

THE WASP AND MEROPIDAE

an Original

by  
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EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- DAWN

Isolate - MEROPIDAE perches high on The Cliffs of Vespuria in silence. She hears sounds in the 200 mile distance.

MEROPIDAE'S P.O.V. - vision significantly blurred as she looks out at the great expanse.

DOLLY OUT

On either side of her, her two adult meropidae first cousins, perched, at rest. TERO'S nictitating membranes open horizontally across his four-coned shaped eyes as he wakes.

Extreme Closeup - BERO'S eye. Her nictitating membrane opens horizontally over one cone at a time.

WIDE SHOT

They listen.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY OF VESPURIA, HIGHWAY -- DAWN

TOM MOORE(38) rides the WASP MOTORCYCLE in the quiet of the morning air. He takes in his surroundings as the cold of the morning bites through his leather attire.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

In perfect formation Tero, Mero and Bero fall forward off the cliff's ledge, twist right, spread their wings in flight.

KERO rides quietly on Bero's back, his mom.

MOVING SHOT

Kero grows 0.025" in height as they glide with speed in the direction of the slight WHIRRING sound 200 miles away.

Their white wings accented with blue, their white bodies, Tero's blue for the mating season, blend into the morning air and surrounding cliffs spread with dew.

Meropidae flaps her wings once, the BREAK OF WIND...

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, HIGHWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Isolate - The BREAK OF WIND whips around Tom's leather jacket, as he rides through the curves of the winding highway.

ESSENCE'S (35) molecules sit behind Tom. She solidifies. Leans forward, wraps her arms around his waist. Whispers into his ear.

ESSENCE

You forgot to invite me.

TOM  
I didn't want to wake you.

ESSENCE  
Next time, do.

He leans forward, she leans with him. She breaks down into molecules and floats away from Wasp's Motorcycle as if exhausted.

A molecule of hers floats way into the far unknown distance.

WIDE SHOT

The ocean flashes white and blue lights as the morning light reflects off it.

EXT. VESPURIA, HIGH OVERHEAD -- CONTINUOUS

The light of the early dawn reflects off the windows of the sleeping City of Vespuria.

The single flap of WINGS carries the meropidae the last 100 miles between them and the sound that guides them.

MERO  
(screams)

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, HIGHWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Her SCREAMS break through the quiet of morning.

Isolate - Tom turns, his movements restricted by his helmet, and looks over his right shoulder in the direction of faded screams.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, OCEAN BESIDE HIGHWAY --  
CONTINUOUS

MOVING SHOT

The meropidae elegantly dive toward the ocean in V formation.

IN UNISON  
(soft song)

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, HIGHWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Isolate - Tom looks over his right shoulder again. His restricted movement does not allow him to see that 100 feet behind him over the ocean...

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, OCEAN BESIDE HIGHWAY --  
CONTINUOUS

MOVING SHOT

...the meropidae disappear beneath the surface with hardly a ripple. They plunge to depths of 150 feet in search of small-medium fish.

INT. OCEAN -- CONTINUOUS

In same V-formation the meropidae catch small-medium fish in their beaks, carry, head for surface.

EXT. OCEAN -- CONTINUOUS

They break surface, droplets run in rivulets off their waterproof wings. They triumphantly throw their heads back, fish thrown in the air, they swallow the fish headfirst.

They flap their wings as they walk on water to steadfast their bodies.

KERO  
(twitters)

Kero swallows Bero's fish as she grows 0.025" in height.

IN UNISON  
(song)

They consume the whole fish.

They dive headfirst back into the ocean.

LONG SHOT

In the distance, Tom rides the bends on the highway.

Just under surface, their toe lobes allow powerful thrusts as these sleek projectiles fairly fly underwater and quickly close the distance between them and Tom.

They break the surface near Tom. The lobes of their toes lie back against the toes.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, OVERVIEW, HIGHWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Mero bears down on Tom, clutches him from his seat in her powerful talons, her wings brush the Wasp Motorcycle, it warps. She carries Tom up. The warped Wasp Motorcycle lies on its side, sparks and glides another 100 feet.

Mero tries to carry Tom higher into the air, Tero and Bero on either side of her, but her talons cannot fully close around Tom who transforms into THE WASP.

She extends her razor-sharp nails which slide across the side of Wasp's stomach, her prey too big for the nails to cut into.

Mero looks straight ahead, her world blurred through her fractured sense of sight through one cone, her nictitating membrane covers the other three. Her wings unable to lift them any higher. Overburdened with the size and weight, she drops her prey.

The Wasp spreads his wings. Rolls through a few air currents. He flies over atop and sprays Mero, Tero, Bero and Kero from behind with green venom through his ocelli. Every .30 second the meropidae distance themselves by 20 inches in any direction from The Wasp. Kero grows 0.025" in height.

Their wings transform his venomous powder into a white powder.

Extreme Closeup - The white powder locks onto the hooked barbule of the meropidae's feathers.

SHOT

Mero flaps her wings, air pressure brushes off her end feathers and throws The Wasp into an air current that pulls him further back and away from the meropidae.

Wasp tries to resist the current but to no avail.

Mero lifts higher into the air, Wasp a blob of color to her. He flows with the current back toward the ground. He lands on the highway.

He looks up. The meropidae spots in the far distance.

He looks at his Wasp Motorcycle. It's warped beyond recognition. He kneels next to it and looks down at the damage.

Wasp activates his wristband. An aerial semi-circular image of Jeeves pops up.

JEEVES

Sir?

WASP

Jeeves, we have a problem.

EXT. VESPURIA, OPEN MARKET DOWNTOWN -- LATER THAT MORNING

Essence walks the outdoor market.

FISH MERCHANT'S WIFE(63) looks up at her, the FISH MERCHANT(64) sits quietly nearby.

FISH MERCHANTS WIFE

I remember you.

Essence looks at her, smiles, approaches her stand. Fish Merchant nods a silent 'Hello' to Essence. She smiles in return.

Fish Merchant's Wife leans toward Essence, whispers in her ear:

FISH MERCHANTS WIFE (CONT'D)  
 He communicate much better with body,  
 now he no longer speak.  
 (slightly raises her  
 eyebrow)  
 Much better for private life.

Fish Merchant hears, smiles and gives an ever so slight nod.

FISH MERCHANTS WIFE (CONT'D)  
 Much better. We no argue anymore.  
 (leans in toward  
 Essence)  
 I always right. He know now.

Fish Merchant sits with smile but does not respond except to look straight ahead.

Essence picks a fish and hands it to his wife. The CRACKLE of butcher paper as she packages it.

INT. VESPURIA, CITY HALL, MAYOR'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ(55) sits with Ornithologist BERT STEIN(35). Mayor Rodriguez buzzes his ASSISTANT.

ASSISTANT (O.S.)  
 Sir?

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ  
 Have you heard from Tom Moore?

ASSISTANT (O.S.)  
 No, sir.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ  
 Thank you, Sammy.

ASSISTANT (O.S.)  
 Tammy, sir.

Mayor Rodriguez releases the phone speaker button, looks at his watch.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ  
 We can't wait all day for him. How big of a problem is it?

BERT  
 It's all relative, Mayor Rodriguez. Seems small enough. I guess we can take care of this on our own.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ

Then, go ahead.

BERT

I'll take my partner, Beth, with me.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ

Let's keep this between ourselves.

Bert looks at Mayor's back as the Mayor rotates in his chair. Sips his coffee and stares at the light snowflakes coming down outside his office window.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)

Bert?

BERT

Mayor?

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ

It is mid-July, isn't it?

BERT

Yes, it is.

A bird on the windowsill flaps its wings at the open window.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ

Then, what's it doing snowing outside?

THE BIRD...

EXT. CITY HALL, MAYOR'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

...COOS to the other birds in the round crevices of the buildings. Confusion amongst them as snow falls on their beaks. They flap their wings and fly down the alley.

EXT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, APARTMENT BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

From below we see a young hand reach out an open window and catch one of the snowflakes.

At eye level, we see an OLD WOMAN(98) sit in a wheelchair, afghan wrapped around her lap, a YOUNG GIRL(6) stands by the open window.

INT. OLD WOMAN'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

OLD WOMAN

Shut the window honey, before it gets cold.

More snowflakes hit the Young Girl's hand. Her skin absorbs it.

## YOUNG GIRL

Okay, Grandma.

She reaches out to grab the windows.

EXT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, APARTMENT BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

Through another window a BLIND MAN(58) sits. The snowflakes fly in through the window and hit his face.

INT. BLIND MAN'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

He reaches up, touches his face, smiles.

EXT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, APARTMENT BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

The shadow of the meropidae against the buildings just past the Blind Man's window, white powder floats down from their wings.

EXT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, STREET PERPENDICULAR TO OPEN MARKET -- CONTINUOUS

An overcast of Mero's shadow as she flies overhead. VISITORS at the open market look down the street and up at Mero. Essence shields her eyes and stares.

Mero's wing tips brush a building as she flies by, the building's texture warps and changes shape. She disappears from sight.

The flock of small birds turn the corner to the Open Market. They follow Mero, snow falls lightly all around them. Behind them the other meropidae.

Essence walks around the corner after her.

EXT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, BUILDINGS -- CONTINUOUS

At corner, Essence turns back time by 30 seconds. She remains at her spot, everyone around moves back 30 seconds in time, except Mero who glances down at Essence.

Essence stares in disbelief as Mero continues to move for .15 of a second for every second of time Essence turns back. Mero moves about 8 inches for every .15 of a second.

EXT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, BUILDINGS, OVERVIEW -- CONTINUOUS

Tero closes a 20 foot distance between him and a small bird as its backed up in time.

In motion, behind Essence, Tero nabs the small bird.

Still on foot, Essence pushes forward and walks toward Mero as she again turns back time another 30 seconds. Essence manages to move forward .30 of a second for every second of

time reversed closing 16 inches of space per second. She manages to close the distance between her and Mero.

EXT. VESPURIA, OPEN MARKET DOWNTOWN, OVERHEAD -- CONTINUOUS

In motion, the youngest small bird lags behind and veers away from the pack as Kero, Mero's second cousin, bears down on it. It flies for it's life. They fly directly over the Open Market. Kero nips at its tail-feathers in play.

YOUNGEST SMALL BIRD  
(chirps)

KERO  
(twitters with  
childlike play)

Kero nips at the bird's tail-feathers again. She clamps down on them and glides as the small bird furiously flaps its little wings.

EXT. VESPURIA, OPEN MARKET DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

CITIZENS stare directly up at Kero's underbelly. Her shadow overcasts the Open Market. The two birds appear to be almost at a standstill though the small bird continues to furiously flap its little wings.

EXT. VESPURIA, OPEN MARKET DOWNTOWN, OVERHEAD -- CONTINUOUS

Kero releases the young bird, grows 0.025" in height as she nudges it from underside with her beak. The bird uncontrollably flips forward a number of times.

KERO  
(twitters with  
childlike play)

Kero in one last burst CRUNCHES the bird in her beak, a soft fluffy feather bursts out of her beak.

EXT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

Mero brushes against another building, a window distorts and the brick and mortar softens and changes to a curved shape.

Windows open from up high in the surrounding buildings as CITIZENS of Vespuria look outside to capture a glimpse of Mero silently glide by.

INT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, 2ND TALLEST BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

BUSINESS OWNER(54), looks 47, swivels in his chair, looks outside, 360 degree view. Distanced from the window, in the second highest city building, he sees nothing of the commotion from below.

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EXT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

Mero regains her 20 foot distance, then 40 as Essence follows.

INT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

BUSINESS WOMAN KRISTI(28) and BUSINESS MAN ANDY(32) who stand by the building corner watch as the building warps from the inside. Expressions of confusion and fascination on their face.

They look as the entire length of the wall distorts and warps from the inside.

Tries to maintain normalcy:

BUSINESS MAN ANDY  
I better call the insurance company  
to take care of that.

They stare as the upper portion of the wall begins to distort from the inside...

EXT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

...as Tero brushes against the outside of the building.

CITIZENS watch as the meropidae continue to brush against and warp building structures throughout the downtown.

The SQUACK of a small bird as it flies through the city seeking safety, Meropidae close behind.

The flock of birds behind her disperse as they realize they are being chased by Tero and Bero.

INT. VESPURIA, ANOTHER BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

FEMALE WORKER TINA(23) sits at her cubicle next to window. She glimpses something out of the corner of her eye. She stares out the window.

Mero bears down on the small bird. The small bird flies straight into the window. Mero swerves away from the building but still brushes the glass window which warps and distorts even greater than before as she continues to fly past seeking food.

Female Worker Tina speechless. The dead small bird falls to its fate below. Female Worker Tina stares out the window, her mouth dropped wide-open, she sees Bero dive toward the dead bird and Tero fly past down the same path after Mero.

EXT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

MERO'S P.O.V. - Heavily blurred vision. She sees darks and lights but no actual definitions or linear lines. Just curves, blurs and color patterns.

MERO'S P.O.V. - On the ground below a small object that vibrates, much like a groundhog. Mero detects the ultraviolet reflective urine trail that it leaves.

She stops in flight. Her wings beat slow. She remains stationary and aloft. Back arched, head down, talons extended, she parachutes straight down, wings held up in 'V' formation, to the small object on the streets below.

MERO'S P.O.V. - in blurred descent, she hones down on the blurry vibrating object, grasps it in her claws.

A rodent in her clutches, she remains stationary on the ground. In front of her on a building corner, Vespuria's Cancer Center.

EXT. VESPURIA CANCER CENTER, ROOFTOP -- CONTINUOUS

Tero flies over a COUPLE OF KIDS.

Extreme Closeup - Oil droplets release from hooked barbule of Tero's feathers. Releases white powder.

WIDE SHOT

White powder falls in excess onto both Kids as he flows over them. He lands, perches. We see the children's bodies absorb the white powder.

EXT. VESPURIA CANCER CENTER -- CONTINUOUS

On a bench slightly behind Mero, to her left, sits a YOUNG CANCER BOY(8), in hospital gown. The Young Cancer Boy reaches out, touches Mero's feathers from behind. He holds, stares up at her.

For .15 of a second, no one around her moves. Her feathers ruffle at his touch. Powder flows off them and covers the boy. Calm she turns her head and looks at him.

YOUNG CANCER BOY'S P.O.V. - Top Cancer Center building, Tero fluffs his wings. In motion, Mero feathers lift out of his hands full of the white powder. He brushes his hands against his gown near his chest. Her wings quickly flap open and closed two times. The powder floats all around him and he breathes it in.

Bero flies over Cancer Center corner building, white powder dumps on BALD GIRL(6), who holds her father's hand and slowly walks beside him on sidewalk corner.

For .15 of a second, no one moves around her. She lifts her wings at regular speed for her (which is slower than what the people see), drops more powder on the boy's body.

Bero flies up 8 inches toward roof of building opposite Vespuria Cancer Center.

IN MOTION:

BOYS MOTHER

(to Mero)

Shoo! Shoo! Go away.

She reaches for her shoe. For .15 of a second, no one moves around Mero, except Tero and Bero from their relative positions. She calmly lifts her head and stares at BOY'S MOTHER(30).

In motion, the Young Cancer Boy starts to sit up more proper. His mother pulls off one of her red high-heels.

For .15 of a second, no one moves. Mero turns her head toward the sky and lifts her wings 8 inches.

INT. VESPURIA CANCER CENTER, KARLA'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

KARLA(12) lies sick in bed with cancer. Her mother ROSITA(28) stares out the window at commotion below. Even though the boy's mother does not notice his hair stubs grow back on the Young Cancer Boy's head, Rosita does.

She grabs a small towel folded across Karla's bed as she races out of the room.

EXT. VESPURIA CANCER CENTER -- CONTINUOUS

BOYS MOTHER

I said, 'Shoo!' Dirty bird. Your germs are killing my boy!

Her arm moves to throw the red high-heel. For .15 of a second, no one moves. Mero lifts her wings high, more white powder showers the Young Cancer Boy.

In motion, his skin soaks it up and he continues to heal.

Rosita bursts through the Cancer Center's main doors. She races to Mero.

MERO'S P.O.V. - Essence approaches nearby.

ESSENCE'S P.O.V. - she cannot see the bird from its side. Only it's wing tips can be seen as they break space as it moves.

MERO'S P.O.V. - Mero thrusts her head in Essence's direction, Mero lifts off, wings softly flutter, white powder falls.

Boy's Mother still does not notice its healing power and releases her throw of the red high-heel at Mero.

For .15 of a second, no one moves. Mero opens her free claw. In motion, rodent squirms in the other. Mero captures Boy's Mother's shoe.

MERO'S P.O.V. - she turns and faces Essence head on.

ESSENCE'S P.O.V. - Now Essence can see her. Out of the corner of her eye, on the top of the opposing building, Tero perches, patiently in wait. Rosita reaches out and plucks a feather from Mero.

For .15 of a second, no one moves. Calm, Mero looks over her right shoulder at Rosita who reaches...

In motion, she plucks a second feather and in her desperation a third. To salvage all the powder she can she wraps them into the small towel. She races back inside.

For .15 of a second, no one moves. Mero turns back to Essence and takes a half-step toward her. As Essence turns back time by 30 seconds, Mero keeps walking toward her, her three feathers grow back as she does.

MERO

What are you doing?

ESSENCE

I...

Mero reaches Essence. Essence reaches out to touch her.

MERO

Uhn, uhn, uhn. Don't touch. If we touch your molecular codes will be permanently altered. Once they are altered the process can never be reversed.

(nods to boy)

He'll never get cancer again.

ESSENCE

How?

MERO

Once the molecules are altered the process can never be reversed.

She snatches the packaged fish from Essence's hands with her beak, drops it to the ground, rips the wrapping away from the fish. She picks up the raw fish in her beak, flies off.

Essence stares after her, then breaks down into molecules and follows.

Mero stops mid-flight, faces Essence full on.

MERO (CONT'D)

You're going to completely disregard me?

Essence's molecules solidify and molecularize again and again as she holds mid-flight and stares.

MERO (CONT'D)

(nods to Boy)

Look at what I just did for him...

(facetious)

Don't you believe me?

ESSENCE

Why are you here?

MERO

Parasitosis. We're forced to find a new habitat. It's no longer safe to remain where we are at.

ESSENCE

So, you're permanently migrating to Vespuria?

MERO

Perhaps.

Mero flies off. Essence remains. She reaches the ground, solidifies.

PASSERSBY gather around the Young Cancer Boy as he continues to heal before their eyes.

PASSERBY ONE

If I hadn't seen it for myself, I wouldn't have believed it.

Meropidae centers herself between Tero and Bero. Kero joins them beside her mother. Kero opens her beak, the small bird flies out.

SMALL BIRD

(chirps with delight)

Hovers excitedly, flaps her small wings.

PASSERBY TWO (O.S.)

Are you alright?

YOUNG CANCER BOY

I feel...

Looks to his mother.//Atop the building, the meropidae rip the raw fish and eat it.

## YOUNG CANCER BOY (CONT'D)

Mom...

DOCTOR PETERSEN(42) comes from out of the Center. Pushes his way through the crowd.

DOCTOR PETERSEN

Let me through. I'm his doctor. Let me through.

ESSENCE'S P.O.V. - she looks up at the meropidae, they fly off toward The Cliffs, Kero rides his mother's back. He grows 0.025" in height.

BOYS MOTHER

Oh!

The Doctor stares at his patient, his mouth partially dropped. The Young Cancer Boy's body absorbs the last of the white powder that fell from Mero's feathers.

DOCTOR PETERSEN

What is it?

YOUNG CANCER BOY

I don't know? But, I think I'm going to live.

DOCTOR PETERSEN

Yeah. Yeah. Let's just run some tests first.

Young Cancer Boy stands. His mother cries silent tears of joy. The crowd opens a path as the Doctor, arm around boy's shoulder, and the boy's mother, her hand tightly grasps his walk him back to the clinic.

PASSERBY THREE (O.S.)

Did you see how fast that bird's wings moved?

PASSERBY FOUR (O.S.)

Bird? That wasn't a bird.

PASSERBY THREE

Looked like a human-meropidae to me.

PASSERBY FIVE

It has wings like a bird.

PASSERBY THREE

(to himself)

If there is such a thing.

PASSERBY FOUR

Meropidae? What's that?

## PASSERBY THREE

A bird that eats wasps. Things like that.

Essence, behind the crowd, molecularizes, floats to Karla's room, enters from the outside.

INT. VESPURIAS CANCER CENTER, KARLA'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Rosita sits next to her sick daughter.

ROSITA

Here baby, momma got this for you.

The girl in too much pain to move softly looks at her mother. Rosita brushes the feathers against her daughter's face and over her exposed skin, careful to always clutch the feathers in the towel so that only her daughter absorbs the white healing powder.

Rosita sees Essence, says nothing, just watches as her daughter heals.

Karla reaches up, grasps her mother's forearm.

KARLA

Mom...

Her mother looks at her.

KARLA (CONT'D)

This doesn't feel right.

ROSITA

What do you mean, baby?

Rosita confused and distressed.

KARLA

I don't feel I have any purpose here anymore.

ROSITA

No. Don't talk like that.

She brushes the feather against her fresh, young skin.

ROSITA (CONT'D)

(whispers)

You'll find a purpose. It will come to you when you're all better.

Karla releases her hand from her mother's forearm.

KARLA

(lost)

Okay, mama. If you say so.

ROSITA

I do, baby. I say so.

INT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, 2ND TALLEST BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

Business Owner stands by window, looks through binoculars at The Cliffs. He sees two people climb.

BUSINESS OWNER

(to himself)

Huh. I wonder what they're doing.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- AFTERNOON

Bert Stein and BETH STEIN(46), also an Ornithologist and his wife, climb the steep cliffs to the meropidae's nest.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

Mero's three cousins land and stand on either side of her. They hear the sounds of the climbers 1000 feet below.

TERO

What do they want?

They walk the edge of the cliff. Bero looks down the long cliffside to the climbers, a couple of dots.

Mero sticks the live rodent in her beak, swallows it whole.

TERO (CONT'D)

There must be more where that came from.

KERO

What about me?

MERO

Here.

She gives him the high-heeled red shoe. Tero tries to put his beak around the object but cannot. He spits it out into the nest.

TERO

Whatever that was, it wasn't edible.

Tero takes off in flight.

KERO

I wanna go. I wanna go.

BERO

No. You stay here.

KERO

But, why can't I go?

BERO

You're too young, and I'm tired.  
It's safest if you stay here with  
Mero. Let Tero and I take care of  
the food.

Bero remains for a moment. Kero grows 0.025" in height.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

Bert and Beth look up in time to see Tero glide off the  
cliffs. Beth shivers as she watches.

BETH

I hope it doesn't see us.

BERT

Don't worry, birds have poor eyesight.  
We're still a thousand feet below.  
They won't even know we're coming.

Beth remains still against the cliffs. Bert climbs higher.

BERT (CONT'D)

Come on, Beth.

Beth sees Bero take off in flight, she remains still, her  
body pressed against the cliffs.

BETH

I'm not taking any chances.

Bert decides with her and remains still against the rocks as  
Bero flies farther out of their sight.

BETH (CONT'D)

Do you think we should call it in?

BERT

Mayor Rodriguez wants us to keep it  
quiet.

BETH

I don't want to be responsible for  
somebody's death.

Bert looks down the cliff at her.

BERT

I don't want us to lose our jobs.

Beth watches the two meropidae fly toward the ocean.

BETH

I guess it'll be alright.

They continue to climb.

INT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, 2ND TALLEST BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

Business Owner still looks through binoculars at The Cliffs. He looks higher up and sees the Kero and Mero.

Through binoculars, he sees Tero and Bero fly toward the ocean.

BUSINESS OWNER

(to himself)

Huh. I wonder if anyone knows about them?

He looks back at Bert and Beth Stein. Their backs to him as they climb.

He looks up the cliffside. Discovers Mero and Kero. Kero plays childlike. Mero preens herself. Both innocuous to their visitors below.

BUSINESS OWNER (CONT'D)

I guess they'll be alright.

Back down to Beth and Bert Stein.

INT. WASP'S NEST -- AFTERNOON

Jeeves looks over the Wasp Motorcycle.

JEEVES

It's beyond repair, sir. I'll have to build a new one for you.

TOM

Thanks, Jeeves.

Essence enters, sees Wasp Motorcycle. She looks at it.

ESSENCE

What's that?

TOM

Don't ask.

JEEVES

His motorcycle.

ESSENCE

You saw them.

TOM

One came bearing down on me this morning after you left while I was still riding through the outskirts of the city.

ESSENCE  
It attacked you?

TOM  
You sound surprised.

ESSENCE  
The only thing hurt in Vespuria were  
the buildings. Warped every one of  
them they touched.  
(takes a moment)  
It warned me...

TOM  
Of what?

ESSENCE  
The damage it can do to my molecular  
make-up if I touch it.

Tom looks at his motorcycle, then looks back at Essence.  
Looks her over from head-to-toe.

ESSENCE (CONT'D)  
It healed a young boy with cancer.

Tom takes a deep sigh.

TOM  
What?

ESSENCE  
And a young girl.

JEEVES  
I'll take care of this.

He takes the motorcycle out of the room.

TOM  
Thanks, Jeeves.

ESSENCE  
Then, it flew to The Cliffs. I think  
that's where it's nest is.

TOM  
I missed my meeting with the Mayor  
this morning. I bet he knows  
something.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- EVENING

Tero and Bero return with fish in them. They upchuck them  
onto the cliff's ledge. They fold their wings, their arms  
pull out of the underwing coverts. Their talons turn to human  
like feet. They walk inside a cave opening.

DOLLY OUT

Bert and Beth reach the lip of the ledge near the nest.

BETH  
(whispers)  
What are they doing?

BERT  
I don't know.

We glimpse a bird's eye just inside the darkness of the cave.

Bert steps up on the cliff ledge, sees fish flop, their gills fill with air, none of the meropidae in sight.

Beth joins Bert.

BETH  
(whispers)  
I didn't see them leave again.

BERT  
Maybe they're resting. It's getting late.

BETH  
Hurry it up, so we can get out of here.

Bert walks to the flopping fish, his back to the cave.

Her back to the cave and fish, Beth scans skyline expanse for the meropidae.

Bert grabs a flask on his hip labeled 'POISON'. Pulls it out of its holder, opens it. Pours the poison on the fish.

Beth at him, she cautiously looks around, nervous.

INT. CAVE, THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

TERO'S P.O.V. - Tero stands sideways to the cave, back to Bert. Tero sees 180 degrees outside out of his left eye. Sees Bert's back as Bert leans over the fish, appears to be checking the fish out.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

The fish flop a few more times, then die.

BERT  
(calls back)  
I'm done.

He screws the lid of the container and sets it back in its holder. Beth climbs back over the cliff's edge.

In fear, Beth squashes her body against the cliff and remains silent. She waits for Bert.

BETH'S P.O.V. - Bert eases himself off the ledge.

BERT'S P.O.V. - He faces and looks into the rockside.

INT. CAVE, THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

Mero stands beside Tero.

MERO  
What were they doing up here?

TERO  
Just checking out the nest and what  
type of fish we eat.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

BERT  
(calls down)  
Get going, Beth.

Beth descends.

BETH  
I'm going, Bert. As fast as I can.

She slowly slides down the cliff's side. Shivers with the same level of intensity. A rock slips out of her hand it falls down and against the cliffside. She holds still afraid the birds will hear.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

Mero, Tero, Bero and Kero walk out of the cave opening. We hear what they hear. The ROCK FALLS against the side of the cliff.

BERO  
Think one of them fell?

Bero walks to the edge, looks down at the tops of Bert's and Beth's head. Neither see her.

TERO  
Are they gone?

BERO  
No.

MERO  
Just eat.

On the cliff ledge they swallow the fish whole.

Bero takes her fish to Kero, holds it over her head. Kero swallows the fish offered.

KERO  
(mouth full)  
Mmmmmmmmm. I love fish.

SHOT - Kero holds one-third of the fish in her beak, she grows 0.025" in height as she fully stretches her neck, vertical to her body. She slowly swallows the fish in intakes of an inch or two at a time.

The others swallow down a few more whole fish.

They hear the SOUNDS OF VESPURIA CITY, a collage of CITY SOUNDS, no distinct voice or conversation but the distinct HEAVY BREATHS of BERT and BETH.

They perch for their night's rest.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, OVERVIEW, THE CLIFFS --  
CONTINUOUS

Their nictitating membrane horizontally closes across their eyes, except Kero, he shows signs of pain.

KERO  
I don't feel good.

MERO  
Shhh now.

KERO  
I really don't feel good, mama.

He grows more pale and more sick.

BERO  
What's wrong little one?

KERO  
I don't know.

They all look at Kero helpless.

BERO  
Do something.

Mero moves her head side-to-side looks everywhere but at Kero and Bero.

KERO  
(pleads)  
Mama...

Tero looks away ashamed, tilts his head, glances at Kero out of his eye.

KERO (CONT'D)

Mama.

Bero gently nudges his beak against Kero's face. Kero holds his stomach. He falls over the ledge.

KERO (CONT'D)  
(beautiful death song)

The meropidae jilt their heads, stare after Kero. Her wing brushes against the side of the cliffs, it warps.

MERO'S P.O.V. - Crystal clear, she watches Kero.

As Kero glides down headfirst, he grows 0.025" in height, wings broken, to her death on the ground 1000 feet below.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

Beth presses her body against the cliffs in fright.

KERO (O.S.)  
(sings beautiful death  
song)

Beth opens her eyes.

BETH'S P.O.V. - Kero as she dives past.

KERO'S P.O.V. - A blurry vision of Bert and Beth as she passes by them.

KERO (CONT'D)  
(sings beautiful death  
song)

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS LEDGE -- CONTINUOUS

MERO'S P.O.V. - She looks up, across the landscape to Vespuria and at Bero at same time, with her 180 degree sight in her right eye.

MERO  
We're all going to die, Bero.

TERO  
You know time is constant for us. We all live the same exact amount of time, then die. Her death wasn't necessary.

MERO  
Only time will tell.

BERO  
Mero...Kero was a quarter our age. He had a lot of life left to live.

MERO  
Yes, she did.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, OVERVIEW FROM THE CLIFFS --  
CONTINUOUS

MERO'S P.O.V. - We see Vespuria as blurred ultraviolet colors only.

MERO  
Time is relative to them. Some die young, others old. They all have different timelines.

Mero remains quiet.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

Mero, Bero and Tero fly off the cliff's edge.

MERO  
(shrills)

Beth releases her hand from the cliffside, she slips, falls, flips backwards, bangs against cliffside, slips even further down.

AT DIFFERENT SOUND LEVELS:

BERO  
(shrills)

TERO  
(shrills)  
I know they had something to do with this.

MERO  
Do nothing, Tero.

ZOOM IN

The rope tightens, Bert slips down the side of the cliff after Beth. He grasps for a hold point. He captures an open crevice, slips his hand inside. We see a rat SQUEAL and move around inside it.

ZOOM OUT

The meropidae circle above them. Beth swings out off the Cliffside, bounces back to it.

ZOOM IN

She bounces back and forth a few more times before she is able to grasp a stronghold alongside the cliff.

BERT  
 (calls down)  
 You okay?

BETH  
 (calls up)  
 Yeah.

ZOOM OUT

Mero, Bero and Tero glide in circles above them.

ZOOM IN

Beth shivers in pure fear as she tries to remain still.

BETH (CONT'D)  
 I don't feel good about this, Bert.

BERT  
 Keep going Beth.

BETH  
 I'm too afraid, Bert.

Tero bears down on them. Beth slides down as fast as she can to avoid the attack. Tero angles toward the crevice, perches just above.

ANGLE ON -

Bert knocks the rocks out from under his perch.

ANGLE ON -

Rocks fall knock Beth on the head, she releases her grip.

ANGLE ON -

Tero falls, wings shoot upward in a V, he randomly touches and warps rocks above Bert. Tero grabs Beth in his talons, his feathers randomly brushes against and warps more rock.

BETH (CONT'D)  
 (screams)

Bert quickly releases the metal clasp that binds him and Beth together. Tero pulls Beth away from the edge. The rope and hook free float in the air.

ANGLE ON -

Bert slips sideways toward a narrow, horizontal opening in the cliff where the rat now SQUEALS and squirms inside.

DOLLY OUT

Bero appears to bear down on him.

BERT'S P.O.V. - he squints and hugs the cliffside, dirt in his mouth.

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

Bert!

ZOOM OUT

Tero struggles to hold height from Beth's weight. He drops height a foot at a time.

Bert swings his body outward and with the hooked end of the rope hits Bero square on the side of the face.

Bero is thrown momentarily from her pursuit.

b.g. Tero hovers in the near distance with Beth.

Extreme Closeup - Bert slides sideways, closer to the opening.

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

Bert!

Bero regains herself flies at Bert again.

It starts to pour rain. The meropidae's feathers cannot withstand the downward pressure of the rain.

MERO

Bero, land before the rain weighs you down.

Bero resides. She and Mero land on the cliff's edge. The water bounces off their wings as they shake them.

Beth hooks her rope around Tero's talons and tightens it through eye of hook.

Bert slips into the narrow crevice, the rat SQUEALS and scurries away from him.

INT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, CLIFFS CREVICE -- CONTINUOUS

On his stomach Bert lies and looks out.

BERT'S P.O.V. - he sees the heavier rain and the shadow of Tero still hover in flight. Tero falls from the excessive weight and downward pressure of rain.

BERT

(calls out)

Beth!

CLOSE UP - Beth looks up at him.

ZOOM OUT - Tero releases Beth from his talons.

INT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, 2ND TALLEST BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

BUSINESS OWNER'S P.O.V. - through binoculars he watches Bert. Sees Bert stare at something. Follows his gaze to Beth just as she falls from Tero's talons.

WIDE SHOT - he pulls the binoculars away from his face.

BUSINESS OWNER

Oh. That can't be good.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, CLIFFS CREVICE -- CONTINUOUS

ZOOM IN - to crevice. Bert closes his eyes, unable to watch.

INT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, 2ND TALLEST BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

Business Owner scratches his head.

BUSINESS OWNER

What to do...Hmmm. There were two of them. There's nothing I can do about her. Hmmm.

Picks up his phone.

BUSINESS OWNER (CONT'D)

Hi. I need my helicopter prepared to fly to The Cliffs.

PILOT (O.S.)

It's pouring rain, sir. It's too dangerous to fly.

BUSINESS OWNER

Then I'll go alone. Prepare the helicopter. I cannot sit by and do nothing.

PILOT (O.S.)

I'll have it ready in five minutes, sir.

BUSINESS OWNER

Thanks.

He looks back outside through his binoculars.

I/E WASP'S NEST -- LATE EVENING

Tom looks outside the window as rain pours across the city skyline.

Essence pours him a drink of nectar.

ESSENCE

Did you speak with Mayor Rodriguez?

TOM

He said that all was fine in the city.

He turns to Essence.

TOM (CONT'D)

Said he has Bert Stein, a local Ornithologist, taking care of the problem.

Jeeves enters the compartment, a folder in hand.

JEEVES

I pulled this information, sir, after we spoke this morning.

Essence and Tom look at Jeeves. He opens it, reads.

JEEVES (CONT'D)

The Meropidae human-bird evolved from bird to bird-human centuries ago to ensure their survival. Their former small body size would have led to their eventual demise.

TOM

How so?

JEEVES

The food became too large for them to consume. They could not rip up the food into sizes small enough to consume. Their beaks were too small.

ESSENCE

Didn't your mother ever tell you, "Don't bite off more than you can chew."

Tom and Jeeves look at Essence for a moment.

JEEVES

So she has, Ms. Essence. The small meropidae did become extinct. From starvation. Only the larger, evolved bird-humans, survived.

TOM

Why haven't we ever heard of them before.

JEEVES  
 (straight face)  
 You don't get out much, sir.

TOM  
 Who knew this world was so big.

Jeeves smiles. Continues.

JEEVES  
 They never migrate to this part.

TOM  
 What are they doing here now.

Jeeves puts the folder aside.

JEEVES  
 There's an entire civilization of  
 them, sir. Tens of thousands.

TOM  
 Are they a threat to the citizens of  
 Vespuria.

He takes his reading glasses off, the tip in his mouth, he  
 joins Tom at the window. He looks out.

JEEVES  
 Essence is right, they offer healing  
 qualities that we've been searching  
 for.

Tom looks at him.

JEEVES (CONT'D)  
 That's all I could find on them.

Tom gives Jeeve's a look.

JEEVES (CONT'D)  
 It probably came after you because  
 of your wasp DNA, sir.

TOM  
 (to Jeeves)  
 Am I to believe that Essence and I  
 are the ones who are in danger of  
 this...these...human-meropidae. While  
 everyone else in Vespuria is safe.

JEEVES  
 You could say that, sir.

EXT. WASP'S NEST -- CONTINUOUS

Rain pours outside.

JEEVES (O.S.)

I think there was an irruption in their migration patterns. Or, perhaps they're lost, sir?

INT. WASP'S NEST -- CONTINUOUS

JEEVES

Whatever the case, we're lucky to have them here.

Tom gives Jeeves another look.

ESSENCE

Wherever they're from is no longer habitable. They have a parasite problem. They're looking to make Vespuria a permanent home.

Tom and Jeeves stare at her.

ESSENCE (CONT'D)

It told me. I asked.

They stare back out the window.

ESSENCE (CONT'D)

Didn't your mother ever tell you...

IN UNISON

"Ask and you shall receive."

Tom looks at her.

TOM

Actually, that was from the father.

EXT. WASP'S NEST -- CONTINUOUS

TOM (O.S.)

I'd better go take a look. Just in case Bert's having a problem.

ESSENCE (O.S.)

Be careful Tom.

EXT. WASP'S NEST -- CONTINUOUS

We see through window into compartment, Tom leaves the room.

Essence stares out window, nectar drink in hand.

ESSENCE

(to herself)

I'd be of no use to you, or anyone, in this rain.

EXT. WASP'S NEST, BALCONY -- CONTINUOUS

CLOSE UP - Wasp stands outside in the rain.

PAN - He looks slowly across the city skyline. He hears only the HEAVY RAIN.

MOVING SHOT - He flies towards the cliffs.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

Beth swings and hangs down rope tied to Tero's talons.

TERO  
(shrieks)

Beth's weight and the water pressure have drug Tero 500 feet down. He frequently shakes his wings to dispose of excess water. Splashes Beth with streams of water.

ANGLE ON -

They drop straight down because Tero cannot hold his height position.

SFX - Tero hears WASP'S WINGS FLAP.

Without looking in Wasp's direction, Tero bends his head down, pecks at rope. He attacks it.

SFX - Tero hears WASP'S WINGS.

ANGLE ON -

Beth looks in wait for the inevitable, yet she holds on.

ANGLE ON -

Tero, one final peck of the rope. Severs it.

ANGLE ON -

Beth falls, passes out from the fright and cold. Wasp catches her.

DOLLY OUT

He looks back and sees Tero dive feet first the last 400 feet, lands on the ground.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, CLIFF CREVICE -- CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON -

Bert squints. Sees Wasp.

BERT  
 (yells)  
 Hey! Wasp! Up here!

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

Wasp, mid-flight, looks around for the source of the sound.

BERT  
 (muted through rain)  
 Hey! Here! I'm over here!

Wasp sees the other meropidae atop the cliff's ledge. None fly after him. He looks down the cliffside, sees Bert, sees faint activity of light in warped rock areas around Bert. Wasp flies toward Bert.

INT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, 2ND TALLEST BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

Phone rings.

PILOT (O.S.)  
 Your helicopter is ready, sir.

BUSINESS OWNER  
 I'm on my way.

He takes one last look outside.

BUSINESS OWNER'S P.O.V. - through binoculars. He sees Wasp's back, as he speaks to Bert. He cannot see Beth in Wasp's arms.

BUSINESS OWNER (CONT'D)  
 Cancel that.

PILOT (O.S.)  
 Sir?

BUSINESS OWNER  
 Cancel that. Looks like everything's going to be alright.

PILOT (O.S.)  
 You sure, sir?

BUSINESS OWNER  
 Yes.

PILOT (O.S.)  
 Sir, maybe you should get some rest?

BUSINESS OWNER  
 Hmmmm. Maybe you're right.

The phone CLICKS...

SFX - ...and grows to the sound of RAIN as it POPS against the ROCKS.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, CLIFF CREVICE -- CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON -

BERT  
Is she alright?

WASP  
Yes.

BERT  
My wife. I had to release her. Our weight together...would have been too much...deadly. Letting her go was her only chance...

WASP  
I understand.

BERT  
(to himself)  
So does she.

Wasp looks at him. Out of the corner of his eyes the active faint light flows in warped area.

WASP  
Mayor Rodriguez didn't mention her.

BERT  
The Mayor. His ways. My wife's an Ornithologist too. We work together. We try an do everything together.

Wasp looks up at the cliff.

BERT (CONT'D)  
They can't fly in the rain. The downward pressure is too much for their wings.

Wasp looks down in Tero's direction. Sees white movement amongst the dark across the ground.

WASP  
Let me get her to safety.

BERT  
Okay.

He flies away.

BERT (CONT'D)  
 (calls after)  
 I'll be here.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, BOTTOM OF CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

Kero, human-like feet, arms outstretched from underwing coverts, walks around with childlike curiosity, checking things out.

He tilts his head up, GURGLS water in his throat as he drinks the pouring rain.

KERO  
 (twitters)

EXT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ENTRANCE --  
 MOMENTS LATER

Wasp lays Beth on the ground in front of the Emergency Exit doors. The MEDICAL STAFF inside, see her. They rush out to help her.

NURSE  
 We got her.

Wasp takes flight. Medical Staff tend to Beth below.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA -- MOMENTS LATER

Wasp flies mid-way to the cliffs. The water flows right off his wings.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, CLIFF CREVICE -- MOMENTS LATER

WASP  
 Come on out.

Bert crawls out of the crevice.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, CLIFF LEDGE -- CONTINUOUS

MERO'S P.O.V. - she looks down at the clear images of Wasp, and Bert, as he climbs out of crevice.

Extreme Closeup - Her nictitating membrane closes over one cone at a time.

MERO'S P.O.V. - Images of Wasp and Bert go from clear to ultraviolet blurry to blurry.

Dissolve.

EXT. CITY HALL, SIDEWALK MAYOR'S OFFICE -- NEXT MORNING

Extreme Closeup - Fallen contaminated mortar with active faint lights from warp of building.

DOLLY OUT

DOCTOR PATIENCE(39) picks up piece. Holds in her hand. Watches the faded active lights bounce around inside.

DOCTOR PATIENCE

Hmmmm.

She places mortar inside her purse.

CLOSE UP -

her hands as one of the lights bounce off the mortar and onto her hands. She clips purse close.

Dissolve.

INT. CITY HALL, MAYORS OFFICE -- NEXT MORNING

Doctor Petersen sits across from the Mayor. Two other DOCTORS pace with appetency.

DOCTOR RAY

We finally have it...

DOCTOR BIGGS

I just can't believe it...It's a miracle. Truly. It is.

DOCTOR RAY

We finally have it...

MAYOR

What's all the excitement about?

Doctor Patience enters the room.

DOCTOR PETERSEN

(clears his throat)

The cure for cancer...

DOCTOR RAY

We finally have it.

Doctor Patience stares at Mayor.

DOCTOR BIGGS

Did you hear what he said? We *finally* have it.

MAYOR

How?

DOCTOR BIGGS

6 million people a year...die...and we can finally save them.

MAYOR

How?

DOCTOR BIGGS

Those...gigantic...human-meropidae.

Mayor sits up in his chair. Leans forward hard on his desk.

MAYOR

Come again?

DOCTOR PETERSEN

We need to trap them...Hold them captive...So we can study them...

DOCTOR RAY

I don't know about that...

DOCTOR BIGGS

...and use them to heal our cancer patients.

MAYOR

I don't think that's possible.

Telephone speaker BUZZES.

ASSISTANT (O.S.)

Mayor Rodriguez? Bert Stein is here for his appointment.

MAYOR

Send him in.

DOCTOR PETERSEN

Bert Stein!

Beth walks through the door, looks around.

BETH

Doctors.

Doctor Petersen stands and moves next to the other doctors.

DOCTOR PETERSEN

You know.

BETH

Yes.

Beth puts morning paper on the table. Photo of birds by Cancer Center with article titled, "STRANGE HUMAN-MEROPIDAE CURES CANCER".

DOCTOR PETERSEN

This is great!

BETH  
No. You don't understand...

The room grows quiet, everyone turns and stares at Beth.

INT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN BUILDING -- MORNING

Business Man Andy's body reacts from an allergy which has captivated his entire body.

BUSINESS MAN ANDY  
(sneezes)

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR(45) hands him a Kleenex.

BUSINESS MAN ANDY (CONT'D)  
Thank you.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
This is not covered.

BUSINESS MAN ANDY  
What do you...  
(sneezes)  
Mean...  
(sneezes)  
It's not covered. Just look at it.

Business Woman Kristi joins them, she looks just as bad. Insurance Adjustor takes out measuring tape, measures.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
You've had no real loss of usable space. You'll just have to rearrange things around the office just a bit.

Insurance Adjustor moves around a large office plant to work with the new floor plan.

BUSINESS WOMAN KRISTI  
(sneezes)

He hands her a Kleenex.

BUSINESS WOMAN KRISTI (CONT'D)  
Thank you.

Steps away from his work.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
There, it's just fine. See.

Marks a big fat X in the DENIED box on the form on his clipboard.

BUSINESS MAN ANDY  
But it...it looks...awful.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR

Looks just fine to me.

BUSINESS WOMAN KRISTI

What he means is, it doesn't match  
the other three walls of the building.

Insurance Adjustor looks 360 degrees around floor.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR

Oh.

He bends down, knocks on "damaged" wall. Faint light moves  
around inside wall.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)

It's solid.

He bends down, peers near the floor, his hand on the wall to  
keep his balance.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)

No gaps, holes, openings. The  
engineering of the structure is still  
sound.

He signs the form, rips off a copy, hands to Business Man  
Andy.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)

Here's your copy.

Business Man Andy takes it.

BUSINESS MAN ANDY

But, what about the other three walls?  
(sneezes)

Insurance Adjustor hands him another Kleenex.

BUSINESS MAN ANDY (CONT'D)

(accepts)  
Thanks.

Insurance Adjustor pulls card out of his pocket.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR

Beauty's in the eye of the beholder.  
Alter the other three to look like  
this one.

He taps the wall.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)

This looks better to me. Besides...  
(MORE)

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)  
 (hands him card)  
 We don't cover freak of nature  
 disasters. Call me if anything else  
 comes up.

Closes his satchel.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)  
 Oh, get that checked out. Nasty stuff.

BUSINESS MAN ANDY  
 (sneezes)

Hands him another Kleenex.

BUSINESS MAN ANDY (CONT'D)  
 Thanks.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
 You don't happen to need health  
 insurance, do you?

BUSINESS MAN ANDY  
 No thanks.  
 (sneezes)

Insurance Adjustor hands him another Kleenex.

BUSINESS MAN ANDY (CONT'D)  
 I'm covered.

Insurance Adjustor takes out another card, hands it over.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
 My brother. He's a doctor at Vespuria  
 City Hospital.

BUSINESS MAN ANDY  
 Thanks.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
 Brings me most my business. I've got  
 to get out of property insurance. No  
 money in it. You know how it is...

Takes his leave.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)  
 ...people filing complaints about  
 damage...when the building's just  
 fine. You should see the pile I got  
 in just this morning. All along this  
 street.  
 (looks back, gives  
 Andy once over)  
 What'd you people do? Congregate.

Insurance Adjustor mumbles rants all the way out the door.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)

(voice fades)

I must look like a money funnel, if there is such a thing. I might have to file for a divorce..if it's not one thing it's another...didn't there use to be something about tit for tat...

Door shuts.

BUSINESS MAN ANDY

Am I being unreasonable?

Business Woman Kristi shrugs.

BUSINESS WOMAN KRISTI

(sneezes into Kleenex)

INT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL, PATIENT ROOM -- AFTERNOON

FEMALE WORKER TINA (V.O.)

(sneezes)

Doctor Patience hands Tina a Kleenex.

DOCTOR PATIENCE

I don't know how to tell you this.

FEMALE WORKER TINA

Well, try.

DOCTOR BIGGS

The DNA in your body reproduces itself by using an enzyme as a catalyst. The enzyme that works as a catalyst has been blocked from it's function by some foreign body. It is preventing the molecules from connecting.

FEMALE WORKER TINA

Which means?

DOCTOR PATIENCE

Your genetic code is ceasing to exist.

FEMALE WORKER TINA

My genetic code is ceasing to exist?! What?

DOCTOR PATIENCE

Your DNA literally unravels itself right before connecting with protein molecules that spiral together and create new DNA.

FEMALE WORKER TINA  
What does that mean?

Doctor Patience just looks at her.

FEMALE WORKER TINA (CONT'D)  
I'm going to die. Arent' I?

Doctor Patience just looks at her.

FEMALE WORKER TINA (CONT'D)  
This..this can't be. How?

DOCTOR PATIENCE  
Your DNA is not duplicating itself.  
It's unravelling.

FEMALE WORKER TINA  
I'm unravelling out of existence?!

DOCTOR PATIENCE  
That's...the reality.

FEMALE WORKER TINA  
No, I mean. How did this happen?

DOCTOR PATIENCE  
I don't know...

FEMALE WORKER TINA  
How did this happen to me?  
(pleads with Doctor)  
I'm not suppose to die yet.

Doctor Patience stares at her.

FEMALE WORKER TINA (CONT'D)  
Don't you understand? I'm not suppose  
to die yet.

DOCTOR PATIENCE  
There's nothing...

Tina gets up, puts her hand heavy on Doctor Patience's  
shoulder.

FEMALE WORKER TINA  
I'm not suppose to die yet.

DOCTOR PATIENCE  
There's nothing *I* can do.

Female Worker Tina at door.

FEMALE WORKER TINA  
I'm telling you. I'm not suppose to  
die yet. I just know it.

DOCTOR PATIENCE  
 Death...is only a matter of time,  
 for all of us.

FEMALE WORKER TINA  
 It's not...my time...do you  
 understand?...it's not...my time.

Helpless Tina leaves. Doctor Patience races for a Kleenex.

DOCTOR PATIENCE  
 (sneezes)

INT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL, HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Doctor Patience walks a few doors down. Enters a room  
 'PREGNANCY TEST ROOM'.

EXT. VESPURIA CANCER CENTER, PREGNANCY TEST ROOM --  
 CONTINUOUS

Doctor Patience shuts door behind her. She looks over stacks  
 of tubes of sperm. Sees one with red cap, labeled 'DOCTOR  
 RAY'.

She takes tube, injects needle, pulls out sperm. Injects  
 right into her body.

DOCTOR PATIENCE  
 (to herself)  
 I've always loved you Ray. If you  
 can't save me, then nothing will.

She throws the tube onto the floor, it shatters. She looks  
 around. Cleans it up.

Documents on clipboard, "ACCIDENTAL SPILLAGE", then signs  
 it.

EXT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL -- CONTINUOUS

Tina walks past a long line that wraps the city block.  
 CITIZENS stand in line.

VARIOUS CITIZENS  
 (sneeze)

In opposite direction, Insurance Adjustor walks down line of  
 Citizens.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
 Do you need health insurance?

CITIZEN 1  
 (sneezes)

Insurance Adjustor hands him a Kleenex.

CITIZEN 1 (CONT'D)

No.

CITIZEN 2

I don't. But, my mother does.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR

How old is she?

CITIZEN 2 (O.S.)

Sixty-three.

Tina looks at the line in disbelief.

SUZIE (O.S.)

Tina!

Tina turns.

TINA

Suzie?

SUZIE

Yeah.

(sneezes)

Nice to see you. Did you see those birds?

Further down the line.

CITIZEN 3

Did you see those birds, yesterday?

CITIZEN 4

Yeah! What a sight. Brushed right past...or should I say through the building.

CITIZEN 5

Talk about a science project in motion. School was never so cool.

CITIZEN 6

You saw them, too? I think one touched me as it brushed by.

CITIZEN 7

It touched you? Naw.

CITIZEN 6

Really.

CITIZENS IN UNISON

(idle chatter)

Insurance Adjustor overhears. Concerned.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
 (to Citizen 2)  
 Sorry to cut this so short. If you'll  
 just sign here.

He caps his pen, rips off the top form, hands it to Citizen  
 2.

INT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL -- CONTINUOUS

DOCTOR PATIENCE  
 Provide the miracle of life and taketh  
 away at the same time.

DOCTOR BIGGS  
 What are we going to do?

Tina comes rushing in.

TINA  
 Doctor Patience. I know the source.

DOCTOR PATIENCE  
 We already know.

DOCTOR BIGGS  
 We'll have to order the city to tear  
 down and completely rebuild those  
 walls.

TINA  
 But, what about me?

They look away.

TINA (CONT'D)  
 No. No. There must be something you  
 can do?  
 (pleads)

Without looking at her.

DOCTOR BIGGS  
 We can only help prevent further  
 spread of contamination.  
 (to Doctor Patience)  
 I'll call the Mayor.

TINA  
 What about me?!

DOCTOR PATIENCE  
 (looks at ground)  
 We can't reverse...we can't stop  
 the...

She looks at Tina.

DOCTOR PATIENCE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

They walk away. Doctor Patience puts her hand on her belly.

DOCTOR PATIENCE (CONT'D)

(whispers to herself)

Not everybody was meant to live.

\*

She traces her hand along the collar of her jacket.

Dissolve.

INT. WASP'S NEST, BEDROOM COMPARTMENT -- MORNING

Tom puts on his tie. Their compartment balcony window doors are open enough to let in the fresh air.

TOM

Essence, I want you to stay here until we find out more about this visitor of ours.

ESSENCE

Tom, I think you're being a bit extreme.

TOM

I don't trust it.

She looks at him. He looks her in the eyes.

TOM (CONT'D)

If its curing cancer, then why would it be a threat to you if you touch it?

ESSENCE

Tom. I already told you.

TOM

Essence, if it's such a positive being, then it should not harm you in any manner.

ESSENCE

I can't stay here all day cooped up.

She looks outside at the great expanse of the city and freedom.

TOM

It's only one day.

ESSENCE

Tom...

Tom nears her.

TOM

I'll tell you what my father told me. "Love one woman, and love her passionately." If anything happens to you..I have nothing.

He kisses her.

TOM (CONT'D)

Please, Essence...

One of her molecules floats off her and lands on Tom.

EXT. WASP'S GARAGE -- MOMENTS LATER

Tom sits behind wheel of SPEEDSTER, Wasp's car. Essence's molecule dissipates and creates an aura around Tom. He loses his focus. In euphoria he thinks of Essence.

EXT. WASP'S NEST, FULL BALCONY -- SAME TIME

Essence rubs her arms for warmth in the frigid morning air. She looks across, takes in the view. Jeeves walks out on the balcony, places large flower bin on far end. Essence turns.

ESSENCE

Where'd you get that, Jeeves? It's beautiful.

JEEVES

It's what's left of Mr. Moore's motorcycle. If you'll excuse me, ma'am.

He goes back into nest.

Essence strolls over to the flower bed, touches and admires flowers. Sifts her hands through soil.

Behind her back a feather tip seen by audience as it brushes against her right cheek and down around to the back of her neck. Essence shivers at the soft touch, but sees nothing.

She turns, Mero lands five feet away.

ESSENCE

I didn't see you.

MERO

Kero.

Kero is seen as she turns perpendicular to Essence to a parallel position in front of her. Kero grows 0.025" height.

MERO (CONT'D)

Get away from her Kero. You didn't touch her, did you?

Kero gives hidden look of guilt, then extreme innocence. Steps softly away from Essence.

KERO'S P.O.V. - 3 of her 4 eye cones are covered by the nicitating membrane. Essence goes from crystal clear color to ultraviolet light. Her vibration frequency is very high.

KERO

Euuuuu.

Mero pulls her arms out from her underwing coverts. She walks a pace. Essence stares.

MERO

I understand his concern.

ESSENCE

Whose?

MERO

Tom. Is it?

MERO'S P.O.V. - moves her head around in bird-like fashion, sees 360 degrees.

Kero plays with something nearby.

KERO

(twitters)

MERO

Your mother has been worried sick about you.

KERO

But, I just wanted to play.

Kero, with childlike curiosity checks Essence out. Essence watches Kero grow 0.025" in height. She blinks hard and shakes her head in disbelief.

Bero lands.

BERO

There you are, young lady. I've been looking all over for you. Where have you been? You come with me right now.

KERO

Yes, mom.

She stands behind Bero. Bero takes off in flight.

BERO (O.S.)  
 Why did you have to go off and scare  
 me like that?

(fades)  
 I didn't get a wink of sleep all  
 night.

EXT. WASP'S NEST, FULL BALCONY -- CONTINUOUS

MERO  
 Sorry for the intrusion. You know  
 how kids are.

ESSENCE  
 Why is it you will hurt me if we  
 touch?

MERO  
 I won't, dear.

ESSENCE  
 But, you said, you would hurt my  
 molecular make-up if we touch.

MERO  
 No dear. I said, if we touch, your  
 molecular codes will be permanently  
 altered.

ESSENCE  
 What does that mean?

MERO  
 You heard him, dear.

ESSENCE  
 Who?

MERO  
 Tom, is it? The Wasp, is he?

ESSENCE  
 I don't understand...

MERO  
 He loves you, dear. And you love  
 him, do you?

ESSENCE  
 I do.

Mero does bird stare.

ESSENCE (CONT'D)  
 I...I don't understand.

Tero shows himself.

TERO

If you touch one of us, your genetic code will be permanently altered.

They wait a moment in silence.

TERO (CONT'D)

It would no longer be possible for him to love you, or you him.

They wait moments in silence for Essence to take it in. Then, fly off.

Essence molecularizes and flies after them. They stop mid-flight and turn back to her.

ESSENCE

But, I can reverse time by 30 seconds, if anything...

MERO

Essence, is it?

TERO

Is it worth taking a chance?

Essence holds.

MERO

I'm behind you.

Tero takes off in flight.

MERO'S P.O.V. - her nictitating membranes close off all but one cone. She sees Essence's lighter level ultraviolet vibration. One of Essence's molecules floats to Mero. Mero consumes it.

Mero flies off at normal human speeds.

Essence floats back to the balcony. She stares after them.

Tero shows himself.

TERO

Why'd you do that?

MERO

She's too curious.

MERO'S P.O.V. - she looks back at Essence. She sees glimpse of Essence and Wasp on top of The Cliffs. Wasp's arms and wings wrapped around her, his lights vibrate.

MERO (CONT'D)

Let's go.

Tom walks into the living room compartment, Essence turns and looks at him inside searching.

INT. WASP'S NEST, LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

He lays keys down.

TOM  
I've decided to walk today instead.

He stares at her completely in love.

TOM (CONT'D)  
There would be no me without you,  
Essence. I wouldn't be able to know  
life, the same, without you.

He stares at her for a few moments.

TOM (CONT'D)  
I'm going to the office.

He walks out onto balcony.

EXT. WASP'S NEST, FULL BALCONY -- CONTINUOUS

TOM  
What's that?

Points to flower bed. Jeeves walks out with water container.

JEEVES  
You're motorcycle, sir.

Tom stares at it.

Jeeves oblivious waters plant. Jeeves lifts, takes his leave.

JEEVES (CONT'D)  
Sir.  
(to Essence)  
Ma'am.

Tom approaches Essence.

TOM  
Would you like to come with me?

Essence smiles.

ESSENCE  
I'd love too, Tom.

He kisses and hugs her. Takes her hand. They walk down the balcony steps and walk to The City.

INT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, 2ND TALLEST BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

Business Owner with binoculars looks out window.

BUSINESS OWNER'S P.O.V. - Sees Essence and Tom, hand-in-hand, walk to the City.

BUSINESS OWNER

Hmmm. I always did like that couple.  
Wonder who they are?

BUSINESS OWNER'S P.O.V. - he PANS down to Downtown Vespuria.

CLOSE UP - MRS. RAY(48) bites into sandwich. Holds crumpled brown, paper lunch bag. She sneaks a second bite. Carefully wraps sandwich back up and puts it in bag.

BUSINESS OWNER (CONT'D)

(to himself)  
The Most Beautiful Woman In All  
Vespuria. Always conscientious like  
that. Never more than two bites.

DOLLY OUT - Business Owner continues to watch Mrs. Ray.

BUSINESS OWNER'S P.O.V. - through binoculars.

BUSINESS OWNER (CONT'D)

I've never seen her with anyone.  
Always alone.

DOLLY OUT - Business Owner.

BUSINESS OWNER (CONT'D)

I wonder if she's married?  
(sighs - then an idea)  
Maybe...?

BUSINESS OWNER'S P.O.V. - through binoculars. Watches Mrs. Ray enter Vespuria City Hospital. On the way in she passes Tina...

EXT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL -- CONTINUOUS

...who storms out the entryway glass doors.

TINA

(sneezes)

Insurance Adjustor walks past, pulls out a Kleenex, hands it to her.

TINA (CONT'D)

Thank you.

He continues, she turns.

TINA (CONT'D)

You...

He looks back over at her, pushes his glasses back up his nose in wait.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR

My wife is waiting for me, and it's been a long day.

TINA

A long day? It's mid-afternoon.  
(a moment)  
You're not sick.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR

Thanks for pointing that out. No, I'm not. Anything else I can do for you?

CITIZENS IN UNISON

Nab him! He may be the cure!

They nab him and drag him to the hospital, helpless, his briefcase pressed against his chest.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR

This is a conspiracy, I know it is. My wife's going to leave me if I don't get home.

They drag him inside the hospital, doors wide open.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)

What is that saying, momma rules the roost. But is unhappy when the rooster doesn't come home.

CITIZEN 2

That's not a saying.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR

Well my wife says it to me all the time.

The hospital doors slam shut.

INT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL -- CONTINUOUS

Citizens drag Insurance Adjustor down the hallway. Doctor Ray passes by in the opposite direction.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR

(calls after)  
Hey, Brother Ray.

Doctor Ray turns around.

DOCTOR RAY  
Randall, what are you doing here?

Insurance Adjustor still being drug down the hallway.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
First they want my money. Now, they  
want my blood. Help, Ray. It's a  
conspiracy.

The metal doors slam that they just passed through.

Doctor Ray stares after.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
(faded)  
Ray!

DOCTOR RAY  
(to himself)  
Little brother. Always getting into  
trouble.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (O.S.)  
(more faded)  
Ray!

O.S. a DOOR SLAMS.

Doctor Ray pushes his glasses up his nose.

DOCTOR RAY  
I'm coming little brother.

INT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL, MEDICAL ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Angry CROWD OF CITIZENS outside. Stand and watch.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
You always were jealous of me, weren't  
you Ray?

Doctor Ray fills a tube full of Randall's blood.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)  
You got my blood, now you want my  
wife.

DOCTOR RAY  
No, little brother, I don't want  
your wife. I have my own.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
You do?

He holds briefcase to his chest as Doctor Ray puts a cotton  
square on Randall's arm.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)  
When did you get married?

DOCTOR RAY  
Years back.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
Why didn't you invite me?

Doctor Ray puts drops of blood on aerial scanner. Aerial machine runs DNA check.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)  
I'm your little brother. What's that,  
without family you having nothing.

DOCTOR RAY  
You know how Bertha is.  
(to scanner)  
Run genetic codes against new viruses  
he's recently been exposed to.

Scanner runs.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
Bertha's the most wonderful woman in  
the whole world.

SCANNER  
Special gene, Delta 32.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
You told everybody how much we're  
worth, didn't you, Ray?

DOCTOR RAY  
No, Randall. I didn't tell everybody  
how much we're worth.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
We're broke, Ray. Bertha spent all  
my money. I think she's going to  
leave me, Ray.

DOCTOR RAY  
She's not going to leave you, Randall.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
I keep pulling money out of the  
economy and she keeps putting it  
right back in. I don't know what I'm  
going to do, Ray?

DOCTOR RAY  
Well, if it bothers you that much,  
Randall...

Randall stands up, briefcase still pressed against his chest.

DOCTOR RAY (CONT'D)  
 ...perhaps you should consider leaving her. Her economic spendthrift plan was always a bit much for my taste.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
 I can't do that, Ray. I love Bertha too much.

Randall stares Ray up and down with curiosity.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)  
 Well brother, I'll be seeing you around.

DOCTOR RAY  
 I'll just need a gallon of your blood and for you to sign some release forms on your way out, little brother.

Mrs. Ray walks in, stands there with lunch for her husband.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
 Can't do that Ray. Bertha's more important. I have to save my marriage.

Insurance Adjustor Randall turns to leave, briefcase still pressed against chest.

Mrs. Ray points after Randall.

MRS. RAY  
 Was that really your little brother?

CITIZEN 6 (O.S.)  
 What happened in there?

DOCTOR RAY  
 Yes.

CITIZEN 12 (O.S.)  
 Hey! Catch him! He's getting away.

MRS. RAY  
 Why didn't you invite him to our wedding?

She hands him his lunch. He gives her a look.

INT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL, HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS  
 Citizens crowd Randall.

IN UNISON  
 (chatter)

BERTHA (65), 5'11", 550 pounds evenly distributed walks by. She enters Medical Room.

INT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL, MEDICAL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

BERTHA  
You're married?

She looks at Dr. and Mrs. Ray. Doctor Petersen and Biggs walk by outside of the room.

BERTHA (CONT'D)  
Does Randall know?

DOCTOR RAY  
He just left.

BERTHA  
Why didn't you invite your only brother to the wedding?

DOCTOR RAY  
Bertha.

Bertha looks them over.

BERTHA  
I'll tell him you're getting married.

DOCTOR RAY  
We're already married.

BERTHA  
Good. We'll throw the wedding.

DOCTOR RAY  
We're married.

She looks around. Zones.

BERTHA  
Yes. You're getting married. I'll be the first to tell him.

DOCTOR RAY  
We just told him.

BERTHA  
(to Mrs. Ray)  
He's met you?

MRS. RAY  
No.

Bertha stares at Doctor Ray.

BERTHA  
It's going to be the most beautiful  
wedding.

DOCTOR RAY  
Bertha. Randall seemed okay with it.

Bertha stares at him.

BERTHA  
Seemed okay with it?

Bertha glares at him.

BERTHA (CONT'D)  
(challenges)  
Seemed okay? Do you know how much  
your little brother loves you?

Doctor Ray half-shrugs.

BERTHA (CONT'D)  
He's the first on your list to be  
invited to the wedding. To make sure  
he makes it, we are having it at my  
house.

She turns. Leaves.

BERTHA (CONT'D)  
(voice trails)  
I'll be sure to give you the details.

Doctor and Mrs. Ray stare at each other.

MRS. RAY  
Your sister-in-law?

DOCTOR RAY  
Yes.

EXT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL -- MOMENTS LATER

Insurance Adjustor leaves building. In opposite direction,  
Tom and Essence, hand-in-hand, walk past him on the sidewalk.

Tom stares at the long line that still waits outside.

PANS -

He looks up at the surrounding buildings in awe of the  
situation. He looks up and sees PARASITOLOGISTS, wear masks  
and gloves, hang off the buildings in scaffolds, gather  
samples. Bert and Beth Stein amongst them.

Tom sees a fallen piece of nest paper fallen from one of the  
buildings on the ground. Faint light moves within it.

He walks Essence over to it. He bends, goes to pick it up.

PARASITOLOGIST (O.S.)  
Uhn Uh. I wouldn't touch that if I  
were you.

Bent down, PARASITOLOGIST, with gloved hands, picks it up  
with a pair of tweezers.

Parasitologist nods to people lined up outside the hospital.

PARASITOLOGIST (CONT'D)  
Whatever they have come from this.

Puts it in a metal container. Closes it.

Tom looks at Essence. Essence's facial features have slightly  
change, her skin color has slightly changed. Still attractive,  
just another look.

TOM  
(queries)  
Essence?

ESSENCE  
Yes, Tom.

He shakes his head.

TOM  
Nothing. It must just be me.

Tom looks up building side, watches Parasitologists above  
work.

INT. VESPURIA, CITY HALL -- LATER

Inside areaway just inside entrance. Citizens drag Randall  
in.

BUSINESS MAN ANDY  
He can't do this.  
(sneezes)

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ  
I'm afraid he can.

CITIZEN 7  
But, we're dying. Our DNA is  
unraveling as we speak. Soon, all of  
us here, will cease to exist. Except  
you and him.

CITIZENS IN UNISON  
Yeah!

Shirks away from Citizens hold.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
(defends)  
What about my life?

Takes podium beside Mayor.

Doctor Patience in the back of the room.

CITIZEN 8  
There's nothing wrong with you. You're  
going to live.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
Not if you do. If you all live and  
don't sign off on these release forms,  
I'll go bankrupt. I won't be able to  
provide for my family, my wife will  
leave me. I'll have nothing.

CITIZEN 9  
This is blackmail!

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
I'm only saying, a life for a life.  
You all can use my DNA, if you drop  
this frivolous lawsuit against me  
for these damages.

CITIZEN 10  
We're entitled to it.

CITIZEN 70  
We haven't filed suit.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
Yet. How many times do I have to  
tell you, there was no structural  
damage done to your buildings. I'm  
an Engineer. I only sell insurance  
so that I can live within my wife's  
means.

CITIZEN 2  
The walls are infected. They have to  
be torn down completely, removed and  
rebuilt.

Insurance Adjustor, briefcase to chest, he waves his hand  
right, arm outstretched.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
No. No. My brother's a doctor. He's  
intelligent. Genius. He knows how to  
get rid of the problem without having  
to knock any walls down.

CITIZEN 3

Yeah. Just exterminate us by letting us die by not sharing your gene with us that will stop this.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR

No. You don't understand. I brought him. He's here.

He looks around, doesn't see brother offstage just to his right.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)

Brother, where are you?

He sees him.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)

There you are.  
(to crowd)  
He's here. He's here.

Approaches him, looks at him. His brother walks on the stage.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR (CONT'D)

Tell them, brother.

DOCTOR RAY

It's true. I created a serum from Randall's DNA.

CITIZEN 71

How do you know it will work?

CITIZEN 4

Is he going to hold that ransom too?  
For those who have yet to be infected.  
Or are you going to allow others to die too?

CITIZEN 3

They're a fraud!

CITIZEN 7

A scam!

CITIZEN 8

His brother's in on it too.

CITIZENS IN UNISON

(uproar)

CITIZEN 9

Thief!

CITIZEN 10

Traitor!

CITIZEN 11  
Dishonest man.

Backdoor SLAMS open. Bertha barges one step in.

RANDALL (O.S.)  
(loudly pleads)  
Don't leave me, Bertha.

She makes her way through the crowd straight to the podium.  
Mid-way.

RANDALL (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
(pleads loud)  
Don't leave me, Bertha!

She steps up to the podium, wraps her left arm around him.

BERTHA  
(to crowd)  
This is an honest man. How dare you  
challenge his integrity?

RANDALL  
(pleads quiet)  
Bertha, don't leave me.

She bear hugs him, his briefcase between them.

INSURANCE ADJUSTOR  
I love you, Bertha.

Falls to his knees, hugs both her calves tightly, his head  
cradled between her knees.

BERTHA  
(to group)  
We have bills to pay. A mortgage.  
Mouths to feed. That's all. But,  
this is an honest man.

CITIZEN 5  
(snides)  
Have you seen their house?

BERTHA  
Party!?

She looks around a bit. Zones.

BERTHA (CONT'D)  
We're going to have a party.

She leaves the podium. Heads back through the crowd.

BERTHA (CONT'D)  
I love parties. We're going to have  
a Party.

Reaches backdoors. Randall mid-way. Bertha turns, hands on  
either horizontal door handle.

BERTHA (CONT'D)  
(firm roar, stares  
straight at Randall)  
Randall, you better deal with these  
people! Or else!

She slams both doors shut.

The Citizens crowd around Randall.

CITIZEN 11  
Let me see one of those. I'll sign  
it.

He reaches for a form. Arms reach.

CITIZEN 5  
Okay. Me, too.

CITIZEN 6  
Hand it over.

RANDALL  
You're all invited to the party. Of  
course.

CITIZEN 4  
(resigns)  
If we're going to die anyway.

Arms reach for paper, flies off his briefcase.

RANDALL  
I'm coming home, Bertha. I'm coming  
home.

On podium.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ  
(to Doctor Ray)  
Everything seems to have worked out  
alright.

Doctor Ray nods. Mayor's phone rings.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)  
(answers)  
Nope. Everything's fine Tom. Sorry.  
Second false alarm today.  
(MORE)

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)

(beat)

They found a cure. Everyone's heading back to the hospital to get an injection shot.

Doctor Ray takes his leave.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)

Hey, there's going to be a party tonight...

EXT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL -- CONTINUOUS

TOM

...sure. We'll be there. Alright.

Hangs up his mobile.

TOM (CONT'D)

(to Essence)

They already have a cure.

Her facial features have changes even more. Her skin color even more pale.

TOM (CONT'D)

Essence?

ESSENCE

Yes, Tom.

He shakes his head.

TOM

Nothing.

ESSENCE

That was fast.

TOM

What was.

ESSENCE

Finding a cure.

TOM

Vespuria *is* the Science Capital.  
Let's go home.

ESSENCE

Okay.

She tries to break down into molecules. He hands start to breakdown, then, without being able to control it, she resolidifies.

## ESSENCE (CONT'D)

Tom?

ANGLE ON -

Tom sees.

TOM

I'll carry you.

He picks her up.

EXT. VESPURIA CANCER CENTER -- CONTINUOUS

Doctor Ray and Patience walk past toward Vespuria Hospital.  
Tom and Essence on the opposite side of the street.

DOCTOR PATIENCE

How did you find a serum so fast?

DOCTOR RAY

Randall's blood is the serum.

DOCTOR PATIENCE

What?

DOCTOR RAY

Remember when we had an HIV problem?

DOCTOR PATIENCE

Right.

DOCTOR RAY

Well, if you had infected blood in  
you...

DOCTOR PATIENCE

Your body duplicated the virus.

DOCTOR RAY

And spread it all throughout your  
body. Healthy blood with strong genes  
works the same way.

DOCTOR PATIENCE

Why didn't you just tell everybody?

DOCTOR RAY

He's my little brother. I have to  
protect him. Besides, I like people  
thinking I'm a genius.

He walks through Vespuria's Hospital doors with her at his  
side.

EXT. WASP'S NEST, BALCONY -- EARLY EVENING

Tom lies Essence on a cot.

TOM  
I'll be right back.

Bg. she watches the sun slowly go down. Her facial features and skin color has completely changed.

Tom comes back out on the balcony.

TOM (CONT'D)  
Ready to go?

ESSENCE  
I don't want to go Tom.

TOM  
You love parties.

ESSENCE  
No.

He looks at her, kneels beside her.

ESSENCE (CONT'D)  
Let's just stay here tonight.

Tom does not know how to react to her.

TOM  
Essence?

ESSENCE  
Yes.

TOM  
Essence?

ESSENCE  
Yes, Tom.

He touches her arm and hand. She rolls her head, looks at him.

TOM  
(to himself)  
I promised to love you no matter what.

He goes to lift her.

ESSENCE  
(careless)  
So.

TOM

What?  
 (he stares into her  
 face)  
 Essence, you've changed.

ESSENCE

What do you mean, Tom?

He stares at her.

He hugs her to his chest, wraps his head around hers. Silently  
 cries.

TOM

(to himself)  
 It's alright. It's okay.

ESSENCE

Tom. What's wrong?

TOM

It's okay. Let's just stay and watch  
 the sun set.

He walks her to the balcony railing. She lies in his arms.

MONTAGE of scenes as they hold each other. Tom confused but  
 loving.

The sun sets.

ESSENCE

I just don't feel myself right now.

TOM

Really?

ESSENCE

Yes. And it's really cold out.

He transforms into Wasp. He wraps his wings around her. They  
 vibrate with light to warm her.

Essence shivers.

ESSENCE (CONT'D)

I'm scared.

WASP

It's okay.

ESSENCE

What are you doing to me? Don't hurt  
 me.

WASP

Essence? I'm getting you to the hospital.

He wraps his wings around her. In veiny state, he lights up his wings to keep her warm.

INT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL, PATIENT ROOM -- NIGHT

DOCTOR PATIENCE

I'm sorry. But, the vaccine didn't take. You're still going to die.

A tear comes to Citizen 4's eye. Then tears.

CITIZEN 4

(sad, forlorn)

Okay.

She stands, shakes his hand.

CITIZEN 4 (CONT'D)

You don't look so good yourself.

DOCTOR PATIENCE

I'm not feeling so well.

CITIZEN 4

I somehow understand. That its my time.

DOCTOR PATIENCE

I think I'm beginning to understand, myself.

CITIZEN 4

I'm a young widow. If you don't mind...

DOCTOR PATIENCE

No. Go right ahead.

CITIZEN 4

There's something I've always wanted to do.

DOCTOR PATIENCE

Do you mind if I ask you what that is?

They leave together.

INT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL, HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Doctors Biggs and Petersen walk toward them. Doctor Patience and Citizen 4 overhear their conversation.

DOCTOR BIGGS

How many people did the vaccine not work on?

DOCTOR PETERSEN

Only three. The other ninety-seven people are fine. They're going to live.

DOCTOR BIGGS

How many people were healed at the Cancer Center again?

DOCTOR PETERSEN

Five.

Doctor Biggs shakes his head.

DOCTOR BIGGS

Close. Must just be a coincidence.  
(beat)  
Ready to go to the Party?

Doctor Patience and Citizen 4 pass by Doctors Biggs and Petersen.

DOCTOR PATIENCE

Can I confess?

CITIZEN 4

Sure.

DOCTOR PATIENCE

I make number four.

CITIZEN 4

What? You're...

Doctor Patience nods 'yes'.

CITIZEN 4 (CONT'D)

Do you think there's a fifth?

Doctor Patience shrugs 'I don't know.'

Citizen 4 glances back at Doctors Biggs and Petersen with a question mark in her eyebrow?

DOCTOR PATIENCE

It's not contagious. So, I didn't tell them. I didn't want to use their vaccine. I wanted to try my own.

CITIZEN 4

Oh. Sorry.

DOCTOR PATIENCE  
It's okay. Like I mentioned, I'm  
starting to understand.

(to herself)  
myself.

(to Citizen 4)  
Would you mind if I came with you  
tonight?

CITIZEN 4  
You want to go?

DOCTOR PATIENCE  
Sounds like a great adventure.

CITIZEN 4  
Sure.

DOCTOR PATIENCE  
Thanks.

Citizen 4 puts her arm affectionately arund Doctor Patience.

CITIZEN 4  
Sure.

A new skip in her beat.

INT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL, ENTRYWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Doctor Biggs and Petersen exit hospital.

EXT. VESPURIA CITY HOSPITAL -- CONTINUOUS

DOCTOR BIGGS  
I thought everyone died in their own  
time and that was it. Thought you  
couldn't reverse it. After seeing  
this past day, I guess I was wrong.

DOCTOR PETERSEN  
You may have been more right than  
we'll ever know.

DOCTOR BIGGS  
What do you mean?

DOCTOR PETERSEN  
Tit for tat.

Doctor Biggs doesn't get it.

DOCTOR BIGGS  
Whatever. See you at the party.

EXT. VESPURIA CITY SIDEWALKS -- NIGHT

KARLA  
(ferocious cough)

Rosita stops, faces her daughter.

ROSITA  
Are you alright, baby?

Karla progressively gets worse. Rosita hugs her.

ROSITA (CONT'D)  
No. Not my baby.

Smooths her hair with affectionate brushes of her hand.

ROSITA (CONT'D)  
Come on baby.

They cross the street to Vespuria Cancer Center.

INT. VESPURIA CANCER CENTER -- MOMENTS LATER

DOCTOR RAY  
I'm sorry, Rosita. But, Karla has pneumonia. Her immune system is too low to recover from it.

He looks at Karla.

DOCTOR RAY (CONT'D)  
Not this time, little one. I'm sorry.

Rosita cries, hugs Karla.

ROSITA  
Why my baby? You're only a little girl. Why my precious Karla?

KARLA  
It's okay mama.

Karla hugs her mom back.

KARLA (CONT'D)  
Its just my time to go. That's all.

DOCTOR RAY  
There's a flower, at the top of The Cliffs. You can't miss it. It's black and red. When you start feeling bad, go smell one. A couple of molecules from off the petals will enter your body. They won't heal you. But, they will stop any pain and allow you  
(MORE)

DOCTOR RAY (CONT'D)  
function at almost full capacity.  
Until it's time.

He takes out a set of keys.

DOCTOR RAY (CONT'D)  
To my hideaway on The Cliffs.

Rosita accepts.

DOCTOR RAY (CONT'D)  
Don't pick the flower. It's the only  
way they'll survive, if you leave  
them alone. You have to go to it. It  
cannot be brought to you. For some  
reason. It loses it's effects if  
picked. Nutrients? Fluctuation in  
the ecological mix?

They step outside the Cancer Center. Doctor Ray holds the  
door open for Rosita and Karla.

EXT. VESPURIA CANCER CENTER -- CONTINUOUS

PANS city skyline.

PANS EXTREME DISTANCE of Party at Randall's house.

LONG SHOT - into...

INT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, 2ND TALLEST BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

BUSINESS OWNER'S P.O.V. - sees vehicles drive en masse, from  
all directions of The City, to Randall's house.

DOLLY OUT

BUSINESS OWNER  
(to himself)  
Looks like there's a party going on.  
Why don't I ever get invited to these  
things?

BUSINESS OWNER'S P.O.V. - PANS towards The Cliffs. Sees Wasp  
and Essence...

BUSINESS OWNER (CONT'D)  
What a lucky guy...

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- NIGHT

Wasp flies Essence past The Cliffs. With excitement from  
Wasp, Essence's molecules float around. Wasp's wings vibrate  
with light.

CITIZEN 4 (O.S.)

Okay. I've always wanted to do this.

She puts her eye goggles on. Citizen 4 hooks a belt around her and Mero's waist.

MERO

Just hold on tight. And move your body with mine.

She takes off in flight.

MERO (CONT'D)

You'll be fine.

Back at cliff ledge.

CITIZEN 6

I've always wanted to do this too.

She wraps her belt around Tero. He takes off in flight.

CITIZEN 7

Me too.

Belt already hooked around Bero. She takes off.

KERO

(calls after)

Mom...

BERO

(calls back)

You'll be fine, Kero. You can handle it now.

Kero, now as tall as the other meropidae, takes off in flight. Doctor Patience on his back.

Small Bird jumps up and down on cliff ledge.

SMALL BIRD

(chirps)

KERO

(calls back)

Okay. Come on.

Kero slows in flight. Small Bird jumps off cliff, glides, flies to Kero. Lands just inside Kero's lower beak. Kero keeps her beak open this time.

SMALL BIRD

(chirps happily)

MEROPIDAE IN UNISON  
 (sing beautiful death  
 song)

EXT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

ESSENCE (O.S.)  
 Who are you?

Wasp lies atop Essence.

WASP  
 (whispers to her)  
 Wasp. I'm your lover.

ESSENCE  
 No.

He flies her into the City.

Karla watches. Essence looks down at her. They make eye contact for a moment. Essence lost. Rosita watches. She looks at Karla's expression as she stares at Essence.

Rosita brushes Karla's forearm with her hand.

ROSITA  
 Baby.

Karla fights back tears.

ROSITA (CONT'D)  
 Oh!

She stares at Karla.

ROSITA (CONT'D)  
 Oh, baby. That's that woman.

Karla holds her mother's hand, stares at her.

KARLA  
 I know.

ROSITA  
 I finally understand.

Holds her hand with a death grip.

ROSITA (CONT'D)  
 I love you, Karla.

KARLA  
 I love you too, mama.

ANGLE ON -

Wasp lands.

ROSITA  
(calls to him)  
The doctors are all gone.

Wasp looks at her.

ROSITA (CONT'D)  
They're at a party tonight.

She looks apologetically at Wasp.

WASP  
What?

ROSITA  
(to him)  
Nothing.  
(to Karla)  
Come on baby. Let's get to The Cliffs.

ESSENCE  
Wasp. I feel better.

Wasp wraps his arms and wings around Essence. Flies up.

EXTREME DISTANT SOUND OF PARTY and lights burst from Randall's house.

ESSENCE (CONT'D)  
I don't want to go.

WASP  
I know. It's okay.

His wings vibrate with light at a higher level.

Dissolve.

INT. RANDALL'S NEST, HUGE LIVING ROOM COMPARTMENT -- NIGHT

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ  
Again. What is your wife's name?

A small, heavily controlled expression of disgust crosses Bert's face.

BERT  
Bert. Mrs. Bert Stein.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ  
Oh. Yes. Yes, Bert. I think I can remember that.

Bertha walks by, offers them hors d'oeuvres.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)  
And your name, ma'am?

BERTHA  
(blasts energy)  
BeRThA.

He holds his hors d'oeuvre, hair in complete disarray.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ  
Yes. Yes, Bertha, I think I can  
remember that.

She leaves. He remains in shock, only his eyes move.

RANDALL (O.S.)  
(from across the room)  
Bertha, don't leave me, Bertha.

As if a blind man in a trance he walks across the room.  
Stumbles on Blind Man's cane.

Randall, briefcase across chest.

RANDALL (CONT'D)  
Oh. Sorry about that.

BLIND MAN  
No worry, little man.

RANDALL  
Do you need insurance for that?

BLIND MAN  
No. I'm covered. But thank you kindly.

Raises his glass. Drinks. Randall moves on.

RANDALL  
(mumbles)  
Blind Man even knows I'm a little  
man. Is this a cross-sensory issue?  
It doesn't concern me. I don't even  
know why we have conversations about  
it. It's not even a health issue.  
Why is everyone so concerned about  
that. We only have so much time. Not  
a good investment. Not a good  
investment of time at all.  
(calls out)  
Bertha. Don't leave me.

He bumps right into her.

BERTHA

My man.

Randall awkwardly looks her body over as she sets her hors d'oeuvres tray aside.

RANDALL

(excited)

Bertha!

BERTHA

Here. Let me take that from you.

She takes his briefcase. He kind of offers it to her.

BERTHA (CONT'D)

You've earned it.

She sets it aside. She lightly leans up against him. Hand-in-hand they beautifully glide across the room in dance, even though no one else dances. Everyone stops. Stares. Smiles in approval.

Blind Man raises his drink to them.

BLIND MAN'S P.O.V. - He sees infrared hues as they glide across the floor. Bertha and Randall the brightest light on the floor.

MRS. RAY (O.S.)

Aren't we getting married?

Blind Man turns toward her voice.

DOCTOR RAY

We are married, sweetheart.

BLIND MAN'S P.O.V. - he sees Doctor and Mrs. Ray in dark infrared hues. He looks around the room. It looks like infrared hues of ocean waves.

Dissolve.

EXT. VESPURIA, OCEAN BESIDE CLIFFS -- NIGHT

The meropidae glide over the water. Their passengers laugh with joy. Their hands lay over the bird's sides and splash over the top of the small breaks in the water waves.

Water droplets splash on Citizen 4's face.

MERO

What's your name?

CITIZEN 4

Tabby. It's short for Tabernacle.

MERO  
Tabernacle.

Kero's beak open, she skims the ocean line.

SMALL BIRD  
(chirps excitedly)

...as water splashes over her. She steps back and forth in Kero's mouth.

Citizens 6, 7 and Doctor Patience's goggles, face and body are splashed with ocean water as they ride Bero, Tero and Kero, who's now as tall *and* well-built as the other meropidaes, backs.

BERO'S P.O.V. - sees Kero within her 360 degree range.

BERO  
(to Tero)  
Ah. They grow up so fast.

TERO  
Indeed. Right in front of your eyes.

The audience watches as they enjoy the death ride over the ocean. The CLAP of the ocean water.

INT. RANDALL'S NEST, HUGE LIVING ROOM COMPARTMENT -- NIGHT

Bertha CLAPS her hands. She's elevated a bit above the crowd.

BERTHA  
(looks around)  
Where are you Randall?

Randall, right next to her chest.

RANDALL  
I'm right here Bertha.

BERTHA  
Oh. There you are doll. Lovely.

Pecks his cheeks on both sides.

BERTHA (CONT'D)  
(to crowd)  
Everyone. I have an announcement to make.  
(cups Randall's face  
in her large hands)  
And I want you to be the first to know.

RANDALL  
 (excited)  
 What?!

BERTHA  
 (whispers in his ear)

RANDALL  
 Uah!

BERTHA  
 (turns to crowd)  
 Randall's brother, Doctor Ray, is  
 getting married! And you are all  
 invited to the wedding!

CHEERS go up around the room.

RANDALL  
 Come on up here Ray. Where's your  
 wife-to-be.

DOCTOR RAY  
 (mumbles to himself)  
 I don't know anymore.

MRS. RAY  
 Oh, this is so exciting Ray. We're  
 getting married.

DOCTOR RAY  
 So, I hear.

BERTHA  
 It will be in one week. You all need  
 to mark that down in your calendar.  
 January 22, Tuesday.

CITIZEN 60  
 (whispers to Citizen  
 61)  
 That's tonight.

BERTHA  
 One week from today. January 22,  
 Tuesday.

CITIZEN 61  
 You're right. It is tonight.

BERTHA  
 Alright. We need a Florist.

CITIZEN 59  
 I'm a Florist.

BERTHA

Come with me...We have 100 people attending. Well, make it 112 in case a few others decide to attend. We'll need...

Taps the tips of her fingertips together, ponders.

CLOSE UP -

Randall pulls his calculator from out of his shirt pocket. He walks behind Bertha, calculates and totals costs as they walk around the room.

BERTHA (CONT'D)

I was thinking of red roses and black lilys.

CITIZEN 59

Black?

BERTHA

Yes, black lilys!

CITIZEN 59

That's death!

BERTHA

And red is life. Come...

CITIZEN 59

Lilys will ruin your carpet.

BERTHA

(under her breath)

We need to get a new carpet, dear.

Randall does final cost computation.

RANDALL

We just can't afford the carpet, Bertha.

BERTHA

(with sudden revelation)

I know...

EXT. RANDALL'S NEST, HUGE LIVING ROOM COMPARTMENT -- MOMENTS LATER

Everyone pours out of the house.

CROWD

(sounds of excitement)

They pile into vehicles. Head for The Cliffs.

EXT. RANDALL'S NEST, HUGE LIVING ROOM COMPARTMENT --  
CONTINUOUS

Wasp flies over. He sees the entourage head toward The Cliffs.

WASP  
(to himself)  
It's going to be a long night.

INT. ROSITA'S VEHICLE -- NIGHT

At base of Cliffs. She heads up the winding road.

Karla looks outside, windows wide open. Breeze comes through.  
Karla looks a bit more ill than before.

ROSITA  
I don't like seeing you in so much  
pain.

KARLA  
(smiles)  
I'll be over soon.

Tears flow from Rosita's eyes.

ROSITA  
I'll get us up there as fast as I  
can.

INT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, 2ND TALLEST BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

Business Owner sees moving lights from all direction pour  
toward The Cliffs.

BUSINESS OWNER  
Hmmm.

Gets out of his seat.

BUSINESS OWNER'S P.O.V. - through binoculars at window. Sees  
close up of vehicles. One at a time. All head toward the top  
of The Cliffs.

BUSINESS OWNER (CONT'D)  
(to himself)  
The Pary's headed toward The Cliffs.

DOLLY OUT

Hands on hip.

BUSINESS OWNER (CONT'D)  
Hmmm.

Looks around his empty office.

BUSINESS OWNER (CONT'D)  
I think it's time for me to find a  
wife. Settle down. Have some kids.

He looks back through binoculars.

BUSINESS OWNER'S P.O.V. - sees close up of numerous other  
vehicles, all head toward the top of The Cliffs.

DOLLY OUT

BUSINESS OWNER (CONT'D)  
I'm going. No one will notice.

Looks at his watch.

BUSINESS OWNER (CONT'D)  
I'll be there in no time. The first  
woman I see, I'm proposing to.

EXT. VESPURIA, DOWNTOWN, 2ND TALLEST BUILDING, ROOFTOP --  
MOMENTS LATER

Helicopter wings turn. Business Owner in pilot's seat. He  
buckles up. Lifts off. SOUND OF HELICOPTER.

BUSINESS OWNER'S P.O.V. - LONG SHOT to The Cliffs.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, MID-WAY UP THE CLIFFS --  
CONTINUOUS

Overview of Citizens drive up The Cliffs cliffside.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF VESPURIA, CLIFF LEDGE -- MOMENTS LATER

Meropidae land. Tabernacle releases the belt that bounds her  
and Mero. She steps back, pulls off her goggles.

The others do the same. **They see the ENTOURAGE of vehicles  
in distance three-quarters up the cliffside.**

CITIZEN 6  
Hhhhhh.

She stares at Tabernacle.

ANGLE ON -

Tabernacle looks at her.

TABERNACLE  
What?

ANGLE ON -

Citizens 7 and Doctor Patience stare at Tabernacle too.

ANGLE ON -

TABERNACLE (CONT'D)  
What? What's wrong?

ANGLE ON -

They look her over in shock.

ANGLE ON -

TABERNACLE (CONT'D)  
What?

She looks at her hands. Sees CYMOTHOA EXIGUA which has replaced her fingernail. It's head twitches at the top of the nail it now represents.

TABERNACLE (CONT'D)  
Hhhhh. What?

DOLLY OUT

She looks at her arms as CYMOTHOA EXIGUA take over her skin.

TABERNACLE (CONT'D)  
What's happening to me?!

EXTREME CLOSEUP - more nails are replaced by CYMOTHOA EXIGUA.

DOLLY OUT

TABERNACLE (CONT'D)  
What's happening?

She looks at Citizens 6, 7 and Doctor Patience.

ANGLE ON -

They start to change too.

ANGLE ON -

TABERNACLE (CONT'D)  
(pleads to Mero)  
What's happening? What have you done?

\*

A CYMOTHOA EXIGUA replaces Tabernacle's left eyelid as she speaks. The face of the Cymothoa Exigua serves as Tabernacle's eyelashes.

Her muscles tense up.

TABERNACLE (CONT'D)  
It hurts...so bad...

She looks at the others.

ANGEL ON -

They change into HUMAN CYMOTHOA EXIGUA whose entire skin and hair base has been replaced by tens of thousands of tiny Cymothoa Exigua.

ANGLE ON -

TABERNACLE (CONT'D)

I don't want to live like this.

She and the other Citizens grow powerful wings identical to the Meropidae.

Cymothoa Exigua's little heads sometimes bounce off her skin as they stretch, then return to their host.

Tabernacle tears at her face and skin.

TABERNACLE (CONT'D)

What am I? What's happened to me?

DOLLY OUT

She looks at the meropidae who stare without comment. The other Citizens just stare on at her and each other in disbelief. Citizen 6 is now CYMO.

CYMO

The pain is starting to go away.

Citizen 7 is now THOA.

THOA

What she means is, the pain doesn't bother her anymore.

Cymo looks at him.

THOA (CONT'D)

You're getting use to the pain. You've become numb to it.

Without a thought, but natural reflex, Doctor Patience now EXIG preens her wings.

She walks over to Mero.

She brushes her hand down Mero's wing. The Cymothoa Exigua's tiny heads lift in unison out of Exig's arm, eat the deadly parasites that embody Mero's wings. Then flatten back into alignment back into Exig's arm.

Mero's feather's look pure in color. She sparks with more life.

Cymo, Thoa and Tabernacle do the same for Kero, Tero and Bero.

EXT. ROSITA'S VEHICLE, TOP OF THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

At the tops of The Cliffs Rosita parks her vehicle.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

Doors OPEN. Rosita and Karla step out. The headlights shine on red and black flower.

KARLA

Mama.

Karla runs to the flower and sniffs. Two red molecules lift from the flower and enter Karla's nose.

CYMO (O.S.)

(screetches)

Karla and Rosita stare at each other. They run to the cliff's edge. Look over down at the meropidae and human cymothoa exigua.

KARLA

What are they, momma?

ROSITA

I don't know but let's get out of here.

She ushers her back to the car.

KARLA

But, Doctor Ray said we had to stay here.

ROSITA

I don't know what those are. We can come back.

They peel out.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY OF VESPURIA, THE CLIFFS -- CONTINUOUS

The Entourage of vehicles for the Wedding Party block their ability to leave.

Rosita HONKS wildly. Cars park all across the expanse, completely blocks her escape route.

CITIZENS get out.

CITIZENS IN UNISON  
(excited laughter and  
banter)

The meropidae and Human Cymothoa Exigua land on top of The Cliffs.

Doctor Ray gets out. Sees Doctor Patience's facial structure in Exig.

DOCTOR RAY  
Patience...

He stares at her.

SHOT - her eyes tear, the only other recognizable part of her body.

EXIG  
I don't know who I am anymore.

DOCTOR RAY  
Patience...

MRS. RAY  
Ray, what's going on?

Doctor Ray goes to touch Exig, Mrs. Ray blocks him.

MRS. RAY (CONT'D)  
Don't Ray. You don't know what it is?

DOCTOR RAY  
It's Patience.

Exig stands away from him.

DOCTOR RAY (CONT'D)  
Don't leave me Patience. I can't live without you.

He looks at her belly. Sees she's pregnant.

DOCTOR RAY (CONT'D)  
That's mine, isn't it?

MRS. RAY  
Ray...

Doctor Ray touches Patience, a tiny Cymothoa Exigua bites into his skin.

MRS. RAY (CONT'D)  
Ray?

DOCTOR RAY  
 (to Patience)  
 I found the tube.

MRS. RAY  
 Ray!

DOLLY OUT

Business Owner lands his helicopter on the top of The Cliffs.

ANGLE ON -

Exig and Doctor Ray. The tiny Cymothoa Exigua releases his bite on Doctor Ray's skin.

DOCTOR RAY  
 (whispers)  
 It's okay, Patience.

He touches Patience's face.

DOCTOR RAY (CONT'D)  
 I'm sorry. I should have told you.  
 I've always loved you.

ANGLE ON -

MRS. RAY  
 Ray.

DOLLY OUT

Business Owner gets out of his helicopter.

ANGLE ON -

MRS. RAY (CONT'D)  
 What's happening Ray?

ANGLE ON -

Doctor Ray embraces Patience. Kisses her. Her tiny Cymothoa Exigua devour him.

DOLLY OUT

DOCTOR BIGGS  
 Cool!

b.g. Rosita holds Karla in her arms, as her hospital gown floats in the soft winds. They approach Doctor Biggs, as Doctor Petersen approaches from opposite direction.

ROSITA  
 What are they?

DOCTOR PETERSEN

The Cymothoa Exigua are reproducing as DNA. They have provided the enzyme catalyst missing and are duplicating the DNA strands as if they are the DNA strands. The humans are their hosts.

ROSITA

Can it hurt us?

DOCTOR PETERSEN

They won't leave the hosts.

ANGLE ON -

MRS. RAY

Ray. I didn't know?

ANGLE ON -

He slowly turns into a Cymothoidea.

DOCTOR RAY

Bertha knew.

He completely changes into a Cymothoa Exigua Meropidae.

DOLLY OUT

Business Owner stares at Mrs. Ray. Sees her in emotional pain. He approaches her, takes her hand, bends down on one knee.

BUSINESS OWNER

Will you marry me?

ANGLE ON -

Doctor Ray now GUA flies off with the others.

GUA

(to Mrs. Ray)

I have a different purpose now. You've never needed me. You never even noticed I was alive.

DOLLY OUT

MRS. RAY

But, I brought you your lunch.

GUA

That's all you ever did.

ANGLE ON -

RANDALL  
Did Ray get married?

BERTHA  
He did.

Randall pushes his glasses up his nose, squinches through his glasses. Stares at Exig.

ANGLE ON -

MRS. RAY  
(to Business Owner)  
But we don't even know each other.

BUSINESS OWNER  
But I know you.

MRS. RAY  
You do?

ANGLE ON -

RANDALL  
Interesting.  
(looks Exig over)  
Attractive. Really.

ANGLE ON -

Wasp lands, Essence still in his arms. Mero approaches them.

MERO  
Essence.

Essence stares at her.

MERO (CONT'D)  
Essence.

ESSENCE  
Why are you calling me that?

TERO  
She didn't listen to us.

WASP  
What are you talking about.

MERO  
No. She listened. It was Kero.

WASP  
What are you talking about.

MERO

I saw him.

TERO

Kero, get over here now.

Kero as big as his father. His voice has changed into a man's.

KERO

Yes, dad.

TERO

I want you to see what you did.

Kero stares at Essence. He shirks.

KERO'S P.O.V. - he sees through his first cone, Essence as he brushes her with his wing tip. Through his second cone, Essence transform into another woman. Through his third cone, Tom lost about her transformation and change into Wasp. Through fourth cone, Wasp land Essence on the top of The Cliffs.

KERO

Oh.

Holds his head down in shame.

KERO (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

ESSENCE

Why is everyone staring at me?

WASP

What did you do to her.

Mero steps forward. Wasp steps toward her.

WASP (CONT'D)

Stay away.

Mero opens her beak. Essence's molecule floats out of her mouth.

MERO

Hold her.

WASP

What.

MERO

Hold her. The lights from your wings. They move at the speed of light. When her molecule reaches her. Your light will recode her back to the woman you knew.

TERO

Hurry!

Wasp jumps at Essence, holds her. His wings vibrate with light all around her body as her molecule hits her.

MERO'S P.O.V. - Through first cone, Essence outside of Vespuria's Cancer Center follows them. Through second cone, Essence flies off Wasp's nest balcony after them, she captures a molecule unseen by Essence. Through third cone, she sees Essence dissolve. Wasp confused. Karla grows into a woman. Let's go of her mother's hand. Walks to Wasp in love with him. She embraces and kisses him. Through fourth cone, she sees Essence stand on top of The Cliffs with Wasp in love.

ESSENCE'S P.O.V. - she stares at Meropidae.

ESSENCE

I'm sorry.

MERO

That's okay. I knew. We don't see time in a linear fashion like you. Your mind limits you to seeing things in a procession of time.

TERO

We also don't see distance like you. Nothing is near or far to us.

ESSENCE

(whispers)

Thanks.

KERO

We also have excellent hearing.

He lifts off in flight.

KERO (CONT'D)

So if you ever need us, just whisper on the winds. We'll hear it. Though it may take awhile.

On top of The Cliffs.

SMALL BIRD

(chirps)

As she jumps up and down in protest.

KERO

Can I mom?

BERO

Okay. But, from now on you have to make your own decisions.

KERO

Come on.

SMALL BIRD

(chirps excitedly)

Flaps her wings, lands inside Kero's lower beak.

The Meropidae and Human Cymothoa Exigua Meropidae hover in flight.

WASP

(to Meropidae)

Are you staying in Vespuria?

MEROPIDAE

We've found what we were looking for.

In V formation the eight birds fly off.

CITIZENS IN UNISON

Bye.

Wave after.

Essence turns to Wasp.

ESSENCE

Hi.

Wasp looks down at her, smiles.

WASP

Hi, Essence.

She leans her body into his. He wraps his arms around her. This time he cries silent tears of joy. He lifts them off the ground.

ESSENCE

Shouldn't we stay at the party?

WASP

Not tonight.

Flies her through the night air home. Amazing skyline scenery. A few minutes pass as he romances and loves her in flight.

DISTANT SOUND OF PARTY at top of The Cliffs.

THE END.

Dedicated to all those who have ever lost a loved one.