

CORVIDAE

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CAMPUS LAB RUINS - MIDDAY

ARIA is lying on the ground, unconscious. She suddenly gasps for air. Looking around, she's in the middle of an overgrown lawn. She starts to get up, trying to get her bearings. She turns around and sees she's in front of her old CAMPUS BUILDING, the sign now faded. Before she can fully process that, however...

We hear the rustling of feathers alongside a pronounced SQUAWK.

Aria cautiously starts walking in the direction of the noise. Aria's breathing quickens. She sees a large green magpie, JERRISON, being held down by two terrifyingly tall beings donning plague-doctor masks. She hides behind a pile of scrap, watching the events unfold.

The two figures grab Jerrison's wings and--SNAP! Aria looks away, terrified. The two large figures begin walking towards a frightening, nest-like amalgamation of concrete and wood in the distance.

Aria takes a moment to catch her breath. She gets out from behind her hiding place and walks towards Jerrison. She is surprised by his size, being roughly her height. He's barely conscious, only mild breathing betraying any sign of life. She checks his wings.

ARIA  
Oh God, oh God, oh God.

Aria looks around. She begins to look over Jerrison's body and sees he's wearing a ratty hoodie.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
(shakily)  
Is it...wearing clothes?

As Aria trails off, Jerrison begins to stir. He moves slowly at first, blinking and adjusting to his surroundings.

JERRISON  
(groans)

Jerrison tries to move his wings-

JERRISON (CONT'D)  
(pained)  
OH- OW!

Aria jumps backwards.

ARIA

AHH!

-and runs back behind her previous hiding spot.

ARIA (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Did it just *talk*?

Aria starts stepping back, looking for a chance to escape. While trying to figure out where to go, Jerrison continues crying out in pain.

JERRISON

HELP!

Aria is faced with a dilemma: Ignore Jerrison or help him get on his feet. After thinking for a moment, she begins walking back to the campus building before--SNAP! She steps on a twig while her back is turned to Jerrison. He perks up, calling out to her.

JERRISON (CONT'D)

HEY! Please help me!

Aria doesn't turn around.

JERRISON (CONT'D)

PLEASE!

ARIA

(trying to seem in control, worried)

Yes, um, uh...

(pause)

One second.

Aria leaves Jerrison to search for materials to set his wings. Walking around the wreckage in the field, she finds a tattered piece of a university t-shirt.

ARIA (CONT'D)

(confused)

Where am I?

Aria looks back at the campus building.

ARIA (CONT'D)

*When* am I?

She walks back to Jerrison. Jerrison has his eyes closed from the pain again.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
(softly)  
Hey, hey. Relax. This might hurt.

Aria takes the materials and starts setting his wings. She checks over her work, making sure it's stable enough to heal properly.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
That should be fine, at least for now.

JERRISON  
(wincing)  
Thank you.

ARIA  
Are you able to move?

Jerrison tries to stand up, but can't balance properly without using his arms. He shakes his head, still clearly in a lot of pain.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
One second, let me...

Aria helps Jerrison up. He's starting to open up his eyes, but with the angle he's at, he can't see Aria's face.

ARIA (CONT'D)  
Where should I take you? Do you have a home?

JERRISON  
I *did*. Don't think I can go back though.

Aria takes a deep breath, thinking about the two figures who assaulted Jerrison.

ARIA  
Well, is there anywhere I can take you?

Jerrison and Aria walk together for a bit before Jerrison sees a haphazard structure made of broken metal.

JERRISON  
Take me over there.

CUT TO:

INT. SHACK - MIDDAY

Jerrison and Aria arrive at the structure. He lets go of Aria and starts to make himself comfortable.

JERRISON  
Beggars can't be choosers, I guess.  
Thank you so much, uh...

Jerrison trails off, having opened his eyes fully and seen Aria's face.

ARIA  
(unfazed)  
Aria. My name's Aria.

JERRISON  
(quickly to himself)  
She's a human? A *human*! How is that possible? I thought they all-

ARIA  
HEY!

ARIA (CONT'D)  
Um. What's your name? Since we're introducing ourselves, I mean.

JERRISON  
My name is *technically*- \*SERIES OF SQUAWKS\*

JERRISON (CONT'D)  
-but I prefer Jerrison. I think it rolls off the tongue better.

ARIA  
Okay, Jerrison. Why did those *things* attack you?

He sighs.

JERRISON  
They thought I stole something.

A pause.

ARIA  
Well, did you?

JERRISON  
No! Not this time, at least.  
Y'know, people act like I steal everything I see.

(MORE)

JERRISON (CONT'D)

But they found a way to pin something on me, and BOOM! I'm thrown out here, exiled and with broken wings. By the way, thanks for the uhh... I don't know what you call them.

ARIA

Splints. Do you guys not have splints?

JERRISON

Well, we do, but we call them \*SERIES OF CHIRPS\*.

ARIA

We? There's more of you?

JERRISON

I mean, of course!  
(tactlessly excited)  
I'm more surprised to see a human!  
I thought you guys were extinct!

ARIA

WHAT?

JERRISON

(hastily changing the subject)  
Uhhh, don't worry about it! I mean I *thought* humans were, but you're clearly *NOT* extinct.  
(beat)  
Might be endangered, though.

ARIA

(shocked)  
EXTINCT?????

JERRISON

Yeah... but hey! If you're here, maybe there's more out there!

ARIA

And where would they be?

JERRISON

Beats me. Only people out this way are Crowfolk.

ARIA

And those are?

Jerrison walks out of the shack and points at the entrance to the giant structure the two figures walked to earlier.

JERRISON

The guys who live in that Nest over there are called.

Aria is still processing the fact that she could be the only human for miles. She tries to calm herself, however, by looking towards the Nest entrance.

ARIA

(hopeful)

You think these Crowfolk could help me find more humans?

JERRISON

I mean, maybe? But I wouldn't bother.

ARIA

Why not?

JERRISON

They can be, um, unpredictable. Help 'em out, they *might* help in return. Don't do that, and...

Jerrison imitates a weird cracking sound. Aria is incredulous but determined.

ARIA

How would I even get in?

JERRISON

Hell if I know. Before today, I never even left the Nest.

Jerrison sees a group of Crowfolk at the gates of the Nest trying to get in.

JERRISON (CONT'D)

But those guys might be able to help.

ARIA

Thanks for the info, Jerrison.

Aria starts walking towards the gate. Jerrison starts trailing behind.

ARIA (CONT'D)

Why are you following me?

JERRISON

I owe you one.

ARIA

Wanna know how you can repay me?  
Stay here and recover.

JERRISON

(somewhat touched)

Well, if you need anything, make  
sure to come back and visit. I can  
tell you anything you wanna know.

Jerrison starts walking back towards his shack as Aria slowly approaches the gate to the NEST.