, who is Trevor Reid, and the two girls, 13 and 9, who are Emma and Elenore as young girls, are still in the square. Trevor is still brushing their hair.

Abie goes over to them and rubs out the lines of the square. When the square is gone, so too Trevor and the young girls disappear. Abie smiles.

Elenore opens the door. Beyond is darkness. She steps into the darkness, closing the door behind her.

Abie closes her eyes.

6 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM. SECTION SIX. DAY.

Abie opens her eyes. Again she is no longer pale nor are her eyes dark rimmed. Light drains out of the room.

We inter cut between Astrid slowly lowering her eyes as Abie continues biting her, and Elenore moving through darkness towards us.

When Elenore fills the frame, Astrid falls away from Abie into the darkness that has engulfed the interrogation room.

In the darkness:

(CONTINUED)

ABIE  
Elenore?

Light returns. Warm yellow light. Abie helps prop Astrid into to a seated position. Astrid's eyes flicker open.

ASTRID  
Am I here?

ABIE  
Yes.

ASTRID  
And it's time?

ABIE  
Yes.

The door that Astrid entered from swings open. The two sisters stare pensively at it.

FADE TO BLACK.