

HOMELESS LIES

Written by

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EXT. PARK - DUMPSTER - DAY

Pushing a cart of collectables, CAMILA MOORE, 60's, armored with an oversized dirty coat, hair mangled back into a pony-tail, with eyes like the deep sea reaches for a crushed aluminum can off the ground and places it in her cart.

A shadow appears behind her.

She turns and a VIETNAMESE soldier in uniform with his head half blown off, points a gun her way.

An AMERICAN soldier limps behind him. His body completely burnt to a crisp, except his helmet and eyes.

Camila blinks. The Vietnamese and American soldiers are actually TWO BUSINESS MEN passing by.

She looks up concerned at the sound of a helicopter. The wings WHIP with force.

BOOM! GUN SHOTS! SCREAMS and MOANS of MEN. Camila raises her arms in the air.

LITTLE BOY (O.S.)
Bang, Bang. You're dead.

Camila turns and sees a little boy standing only feet in front of her with a toy gun pointed at her.

The MOM grabs his arm.

MOM
Come on Jeffery.

The little boy stares back at Camila who looks completely terrified.

The typical Atlanta rush hour traffic, technology users, and busy bodies brush past her.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

BENJAMIN BANKS, early 30's, energetic, hot shot attorney for the prosecution draws attention to himself as he paces with authority in front of the witness stand.

The defendant, DANNY GAETZ, 40's, sits in the witness chair. Everyone becomes anxious, confused, and uncomfortable.

RENO, 40's, suave, seats in the back of the courtroom.

ABIGAIL, late 30's, attractive, attorney for the defendant sits with an attitude, legs crossed in stilettos, and a darkness that sweeps her eyes.

ABIGAIL

Your honor, how long are we going to watch this dreadful show?

JUDGE ADAMS shakes his head.

JUDGE ADAMS

(to Benjamin)

Do you have any more questions for the defendant, Mr. Banks?

Benjamin spreads his arms across the witness stand and stares into Danny's eyes.

BENJAMIN

So the idiot you took orders from is who, again?

Benjamin holds his hand to his ear.

ABIGAIL

(O.S.)

Objection.

BENJAMIN

I mean -- So the Congressman wasn't enough, so you go and slice a city clerks throat. All for what? I'll tell you -- A happy two-for-one man party in prison. Cause that's where you're headed.

JUDGE ADAMS

(to Benjamin)

Move on.

DANNY

Who the hell do you think you are? You're a con artist with a fucking degree of the system, I'm just a self-made con artist.

BENJAMIN

Thank you for the compliment.

ABIGAIL

Your honor, I ask for recess before this circus show gets out of control.

Benjamin JUMPS on the witness stand like an acrobat and lands perfectly on the edge. He looks straight down at Danny.

JUDGE ADAMS
Get down, Mr. Banks.

BENJAMIN
Whoever's keeping you quiet
when I'm through with them,
they'll be begging me for
mercy.

Abigail stands. She looks at the Judge, like do something.

ABIGAIL
Objection!

JUDGE ADAMS
(to Benjamin)
I'm holding you in contempt. And a
fine for a thousand dollars. Baliff
take him into custody.

DANNY
I'm innocent!

The Baliff walks over to Benjamin. Benjamin JUMPS down and lands on both feet.

BENJAMIN
Tell it to God.

The Baliff grabs Benjamin and drags him out of the courtroom.
Benjamin's prosecution team displays embarrassment.

ABIGAIL
(under her breath)
Son-of-a bitch.

JUDGE ADAMS
We will adjourn.

Judge POUNDS his gravel.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Abigail smokes a cigarette while she stands against her sports car. An attorney, BOB, 50's, from the defendants team, and Reno walk towards her.

RENO
My cousin is going to prison, isn't
he?

Bob holds up a folder.

BOB
We got an extension.

Abigail drops her cigarette. She looks at Bob, who steps on it for her.

ABIGAIL
It doesn't matter. Benjamin is a major problem.

She takes the folder, slides in her car, and drives off.

Reno looks at Bob.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Camila eats a sandwich while seated on the sidewalk. She grabs a dirty handkerchief from her pocket and out falls a photo. She picks it up.

The photo shows a much younger Camila with a man. Camila smiles. She turns the photo over. It reads: JOHNNY AND BUTTERCAKES - FOREVER - 15TH ANNIVERSARY. She places it back in her pocket.

She notices a SOLDIER hugging his WIFE and DAUGHTER across the way. She stands and watches them.

A WAITER appears with a small bag.

WAITER
Camila?

She turns. He looks around to make sure no one sees him.

WAITER (CONT'D)
I got your favorite - upside down chocolate cake.

CAMILA
You're so good to me.

WAITER
Anytime, Ma'am.

He hands it to her and runs off.

Camila turns her attention back to the soldier and walks their way.

The soldier kisses his wife and gives his daughter a gift.

He finally notices Camila staring.