

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHUPACABRA

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FADE IN

Part of the movie.

There is a dorky commercial spot where a Chupacabra reminds the visitors to please remember to turn off all phones.

CHUPACABRA

Phone calls ruin movies. Please,
turn your cell phones off.

It is a spoof on the iconic M&M's candies call for filmgoers to turn off their cellphones and respect their fellow theater patrons.

We get the idea maybe Chupacabras aren't evil little creatures anymore, but have gone mainstream and are out in the pop culture.

EXT. SET OF A PIRATE FILM - DAY

There is a PSA about film piracy.

ANNOUNCER

Film piracy is wrong. Don't do it. Think of the Chupacabra who could lose their jobs. That Chupacabra could be one of your friends or the talent. By downloading pirated content, you are putting the entire industry and people employed there at risk. Downloading movies put celebrities, directors and producers at risk. What happens if they don't earn enough to make the next film?

INT. MEXICAN BAR - DAY

There is finally a beer commercial before the film begins. It is a spoof on the "Most interesting man in the World" commercials. Only the man is a Chupacabra, a funny little harmless creature and the subject of this film; he is sitting in a bar. There are good looking women all around him.

COMMERCIAL

He gave his father "the talk." His passport is Mexican and requires no photograph. Once a rattlesnake bit him, after five days of excruciating pain, the snake finally died. His Cinco de Mayo party starts on the 8th of March, and ends sometime before July 4th. No less than 25 Mexican folk songs have been written about him. He is the most interesting Chupacabra in the world.

The Chupacabra has his photo on the label of the Mexican beer.

INT. THEATRE SCREEN

Finally, a fake Motion Picture Association of America rating.

ANNOUNCER

This film is rated FU for Funny Until it's not.

BEGIN TITLES

The title credits imposed on top of an eerie night-time rural Texas. Crickets, owls, coyotes, with scary music. Finally (just as the credits are ending), we see a Chupacabra. But it's not on four legs, and he's standing and walking across the prairie like a tiny little man.

The camera pans from the dark to a bright city in the distance. The Chupacabra appears on a trek to the city, which many will recognize as Austin, the state capital. We see the capital building on the skyline.

END TITLES

EXT. CONGRESS AVE - AUSTIN - NIGHT

NARRATOR

In Austin, these men are a dime a dozen and Frank Chadburn is only a minor character in our story.

FRANK is a wino, homeless and walking down Congress Ave.

NARRATOR

Even so, he is where this story begins, as he trekked toward the park after an evening spent drinking with his buddies and chugging a \$2 bottle of Oak Leaf Chardonnay.

Flashback to Frank in the alley behind the liquor store. Frank's friends are sharing a bottle or two, but Frank is chugging the wine, so he gets more than the others.

Back to Frank walking the Congress Avenue sidewalk.

NARRATOR

It was November 4th, 2019, at 3 a.m. The streets were empty, and as our minor character neared the river, there was a muggy humidity in the air.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. YELLOW ROSE - STRIP JOINT - NIGHT

NARRATOR

At the same time, exactly 1 mile from the river, the Yellow Rose was jumping.

We see the Yellow Rose neon sign and then we move indoors.

NARRATOR

On stage, Nicole Gilbert, or Diamond Motion, danced expertly but with little emotion.

We see DIAMOND doing her routine, and by that, I mean routine. She shows little talent and no enthusiasm.

NARRATOR

Her naked body seems enough for the audience, and she knew that. The enthusiastic male audience loved her show.

ADMIRER

(drunken)

I love you.

DIAMOND

(monotone)

Wonderful.

The ADMIRER shells out \$100 dollars for the topless dancer.

DIAMOND

(monotone)

Great. Thank you.

NARRATOR

Every evening was the same, but still a success.

The GOVERNOR, a distinguished looking man and wearing a cross on his lapel, enters with two Texas Rangers as security.

MANAGER

Governor, welcome to the Yellow Rose.

GOVERNOR

You ain't gotta welcome me every time I'm in here, you know.

MANAGER

Yes, well, we want you to feel at home.

GOVERNOR

Well, I was here last night and the night before that, and I

didn't ever feel at home until I
was at home with her.

He points at Diamond.

GOVERNOR

You didn't hear me complaining,
did you?

MANAGER

No sir. This way.

The manager leads him to a table with a good view of the
stage.

Diamond makes eye contact with the Governor, and he with
her. He has with him a dozen yellow roses, and he hands
them to a waitress, who will take them to Diamond
backstage. Suddenly, Diamond is transformed; now, she's
filled with enthusiasm and smiles. The Governor sits and
watches his mistress dance.

NARRATOR

And every evening for nearly a
month, Ray Chillicothe, the
meanest Governor of Texas ever,
celebrated his 20th year in
office. He'd been asked to be the
Secretary of Energy. Well, he
argued that that would take him
out of Texas. The President even
offered to let him run the Energy
Department from Texas, and he
still refused.

(beat)

He'd visited topless bars in
Washington and reasoned, 'why
travel to the capital when all the
best BEEP is in Austin?'

CUT TO:

EXT. CONGRESS AVE - AUSTIN - NIGHT

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, Frank had barely traveled the mile that separated the Yellow Rose from the river.

Frank stops to urinate on the step and door of a theatre. But just as he is about to begin, he sees a strange reflection in the glass. It's the Chupacabra, and he's walking upright like a man. The Chupacabra is also walking toward the river.

FRANK

Oh, my god!

Frank chokes the urine stream off and runs away.

The Chupacabra is as frightened as Frank, and hides in an alley, behind some rubbish bins.

NARRATOR

Frank's visions were in fact, NOT a drunken illusion. The street lights were illuminating the strange little creature.

CUT TO:

EXT. OIL FIELD - KARNES COUNTY TEXAS - NIGHT

It is a night drilling operation. The drilling rig is lit up like Christmas. And they are fracking. There is a radio on, and it's playing country and western music. They are injecting high-pressure water, sand and chemicals into the ground, hoping to force open up some of the rocks and allow the oil and gas to flow out to the head of the well. There is a slight earthquake.

NARRATOR

Thus an eminent scientist, an expert in field biology or in other words 'wild Texas' and not the sort of wild things happening in Austin. Dr. Thomas Vasquez, one of the original dreamers, dicected his first frog at the age of four.

He obtained a degree in biology at the tender age of 16. He is now a professor.

Professor Thomas VASQUEZ (80) has night vision optics and is positioned high up on the rig. He is surveying the dark area beyond where the drilling crew has cleared; it's thick Mesquite brush, but the professor has motion detection equipment set up, and if there is anything out there that electronic gear will let him know.

An oil field worker leaves the rig to urinate out in the brush. The professor's equipment alerts him of it and we see most of it all though the night vision equipment.

NARRATOR

His research culminated 35 years later in a book with the evocative title, Mystery of the Chupacabra: They are not of this Earth. That's his theory, and he's sticking to it.

Suddenly, the professor's gear sounds a beep, and a light goes off. He looks at the lights and knows what quadrant to turn to. He scans the dark, but sees nothing. He's not too frustrated.

The older TOOL PUSHER chuckles at the professor. One curious young, ROUGH NECK approaches him.

ROUGHNECK

So, professor. There's something out there?

PROFESSOR

I'm sure of it. My equipment is accurate. The fracking causes them to congregate.

ROUGHNECK

You figure it's the tiny earthquakes we're producing.

PROFESSOR

Precisely. They are intelligent life, and I believe they are just as curious as we are.

TOOL PUSHER

So, egg head, what do they do when there's a big earthquake?

The professor ignores his antagonist.

The young roughneck is looking for an answer, however. The professor responds to him.

PROFESSOR

They run like hell, of course. Same as us.

ROUGHNECK

I have seen one before and I reckon you're right about them being aliens.

TOOL PUSHER

You mean coyotes.

PROFESSOR

They aren't coyotes.

ROUGHNECK

Aren't they?

PROFESSOR

You know what they are.

TOOL PUSHER

Yea, sick coyotes.

PROFESSOR

No. They aren't.

TOOL PUSHER

They got mange.

PROFESSOR

No.

TOOL PUSHER

The government proved it by DNA.
It was in the newspapers.

PROFESSOR

Why would they want to do that?

TOOL PUSHER

Don't know.

PROFESSOR

That was a hoax. Part government
and part news media. You know they
work together.

TOOL PUSHER

No.

PROFESSOR

So, have you seen the DNA?

TOOL PUSHER

It was in the paper.

PROFESSOR

Have you seen the DNA?

TOOL PUSHER

Well, no.

PROFESSOR

I have.

ROUGHNECK

And it's peculiar?

PROFESSOR

To say the least.

CUT TO:

EXT. RURAL HOMESTEAD AND FARM - NIGHT

Frank HAMER awakes from his sleep, and while something is clearly frightening his chickens (and probably eating them), but he takes time to put on his uniform. Hamer is somewhere between Barney Fife and Don Quixote, a by-the-

book government official who needs the uniform (and control of other people) to be a hero.

Finally, Hamer emerges from his rural Texas home. Something has been out in the chicken coop; the noise coming from it is still telling us a foreboding story.

Suddenly, the thief confronted Hamer, only 30 feet away, a coyote with a chicken in his mouth. The coyote freezes and Hamer freezes. They've surprised each other. Hamer goes for his pistol, and aims directly at the coyote, pulls the trigger and misses by a mile, several feet, and the bullet pierces the water through. The coyote narrows his eyes and remains still, looking only resentful.

NARRATOR

As the century's most amazing scientific discovery took place in Austin, Texas Ranger Frank Hamer had his eyes on a coyote with one of his chickens in his mouth.

Hamer pulls the trigger again and misses again. This time, the bullet pierces the quarter panel on his highway patrol car and a tire.

The Coyote with the chicken trots off in no rush.

NARRATOR

Of course, had he seen a Chupacabra out in his drive in front of this house, our story would have been drastically different (not that the Ranger would have been able to shoot him), but for now, no one could blame the Texas Ranger for his nearsightedness. His stoutness and perseverance had previously earned him many good distinctions, including the Medal of Merit for solving the mystery of the missing bodies from the Gun Barrel City cemetery. He was decorated on August 28th, 2017, by Governor Ray Chillicothe in person.

DISSOLVE BACK TO:

INT. DARK GARAGE AND HOME BUSINESS - DAY

Some dope addict and freak has been melting the bodies down and making them into candles. It appears that the body snatcher has an internet candle business.

Hamer walks into the thief's garage and smells the inventory of candles.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONGRESS AVE SIDEWALK - AUSTIN - NIGHT

Meanwhile, our little Chupacabra friend has emerged from hiding and continues down the sidewalk.

NARRATOR

At the same moment, in the state's capital, on the Trinity River, something happened to confirm what was thought to have been settled long ago in Peru. On the Congress Avenue Bridge, a life form that contravened the laws of ridicule was about to give the scientist his answer.

EXT. CONGRESS AVE STREET - AUSTIN - NIGHT

The former governor is drunk and feeling up his dancer friend, Diamond. The DRIVER is a Texas Ranger, part of his security detail.

The brim of the former governor's hat keeps hitting her in the forehead, making it impossible for them to kiss.

DIAMOND

Ray! What are you doing?

The governor is pawing at her and trying to kiss her in an odd way. Mostly, it's the cowboy hat that gets in the way.

DIAMOND

At least, take your hat off.

GOVERNOR

Some kings wear crowns, but only
one wears a cowboy hat.

DIAMOND

George Strait? Really where?

GOVERNOR

I wasn't talking about...

DIAMOND

You should know, nothing arouses
me more than George Strait.

GOVERNOR

Really?

DIAMOND

Yes!

GOVERNOR

(to the driver)

Tom, can you?

The driver turns his attention to the radio/CD player.
Finally, he finds a good song. And the couple in the back
figure out how to kiss without removing the hat.

But just as the driver looks up from the radio, our
Chupacabra is in the headlights. He's been crossing the
bridge, and the governor's car is about to hit him.

The drive whips the steering wheel to the right.

The car does hit the Chupacabra, but it's a glancing blow.

The car careens off the bridge and into the Trinity River.

CUT TO:

EXT. RURAL HOMESTEAD AND FARM - NIGHT

Hamer has put a dummy target in the shape of a coyote in
his drive in the exact position the coyote occupied. And he
nails it with several shots. His vision is blurry, but it
seems that he can hit a target, but in a real situation, he

can't hit anything. So, not only is his vision flawed so are his nerves.

The phone rings and interrupts Hamer's target practice.

HAMER

Hello!

(beat)

Hamer speaking.

(beat)

In the Trinity?

(beat)

Are you sure in the Trinity?

(beat)

What happened to the guardrails?

(beat)

Oh, dear god, they failed?

(beat)

He's dead?

(beat)

Murder? And there is a witness?

EXT. CONGRESS AVE SIDEWALK - AUSTIN - NIGHT

We see from Frank's POV and various angles the guardrail failing and the car plunging into the river.

FRANK

Oh, dear god!

CUT TO:

EXT. RURAL HOMESTEAD AND FARM - NIGHT

HAMER

Oh, dear god! A drunk?

EXT. UNIVERSITY APARTMENT - AUSTIN - NIGHT

XOCHITIOTZI is in a room with about twenty taxidermied animals. He sits at his computer and tries to type an email to archer.archaeology@university.edu

XOCHITIOTZI

Oh, dear god! Help me find the words. This is a lovely creature, and I'm sure she will be the love

of my life, but I have no idea
what to say.

NARRATOR

This young man's a scientist too,
but a humble research assistant,
working in the Biology Department
under professor Vasquez. His
name's Xochitiotzi, and he's 25.
Biology isn't his only passion. He
has another, a more romantic one.

He types...

XOCHITIOTZI

Dear Miss Archer. What if she's
married? Or even worse, has some
tropical fever?

And then backs out of it with the delete button. The type
has been worn off from the delete button. We can see "print
screen" and "scroll lock," but the "delete" key is very
worn.

NARRATOR

Yes, while he's only days away
from his Ph.D. and a teaching
position of his own, his passion
is for Miss Betsy Jo Archer of
Archer County, and the Archaeology
Department.

(beat)

A passion she provoked with just a
few words...

CUT TO:

INT. UNIVERSITY LABORATORY - DAY

Professor Betsy Jo ARCHER (29) has several bones out on a
table examining them. Xochitiotzi is there trying to making
small talk.

ARCHER

Last year, the prehistoric
skeletons of a couple entwined in
a deathly embrace were

romantically discovered just in
time for Valentine's Day.

Xochitiotzi is so nervous; he can barely be understood.

Xochitiotzi
Da da double burials in embrace
are rare?

ARCHER
Extremely. They were spooning each
other. Isn't that sweet?

Xochitiotzi
Ya, Ya. Yeah. Wha, wha, where?

ARCHER
In a cave on the Peloponnese
peninsula, southern Greece.

Xochitiotzi
Old?

ARCHER
One of the oldest in the world, if
not the oldest found to date.

A long awkward beat.

ARCHER
What's your name, anyway?

XOCHITIOTZI
Joseph Xochitiotzi.

ARCHER
Your name means someone's who's
smoking hot.

XOCHITIOTZI
I don't know; it's from the Bible.

ARCHER
No. Not Joseph. Xochitiotzi is
Aztech for someone who smokes, or
is smoking hot.

XOCHITIOTZI

Oh, I thought you meant Joseph. I wasn't aware of the other.

ARCHER

With a little work you could be, you know.

XOCHITIOTZI

What?

ARCHER

Smoking hot.

She straightens his hair and the collar of his shirt.

ARCHER

Do you smoke?

XOCHITIOTZI

Na, na, no.

ARCHER

But you could be smoking hot.

XOCHITIOTZI

Me?

ARCHER

Yes.

XOCHITIOTZI

No.

ARCHER

Yes.

For no real reason, Xochitiotzi feels like he needs to leave. He's entirely too nervous to stay. She touched his hair and the collar of his shirt; it's too much!

XOCHITIOTZI

Well, thank you! I'll be seeing you.

As he's leaving...

ARCHER

Maybe not for a while; I'm going to Peru.

Out in the hall out of sight, Xochitiotzi shows his frustration. He feels like he can't talk to girls.

Xochitiotzi talks to himself.

XOCHITIOTZI

Uh man, I blew it. When she asked if I smoked, I should have said, "every chance I get." Huh, the sexual connotation. That would have been very quick of me. But I didn't.

He contemplates and turns to return but stops. He's lost that opportunity; another suitor is there visiting with her now, a much more attractive MATADOR.

NARRATOR

Joseph Xochitiotzi was lost in love. As for Betsy Jo Archer and her sense of adventure, they set off on a new dig, much more controversial and at a much higher elevation, since the university had just sent her to Peru to unravel the mystery of the last Incas.

CUT TO:

EXT. MACHU PICCHU - PERU - DAY

Archer and guide, JUAN, are riding horses.

NARRATOR

Something you should know about professor Archer, to understand her. She listens to her instincts, not her department chairman or anyone else.

Archer is trekking through the jungle on foot now.

ARCHER

I want to go here.

JUAN

Your university contracted me to take you here.

ARCHER

No. Everyone goes there.

JUAN

There is nothing where you want to go.

She's adamant.

ARCHER

I want to go there.

Juan looks at the OTHERS in his party.

ARCHER

Juan, how many hours' walk to this gravesite?

JUAN

In this heat, at least, six, Miss Archer.

ARCHER

Very well. Let's move out.

They march through a thick, unforgiving jungle in the pouring rain.

JUAN

Stop!

ARCHER

Is this it?

JUAN

I think so.

ARCHER

Very well.

She looks down and if she should slip, it would be a very long slid down the mountain.

JUAN

You need to be sure of your footing.

We now see a small monument (with extraordinary symbols) that marks a cave's entrance; there is a hardly noticeable hole in the jungle floor. Two men crawl out of the hole that is grown over with vegetation.

From afar, a strange man is watching them and when he sees the men come from the entrance, he runs off presumably to give the information to someone. He trips and slides down the mountain in the rain.

JUAN

These are the two men who discovered the cave.

A small parakeet comes and lands on one of the man's shoulders. He takes out some bread and feeds it.

JUAN

A cup of tea before we go down?

ARCHER

Beer? I need a beer.

JUAN

We don't have any.

Archer seems a bit put out.

ARCHER

Let me tell you something about eco-tourism: raincoats, and beer. That's all I have to say and I'm just saying.

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE/TOMB - DAY

The tiny parakeet follows them into the cave. Archer pulls out a tiny digital camera, and is ready to photograph any relic she might come across.

ARCHER

Numerous cultures around here practice Mummification.

JUAN

They probably learned from the Egyptians?

ARCHER

Actually, not. The Chinchorro people, who lived in what is now Peru and Chile, were the world's first practitioners of mummification, thousands of years before Egyptians. But they mummified humans.

JUAN

(hesitant)

So, what exactly are we looking for here?

ARCHER

Something different.

(beat)

Well, two arms, two legs, a head, a pair of eyes, and a mouth just like us. But small in stature and three fingers.

JUAN

So, like the others got cut off chopping wood or something?

ARCHER

No.

JUAN

So, where are these creatures?

ARCHER

They're here.

(beat)

Mummies are entombed often with
food.

She photographs some plates with dried out 7,000-year-old
food still there.

ARCHER

Figurines

She jesters to some figurines. She photographs them.

ARCHER

Pottery

She jesters to some pottery. She photographs it.

ARCHER

Items from everyday life.

She jesters to some jewelry. It is clearly worth a lot of
money. She photographs it, and she walks right past it.
She's only interested at what's at the end of her trudge.

ARCHER

They're here; this sort of stuff
was buried often with the
mummified dead.

(beat)

Now, we are talking.

She discovers some fine ceramics, teapot-shaped ceramic
with the silhouette of a Chupacabra painted on the side.
She photographs the teapot, and then zooms in to take a
detail of the Chupacabra.

ARCHER

Here's something I don't
understand, a preserved head. It
might be a war trophy. Severed
heads were probably ritual objects
of some sort.

(beat)

But human?

(beat)

This fellow has had his mouth sewn shut with cactus spines.

JUAN

Maybe he talked too much?

She chuckles and photographs it,

ARCHER

You are probably right.

They enter a different part of the cave.

JUAN

Is this the tomb room?

ARCHER

Not yet.

(beat)

It's the embalming room, where the mummies were prepared. The bodies were disembowelled on this table.

JUAN

It is a very small table.

ARCHER

And the entrails thrown in these pots. Then, after a quick bath, they were powdered, made up, and wrapped up.

JUAN

What was this for?

ARCHER

It probably held oil, squirted between each layer of the wrapping.

JUAN

What kind of oil is it?

ARCHER

No idea.

(beat)

Found it!

She looks at some alien hieroglyphs on the wall. She photographs them as well.

ARCHER

Yes, this is it. Señor,
let's see who you were.

(beat)

They've written clearly what is on
the other side of this wall. Thank
you for your cooperation.

JUAN

We Peruvians always try to be
hospitable.

ARCHER

You won't find Peruvians behind
this wall.

The others, Peruvians acting as guides, don't know what to think.

Archer takes a careful photo of the hieroglyphs on the wall, and then gestures for them to break the wall down. They've brought tools.

ARCHER

Well, get with it.

JUAN

What does that say?

ARCHER

Something like 'we'll spare your
life, if you will turn and walk
away, now.'

(beat)

Probably.

(beat)

Not entirely sure.

Juan and the Peruvians are now even more nervous.

JUAN

I'm joking. Just kidding.

The Peruvians demolish the wall with sledgehammers. The parakeet arrives and rests on the shoulder of one of the men. Poison gas rushes out of the hole they've made. The parakeet falls dead to the floor.

ARCHER

Run!

EXT. SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN - DAY

Archer turns to run. They make it outside.

ARCHER

A peculiarly lethal mix of gas. I wonder how they orchestrated that given the technology available back then?

JUAN

Fine Peruvian hospitality!

ARCHER

Yes, but remember they weren't Peruvian.

Archer point to the sky.

DISSOLVE TO LATER:

EXT. SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN - DAY

Waiting. Waiting. More rain. They wait for the gas to clear.

After a time, they notice the Peruvian Army making a trek up toward their location, and in the distance, army helicopters will be arriving soon.

ARCHER

Here they come.

JUAN

I wonder what they want?

ARCHER

The Peruvian government would like nothing better than to destroy

this site, professor Vasquez and my work thus far.

JUAN

Why?

ARCHER

They like the status quo, I guess. And it threatens their government and church. The tourism might do wonders for their economy, but they don't care about that. It calls a lot into question if you know what I mean.

Juan and the Peruvians put up their hands and walk toward the soldier coming up the mountain. When Archer doesn't surrender, they shot at her. Archer descends back into the cave. Some of the bullets would have hit the monument, but it is some sort of magnet, and it repulses the bullets, which fall to the ground instead of striking it.

INT. CAVE/TOMB

In the actual tomb, she dusts off an ancient papyrus book. Again, there are strange alien hieroglyphics.

She reads pages 1-3, and when she turns the page, strange noises begin and dust from the ceiling begins to fall. She places the page back, and the noise and dust stop. Finally, she gets over her fear and curiosity wins out. She turns the book to page 4.

The second she does this... pulleys, levers and various contraptions come into operation; a complicated machine releases several doors, and several plain sarcophagi are revealed. One sarcophagus is different. Archer picks the ornate sarcophagus and approaches it. The room is now filled with light as the machine has also opened up doors/windows on the side of the mountain.

She opens the royal looking sarcophagus, and there is a tiny creature or is it. It is small, like a Chupacabra, but it is wrapped up, a mummy. She tries to look at the hands, but they are wrapped heavily.

She photographs it rapidly.

Here come the soldiers into the cave. They steal everything in the first chamber, the plates, ceramics, the jewelry, placing it in their shirts and backpacks.

Archer replaces the lid of the sarcophagus and tries to carry it. She can't move it. But the weight of the soldiers and the machine opening up the room in the middle of a rainstorm/mudslide has causes instability.

The Peruvian general arrives in the burial chamber without his soldiers, who are wrestling over the gold in the previous room.

GENERAL

If you think you're leaving with ground-breaking evidence that we're not alone, you are sorely mistaken.

(beat)

What gives you these crazy theories?

She pulls out her Kindle and shows the General professor Vasquez's eBook.

GENERAL

(reads)

The Mystery of the Chupacabra:
They are not of this Earth.

There is a photo of a Chupacabra walking upright, and in the distant sky, there is a flying saucer.

GENERAL

I know who you are. I thought you would carry around his paperback. Or have it memorized.

ARCHER

No one reads paperbacks anymore.

GENERAL

Maybe you are right.

The generally delicately takes the Kindle from the professor.

GENERAL

I've always wanted one of these toys. For my daughter.

(beat)

We tried to order her one, but Amazon Prime doesn't extend to our country.

GENERAL

This discovery, the one you will never make, might be worth a lot of money. What would you do, try to save the world?

ARCHER

No, just my sister. She's ill, and the doctors are a fortune.

GENERAL

How very touching. She'll be sick to hear you are in a Peruvian military prison where I promise you; you will not be alone if you understand me.

(beat)

Arrest her!

He looks back, and he doesn't have anyone to follow his orders. The soldiers are still fighting with each other in the previous room over the gold and artifacts.

Archer would have been captured if not for one particularly greedy soldier who stops and holds everyone up as he fills his backpack and trousers and shirt with gold.

SOLDIER

I'm not leaving this mountain without my fair share.

Suddenly, the cave opens up, and the entire cave works slide down the side of the mountain.

There is a chase/tumble down the mountain; it's Indiana Jones meets Romancing the Stone, and Archer rides the tiny sarcophagus like a pony. It is the rainy season, and she rides the mud down to safety.

All the evidence, the soldiers, the artifacts, and the other mummies are all buried under tons of mud.

Archer and the sarcophagus land in a cart drawn by a donkey. The FARMER is absent-mindedly piling hay into the cart and doesn't notice. He covers them with hay, allowing her to escape.

Some soldiers might have survived the mud slid, but they've looted so much gold from the tomb it weighs them down.

EXT. THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN - DAY

Soldiers frantically dig through the mud. There is a suffocating, but moving being under about a foot of mud. The General emerges, half choked with mud. He spits out a large amount of it and screams.

GENERAL

Find her!

The soldiers search in the mud for survivors.

EXT. LIMA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

On the tarmac, just outside an airport hanger, a grieving WIDOW stands beside a casket. She waits while it is being loaded into the cargo hold.

A Peruvian custom's agent wants to open the casket, but she stops them. It's professor Archer; she shakes her head.

ARCHER

That's not a good idea.

(beat)

Dingee fever.

The inspectors don't seem too worried. Maybe they have no idea what that infection entails. She pulls out some latex gloves and a flimsy facemask, and tries to hand the items to the inspectors.

ARCHER

Sudden high fever. Severe headaches, pain behind the eyes. Severe joint and muscle pain.

Fatigue. Skin rash. Nausea.
Vomiting. Bleeding, maybe a
nosebleed, bleeding gums, or
bleeding out your ass!

As she speaks, they become less interested in searching the coffin.

ARCHER

Death.

Finally, they give up and move on. She chuckles. The casket is loaded.

Professor Archer boards the plane.

ARCHER

Austin?

The flight attendant smiles and nods.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

That's correct.

INT. PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE - AUSTIN - DAY

Frank is there, as well as a few LAWYERS, a GOOD COP and a BAD COP. A CRIMINALIST is there with a Breathalyzer. He clumsily drops it on the floor. He picks it up and dusts it off, and Frank breathes into it.

CRIMINALIST

8.1%

PROSECUTOR

What?

The machine ticks up a notch.

CRIMINALIST

8.2% I'm sorry.

PROSECUTOR

That can't be right. He'd be dead.

(beat)

Doesn't it need to be
recalibrated?

CRIMINALIST

Why?

PROSECUTOR

Because it's wrong.

CRIMINALIST

So? Juries love it.

The BAD COP takes over questioning Frank.

BAD COP

How can we believe you that the Chupacabra was innocent when you are legally dead, I mean drunk?

FRANK

That was yesterday.

BAD COP

And you're still drunk!

FRANK

I swear it's true, officer.

(beat)

The poor little creature, they're so cute, he just was frozen in the headlights, and the driver just swerved off the bridge and into the water.

BAD COP

Tell us the truth! Or we're going to lock you up too.

FRANK

What do you want me to say?

BAD COP

The creature viciously and with malice of forethought attacked and killed our beloved governor.

Frank hesitates and doesn't know what to do.

GOOD COP

Wouldn't it be better if you just came clean? We have all the evidence we need. You might as well be on the winning team. Come on tell us what we want to hear, and I'll buy you a drink.

FRANK

The governor was in the back seat.

PROSECUTOR

What a great man.

FRANK

He had a beer in one hand, and a big hand full of...

PROSECUTOR

Ahhum.

FRANK

A meagerly clothed dancer in the other hand.

PROSECUTOR

A dancer?

(beat)

The governor who oversaw the execution of more men, twice as many as any other governor. And saw to the incarceration of over 1.2 million criminals? He almost single-handedly feed the entire prison industry for 20 years. Drunk and with a dancer? Nonsense.

FRANK

But I saw her. I saw them. I know her. She used to give me her ones.

CUT TO:

INT. LIQUOR STORE - NIGHT

Frank is with a lot of his friends, also men down and out. They thirstily eyeball the whiskey bottles waiting on the counter. He pays for a lot of booze with a stack of one-dollar bills.

BACK TO:

INT. PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE - AUSTIN - DAY

PROSECUTOR

Yes, and here's a police report where you saw the Easter Bunny last Halloween?

Everyone chuckles.

PROSECUTOR

I happen to know Diamond spent the night at her mother's house in Westlake. Alone and she's perfectly fine.

Everyone chuckles again.

A SECOND CRIMINALIST enters the room and speaks to the prosecutor in a hushed tone.

SECOND CRIMINALIST

We've identified three bodies from the submerged car. Chillicothe. His security a Texas Ranger and there...

He produces a publicity shot of Diamond, published by the Yellow Rose, and then ten or so racy photos scraped from the Internet. She's naked in photos posted by drunken frat boys.

The prosecutor looks a little too long at them. The men raise their eyebrows.

PROSECUTOR

Just being thorough.

FRANK

I tried to tell you.

PROSECUTOR

Arrest him.

FRANK

I'm innocent. It was an accident.

THE COPS

What for?

PROSECUTOR

Collusion.

FRANK

I was walking down the street.

PROSECUTOR

There you have it. That is
collusion.

(beat)

And, this is Texas, Mister. You
can't walk in the street when
there's a sidewalk available.

FRANK

It's a misdemeanor.

PROSECUTOR

Yes, but it's your third. You've
been drunk twice. So, we're going
to enhance that, and we'll see if
the idea of four years prison
doesn't enhance your memory about
what happened to our governor.

They lead Frank out in handcuff.

PROSECUTOR

Gentlemen, I spoke to the new
governor, and he thinks no one
knows his name. I mean really who
knows who the Lt. Governor is.

(beat)

He wants to hire 1000 new
correctional officers before the

next election. He seems to think they're good solid support him.

(beat)

And to do that he needs inmates. People we can send to prison. Do you think you can help us out?

GOOD COP

Yes.

CRIMINALIST

Sure.

BAD COP

Of course.

PROSECUTOR

(beat)

And until we find out what happened... maybe the left staged this entire tragedy to embarrass us. I'm relying on you to keep this quiet and out of the papers.

BAD COP

Yes.

CRIMINALIST

Sure.

GOOD COP

Of course.

PROSECUTOR

Not a word to the press?

CUT TO:

INT. UNIVERSITY DORM - NIGHT

Sixty college students are partying and one is student reading from the computer. It's a news site, and the site reads...

<H1>The Governor and the Dancer</H1>

and

<H2>His Dance with Death</H2>

and..

<H3>Blood Sucking Goat Killer Loose in the Capital</H3>

and

<p>Join our mailing list to receive the breaking updates on the case. </p>

SOBER STUDENT

A monster killed the governor, and
the police are clueless.

A drunk student comes in and reads the news over the sober student's shoulder.

DRUNK STUDENT

That old fascist fart. Thank god!

INT. GOVERNORS MANSION - NIGHT

The NEW GOVERNOR and the prosecutor are speaking in the entry and hallway. The governor is trying to watch the MOVERS, who are bringing in chests and boxes and furniture into the mansion. He's a nervous man and doesn't want anything damaged or stolen. His wife is in the background, pointing and yelling instructions.

NEW GOVERNOR

A Chupacabra! How ignorant.

Most of the movers are Hispanic. They overheard as they're bringing items into the mansion. They hear the word "Chupacabra" and they drop a sofa. A third worker almost drops an expensive vase. They are nearly terrified, but they try to maintain their dignity. The governor is mindful of not being insensitive.

NEW GOVERNOR

Uh, uh, I mean how uninformed.

PROSECUTOR

They'll spin any story to get hits.

NEW GOVERNOR
They'll invigorate and energize
the Hispanic population

PROSECUTOR
Probably.

NEW GOVERNOR
... and just before an election, we
can't afford to lose.

PROSECUTOR
No one can afford to lose an
election, Governor.

NEW GOVERNOR
Do you think the Dems are behind
this? This rumour sounds' like
this is something they'd pull.

PROSECUTOR
I doubt it, but it's possible.

NEW GOVERNOR
Send my condolences.

PROSECUTOR
Ray didn't have a wife.

NEW GOVERNOR
No, to the poor mother of Diamond.
She lives out in Westlake, you
know.

PROSECUTOR
I wasn't aware, but yes. I can do
that.

The prosecutor leaves as more furniture arrives.

NEW GOVERNOR
(to himself and the movers)
Ray Chillicothe with a dancer from
the Yellow Rose. That I can
understand. But a Chupacabra,
today in the 21st century and so

near an institution of higher
learning where superstition
shouldn't exist? I'm at a loss.

The governor walks out the front onto the porch and looks
down the street. He sees a Chupacabra, but it's only a
glance. The cute little creature walks around a corner.

He rushes to a phone and calls the Department of Public
Safety. The COLONEL answers.

COLONEL

Hello...

(beat)

This is the chief of the Texas
Rangers. Colonel Evans.

NEW GOVERNOR

This Chupacabra business sounds
serious. It could be Democrats or
worse. Mexicans in little
Chupacabra suits.

COLONEL

What do you want me to do, sir?

NEW GOVERNOR

Look into it and want it exposed
as a democratic hoax before the
election.

COLONEL

Yes, Sir.

NEW GOVERNOR

And keep me informed. I'm the
governor now.

COLONEL

Yes, Sir.

(to secretary)

Call Frank Hamer.

EXT. RURAL HOMESTEAD AND FARM - NIGHT

Hamer's phone is ringing, but he's dead asleep, and doesn't
even stir. The phone keeps on ringing. The coonhound only

lifts his head an inch, looks not too worried, and Hamer sleeps on.

INT. VARIOUS BUSINESSES - MORNING

Hamer doesn't carry a cell phone. The secretary has to call the HEB, the barbershop, a gun shop, the feed store and she finally reaches him at the Dairy Queen. He's drinking coffee with this retired buddies.

COLONEL

(over the phone)

You want to prove to me you're not a privileged buffoon like they say?

HAMER

I'll take care of it, sir.

COLONEL

The governor wants results, but mostly he wants this Chupacabra thing to blow over. Understand?

HAMER

I'll take care of it, sir.

COLONEL

We need a little short burst of energy just before the election.

HAMER

Just let me finish my coffee and tell a few more lies and I'll be right on it.

COLONEL

You have 48 hours to obtain results.

HAMER

I'm on the election, sir. I mean, I'm on the job.

In the Dairy Queen, Hamer is surrounded by a bunch of bullshitters. He picks up the newspaper from the table. He looks at the headlines.

HAMER

What a F'ed up situation.

Everyone is looking to Hamer for an answer to the mysterious phone call.

HAMER

That was the Colonel, and he put me on this Chupacabra case.

A very long beat.

OLD TIMER #1

Well, what are you doing here still?

HAMER

I have 24 hours, it seems.

OLD TIMER #2

The election, you know.

OLD TIMER #3

Hell, if the Hispanics get the idea there are actual Chupacabras, well, it could be a disaster. They might get out and vote.

OLD TIMER #4

Open border socialists, for sure.

HAMER

That's what the governor thinks too.

OLD TIMER #1

You can't let them down.

OLD TIMER #2

Aren't you going to do something?

HAMER

I will, just as soon as I figure out where'd they get an animal like that. Where do these Chupacabra come from? How would a

person go about catching on
anyway? What brings um out?

EXT. DRILLING SITE - DAY

The roughneck and the tool pusher are out in the Mesquite brush; they are looking at the ground and looking for tracks.

ROUGHNECK

Look!

(beat)

He's walking like a man.

(beat)

One two, one two.

He points out the tracks.

TOOL PUSHER

Nope; this is some trick of the professors.

(beat)

He's getting government funding probably.

(beat)

Just cause people are more educated than you don't mean they are more honest.

ROUGHNECK

But I just saw him drive off, and he was up on the monkey board all night last night.

TOOL PUSHER

That fellow is as crooked as a Virginia fence.

ROUGHNECK

So, if he was up there, and I know that what happened, then who made these tracks?

TOOL PUSHER

I think it's a sick coyote then. Their front feet get to hurting, and their toes start to fall off,

'cause of the mange, and well, they're hoppin' around on their hind legs trying not to die. You seen dogs walk on their hind legs at the circus ain't ya?

ROUGHNECK

Do you think it was a coyote?

TOOL PUSHER

It is sure as hell was no Martian like that lunatic college professor thinks.

ROUGHNECK

I think it's more complicated than that.

TOOL PUSHER

Well, you working again tonight?

ROUGHNECK

Yep.

TOOL PUSHER

Expect some more trimmers?

ROUGHNECK

Yep. So long as they're injecting that shit into the ground.

TOOL PUSHER

Well, keep your eyes open. I seen more strange thing around frakin' rigs than anywhere.

The roughneck continues to follow the tracks.

ROUGHNECK

It walked right here, and it stopped and was down on all four and walked on two again and... holy shit... and flew away?

TOOL PUSHER

Toward Austin?

They look out and far far away on the horizon is Austin.

ROUGHNECK

Could it be related to the
Chupacabra they saw in Austin?

TOOL PUSHER

You'd be a hell of a cop.

ROUGHNECK

No, I couldn't do that.

Speaking of the cops, up rolls Frank Hamer in his highway patrol car. He gets out of the vehicle and approached the two men.

TOOL PUSHER

Ranger.

HAMER

Howdy.

TOOL PUSHER

What can we do for you?

HAMER

I'm in charge of the Chupacabra case. Maybe you read about it in the papers?

TOOL PUSHER

Chupacabra?

HAMER

What did you think I said?

TOOL PUSHER

Well, I don't know. Seems like everybody is talking about Chupacabra. The whole damn state.

HAMER

Seeing you're out here, destroying the environment by frakin' the hell out of her. See the earth is like a woman. A woman can only

take so much of that before she's worn out, you know.

The oil field workers look in awe at the sexist lawman's ignorance.

HAMER

Well, anyway, I thought you might be able to help me a bit.

TOOL PUSHER

I'm just a tool pusher.

ROUGHNECK

And hell, don't ask me. I'm just a roughneck.

TOOL PUSHER

I suggest you see a field biologist.

ROUGHNECK

We had one out here last night.

HAMER

Look, I have 24 hours to solve this case, and I don't have time to set traps and catch whoever is doing this.

Both oil field workers look at each other a bit strange at this. They suspect that Hamer might be crazy.

ROUGHNECK

Let me find you that fellow's card...

By now, the coonhound has arrived and is smelling up the trail the Chupacabra made. He...

ROUGHNECK

Hey, look. What's he looking at?

TOOL PUSHER

Your dog found them tracks we saw.

HAMER

Dog's find no tracks. They might smell, but they don't see any track. Yall, is so dumb, your going to get killed out here in a mechanical accident. No wonder gas is two dollars, and the pumpers got to pay all your widows on account of you not paying attention to what you are doing and being ignorant.

Hamer is an idiot, and the oilmen know that now.

ROUGHNECK

No, we found tracks.

(beat)

Chupacabra tracks.

TOOL PUSHER

Coyote tracks.

The dog follows the tracks but reaches the place where the tracks disappear, and the roughneck thinks the Chupacabra took to flight. The dog's nose leaves the ground, and he raises his nose to the wind, high in the air.

ROUGHNECK

Them tracks were, from about here...

And the men retrace the tracks.

TOOL PUSHER

They were particularly odd tracks. One two, one two; like it was walking upright.

HAMER

Hell, them's my dog's tracks. One, two, three, four.

The hound has stepped on and erased the Chupacabra's tracks.

ROUGHNECK

No, no.

HAMER

You are telling me that that dog didn't just make that imprint?

ROUGHNECK

No, we seen them.

TOOL PUSHER

I'll admit they were strange, but I've been hunting since I was a baby. And...

HAMER

Probably a wild pig, you think.

TOOL PUSHER

I got to be honest. Here's what I think...

HAMER

Well, that's what I'll put down. Pig tracks.

TOOL PUSHER

No, let me tell you...

Hamer chuckles. He's talked to a few people before about this issue.

HAMER

Are you going to tell me it was a coyote up walking on two feet like a man?

ROUGHNECK

Well, take this fellow's card, he left it with us in case we saw anything.

Hamer takes the business card, but isn't too interested.

HAMER

The old timers at the Dairy Queen say they are attracted to the

ground vibrating, the shaking when
your frakin'.

ROUGHNECK

That college professor told us
that too.

HAMER

If you see something, well, don't
shot it.

TOOL PUSHER

Don't shot it? What you want us to
do with it then?

HAMER

Well, just don't shot it. Cause
then, I'd see you in prison.

TOOL PUSHER

Are you going to send me to prison
for shooting a coyote?

HAMER

You idiot. It's not a coyote. And
it's not an alien either. It's
some Hispanic kid running around
out here in a Halloween costume.

The oil field workers are amazed at the idiotic and
Quixotic Texas Ranger. But they look at his vehicle, his
official badge and his gun and are polite.

TOOL PUSHER

We'll keep you informed if we see
anything.

HAMER

Please do.

After Hamer is gone...

ROUGHNECK

You ever wondered why the
Chupacabras are attracted out here
to the frakin'.

TOOL PUSHER
Maybe they're contemplatin'
protestin'?

ROUGHNECK
I was fixing to say...

TOOL PUSHER
Well, they can?
(beat)
They got no jobs, and that's who
protests oilmen here in Texas.

The Tool Pusher thinks he's witty.

EXT. AUSTIN - DUSK

The Chupacabra emerges from hiding and continues on his journey.

EXT. ABANDONED WELL SIGHT - NIGHT

There is an open wellhead; the cap has been removed.

Professor Vasquez is sitting beside the wellhead in a lawn chair with a pen and journal, night vision equipment, a box of dynamite and a cigarette lighter and a loud radio. He is eating a Hostess Twinkie, and on a small card table about ten feet away there is a table with several Twinkie's out and one has had the wrapping removed. It sits on a plate, bait. There is also a light board there that will alert him if anything moves in the Mesquite.

The professor reaches into the box of dynamite and pulls out a stick. He carefully inserts the fuse. He lights his lighter, and then the fuse. He drops the stick into the well, and waits for the explosion.

There is an underground explosion, and the ground shakes. The professor waits. He examines the light board for any warnings. He looks through his night vision equipment and sees nothing. He eats another Twinkie and makes a note in his journal.

He pulls out another stick of dynamite and repeats the process.

EXT. UNIVERSITY ANIMAL BEHAVIOR LAB - DAY

There is a lot of security leading to the basement of the building. Warning signs and a security guard is posted at the door. Professor Vasquez arrives in the hallway.

VASQUEZ

Has no one been through here?

GUARD

No, sir.

VASQUEZ

Not even yourself?

GUARD

No, sir.

The professor enters the lab and turns on the light. We see in separate enclosures, a gibbon, a bonobo, a chimpanzee, and a Chupacabra. The apes seem ready for some interaction. Some learning and communication has been taking place.

Over the years, researchers have succeeded and failed in teaching apes to use language.

Professor Vasquez stops at the first enclosure and, using Great Ape language, signs something to the gibbon. Who signs back, "good morning" and "Julie?" The professor signs "1 hour." The gibbon shrugs and returns to his bed. He waits. His trainer will be there not soon enough.

The professor stops at the bonobo's enclosure. He uses Yerkish, a keyboard with keys that contain lexigrams, symbols corresponding to objects or ideas. He pushes the keyboard with "good morning," and the bonobo responds.

The bonobo pushes a key, and a symbol on the computer screen appears. As the bonobo keys in his sentence, the professor, signs, and repeats the words.

Many
 (beat)
Excitement
 (beat)
About

(beat)
New
(beat)
Guest

The professor keys in his response and repeats the words.

Yes
(beat)
Many
(beat)
Excitement
(beat)
About
(beat)
New
(beat)
Guest

The bonobo looks curiously at the forth enclosure.

Professor keys in "bye."

VASQUEZ
Bye.

The bonobo keys in "bye."

VASQUEZ
Bye.

The professor stops at the Chimpanzee. In the real world, apes can't speak; they have thinner tongues and a higher larynx, or vocal box than people, making it especially hard for them to pronounce vowel sounds. The theory is that it might be possible for them to sound out consonants. The chimp uses a lot of gestures and the old sign language as he speaks.

VASQUEZ
How is our guest?

CHIMPANZEE
Pssd ff.

Pissed off.

VASQUEZ

I'm sorry.

CHIMPANZEE

He's not me.

He's not me.

VASQUEZ

What do you mean?

CHIMPANZEE

Like being here. Three squares and roof. Teacher.

Like being here. Three squares and roof. Teacher.

VASQUEZ

I'm glad you like it here.

CHIMPANZEE

But he's not an ape like you and me.

But he's not an ape like you and me.

VASQUEZ

You mean he's not a bloodthirsty
goat killer?

CHIMPANZEE

Please stop with the jokes. That's horse shit.

Please stop with the jokes. That's horse shit.

CHIMPANZEE

Do what you have to do and then leave him be,
please.

Do what you have to do and then leave him be, please.

VASQUEZ

Okay, thank you for your opinion.
I'll consider it.

CHIMPANZEE

Fck y.

The Chimpanzee gives the professor the bird.

Just as the professor reaches his prize specimen in the fourth enclosure...

EXT. UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT - DAY

Frank Hamer arrives outside leading a convoy of black Department of Public Safety (DPS) SUVs. They get out ready for action.

The SERGEANT with him says,

SERGEANT

This is the Biology Department.
The lab is in the basement.

HAMER

Super.

SERGEANT

Do you need another weapon? A helmet? An extra concussion grenade? How about one of the new, improved tazers? Wanna see some college kids dance?

HAMER

Fetch me a black coffee and something to eat.

Hamer gestures to the doughnut shop across the street. I can't arrest anyone on an empty stomach.

EXT. UNIVERSITY ANIMAL BEHAVIOR LAB - DAY

The professor tries to make eye contact with the Chupacabra. The Chupacabra refuses. The Chupacabra pouts in a corner...

VASQUEZ

You can't fool me. I've been studying you and your kind for 50 years. You are a wily species refusing to show any sign of intelligence. You can see what we're doing over there with the apes, huh?

The professor takes out a Twinkie and slowly unwraps it. He is about to take a bit but stops.

VASQUEZ

Oh, I'm sorry. How rude of me.

The professor opens the small door for feeding. And waves the Twinkie around. The Chupacabra only slightly moves his head. The Chupacabra looks through the corner of his eyes, but he doesn't respond entirely. The professor places the Twinkie on a small tray there built into the door.

The Texas Rangers in full tactical gear assault the lab. They push aside and handcuff the security guard and barge into the lab.

The professor, quick thinking, pulls a curtain in front of the forth enclosure.

The apes scream, and throw things at the Rangers.

The professor has such statute, and also he's a very old man; they stop short of throwing him down and cuffing him.

HAMER

I'm investigating the murder of Governor Chillicothe.

VASQUEZ

Murder, that was no murder.

HAMER

The Chupacabra is a bloodthirsty maniacal creature.

VASQUEZ

Hardly. They are peaceful, and there hasn't been a documented case of any violence. Either that or he's not a Chupacabra at all, but a leftist hell bent on influencing the election.

HAMER

What are you doing with the Chupacabra?

VASQUEZ
What Chupacabra?

Hamer looks directly at the closed curtain.

The chimpanzee has opened the small door on his cage and is urinating on the leg of one of the Rangers.

RANGER
This monkey just pissed on my leg!

VASQUEZ
Goodness.

Hamer is less than interested. His eyes don't leave the curtain.

VASQUEZ
Another ape, he's sensitive to light.
(beat)
Well, I was about to feed the students.

The professor takes up a basket of fruit and marches to enclosure number one.

VASQUEZ
Please, have a seat. I'll be done in just a minute.

The professor delivers food to the gibbon, and then the bonobo, and then to the chimpanzee.

The sergeant brings Hamer his coffee and doughnut.

HAMER
May I? I've not been eaten since they gave me the case and I've been to every frakin' well site in the state. Do you know half the old Dairy Queens are closed? Rural Texas just isn't the same.

The professor agrees that Hammer can eat, just as he slips behind the curtain. He tries not giving up his secret. The Rangers all try to look over his shoulder.

Behind the curtain, the professor finds the door to the enclosure wide open; the Chupacabra has escaped. And the Twinkie is gone. There doesn't seem to be a place for him to run to, but he's not in the enclosure. He's disappeared.

The professor returns and is calculating what could have possibly have happened and where the Chupacabra could have possibly disappeared to.

VASQUEZ

So, how can I help you?

HAMER

The creature, he's behind that curtain?

VASQUEZ

What makes you think that?

There is a strange noise. Farting.

HAMER

What's that?

VASQUEZ

Just the chimpanzee.

Everyone looks at the chimpanzee who sits there innocent looking.

HAMER

My, god. I can smell that over here.

CHIMPANZEE

Wh vr smlt t, dlt t.

Who ever smelt it, dealt it.

The Chupacabra peaks through the curtain. He's standing and is only about 3 feet high.

HAMER

So, tell me about this creature.

We know it's a carnivore.

(beat)

Can it fly?

VASQUEZ

Short distances.

HAMER

Where do they sleep?

VASQUEZ

We don't know.

HAMER

How do they mate?

VASQUEZ

Well, right now, there's only.

One would think Hamer would seize on that admission, but he doesn't.

VASQUEZ

But like most advanced species, I imagine. Sexual reproduction.

HAMER

For recreational purposed or solely for reproduction?

(beat)

The reason I ask is that humans are the only species that have sex for recreational purposed. All of us but Kramer here.

Kramer is the cop who the chimp peed on.

Now, the chimpanzee now puts his forehead in his hand, dissappointed. And the chip now does raise his leg and farts loudly on purpose.

HAMER

Monogamous?

The professor shrugs.

HAMER
Intelligence?

VASQUEZ
On par without own, I imagine.

Hamer scoffs.

VASQUEZ
Perhaps more developed. They seem
to have a very kicked back nature.
Non-aggressive. Different than us
for certain.

More farting, from behind the curtain.

One of the Rangers moves closer, and is about to look
behind the curtain.

The tiny Chupacabra is watching as Hamer is about to bite
into the doughnut. The curious Ranger is about to peek
behind the curtain.

VASQUEZ
But to have traveled here..

Something occurs to Hamer, and he puts down the doughnut.
The state's best cop is a little slow.

HAMER
Wait, did you say there's only
one? So, you have him?

The Chupacabra bolts from behind the curtain and shocks
everyone with its speed and agility. He bolts left and
right, bounces up and down, as automatic gunfire from the
SWAT team destroys the lab. The apes dive under their beds.

HAMER
Help, help god. Help us?
(beat)
Watch your necks men.

Hamer grabs his neck to protect it from the Chupacabra.

Everyone is in panic, except the professor who falls to the ground, but is calmly observing it all.

The Chupacabra is unharmed by the gunfire. A few Rangers take bullets in their vest, but eventually get up. The Chupacabra escapes the lab and is seen running around the campus.

The donut is missing from the table in the lab. In the commotion, the Chupacabra has liberated it. Also, the doors to enclose 1 through 3 slowly swing open. The Chupacabra has unlocked them in all the commotion.

The gibbon and the bonobo are cowering under their beds, and don't even think of escaping. The chimpanzee lumbers over to the door, and pushes it closed from the inside.

Out in the yard, fraternity boys try to tackle the Chupacabra, injuring themselves trying. Sorority girls chuckle at the cute creature, who stops to make eye contact with them. They take a few pictures with their phones and the Chupacabra agrees. But then he's off running again.

VASQUEZ

It was the doughnut. It was too much. I should have warned you.

HAMER

The man is deranged. Cuff him and get him out of here. Violation of the border security laws and the Endangered Species Act. Charge him with the murder of the governor as well.

CUT TO:

INT. AUSTIN-BERGSTROM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Professor Archer exits the plane and walks to cargo. She collects the casket. We repeat the scene where she had to threaten the customs officials with Dengue fever. The same result, she's allowed into the county without the coffin being inspected.

Curtis DUPREE, the university president, is there to meet her. Archer is surprised. And she's a bit absent-minded.

Her mind is on archeology and her discovery. And also, she's a brilliant lady, but a little ditzy at times.

ARCHER

President Dupree? Well, you meet a faculty member at the airport everyday?

PRESIDENT

But, you've been to Peru. And you've brought back some treasures that will bring us even more prestige?

ARCHER

How did you know I was in Peru?

PRESIDENT

I sent you. The university paid for the trip.

ARCHER

Oh, sorry. I forgot.

She chuckles at herself.

We see Archer resist the delivery truck and the cargo people who want to help her load the coffin into a truck or van.

ARCHER

No. This doesn't leave my sight, understand?

They put the coffin in the limousine and squeeze in with it.

ARCHER

(to the cargo people)
Careful, it's fragile.
(to the president)
And what makes you think I have returned with something valuable?

PRESIDENT

Well, you leave by yourself, and you return with a coffin that you won't let out of your sight.

She won't admit what she has. Silence.

PRESIDENT

Well, it's not Dr. Vasquez, you have in there. He's been arrested.

ARCHER

Besides that everything is okay?
(beat)
What? My god! What for?

PRESIDENT

Oh, it's a huge mess. Like always, a laundry list of charges and no evidence. Well, hardly any.

ARCHER

And the press?

PRESIDENT

Yes, of course, I'm dealing with that too.

EXT. UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

The limousine stops by football practice. We can't see who does it, but one of the two (Dupree or Archer) speaks with the football coach, who contemplates and then points to six large linemen.

They leave practice and follow the limousine to the Archaeology department.

INT. ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT - DAY

Archer walks proudly into the building. She is followed by the football team members who are toting the casket. The Archaeology professors and students leave their classrooms and offices to applaud her arrival.

She takes it as a compliment and a great honor but says...

ARCHER

Stop. Shh.

Smiling, he motions them to please keep the noise down.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT - DAY

A few from the Anthropology department, across the street, look out their windows. One curious Anthropology professor walks out onto the steps to look across the street.

The Archaeology department is dancing, and it's nearly a party.

EXT. ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT - DAY

Archer explains.

ARCHER

Please, please. If the Anthropology department gets wind of this, they'll want it.

OLD PROF

But you found it.

ARCHER

Well, it can be seen as their turf. Understand?

OLD PROF

Anthropology? That means that their culture..

His eyes enlarge as he understands that it is an alien culture.

Some of the professors understand what Archer means, and they try to quiet their students. Others are puzzled.

Word slowly passes through the building that the party is over.

The football team arrives at the third-floor laboratory with the coffin.

INT. ARCHEOLOGY LABORATORY - DAY

The football team opens the coffin and inside, of course, is the smaller sarcophagus. They struggle not to drop the precious relic as they remove it from the larger casket.

They put it on a table and look in amazement.

ARCHER

Thank you, men. Appreciate it. We play Rice this week?

(beat)

Please, beat the hell out of them. I applied there as a graduate student, and they didn't want me. Imagine that. Said I was too pretty.

The team chuckles, and they gesture to the new coffin.

ARCHER

Take it. I don't want it.

(beat)

Sell it and buy beer, of course.

They take the casket out of the lab and down the stairs to the pawnshop down the street from campus.

The archeology SECRETARY enters.

SECRETARY

Is this what I think it is?

ARCHER

(whispers)

Shshss. But, yes.

SECRETARY

I've already posted a guard on the door.

The guard looks in smiles and waves, and then turns back toward the hallway.

SECRETARY

And I've changed the locks when I heard you were coming home.

ARCHER

Thank you; I want to take care of this myself. Only Doctor Vasquez and I are to enter.

SECRETARY

This is the only key..

The secretary is overcome with sadness.

SECRETARY

But I'm afraid..

ARCHER

Yes, I know. I was told. Politics. But that is only a temporary condition. We'll have him out and back to work in no time.

The secretary is pessimistic/realistic. This is Texas, and they don't let people out of jail. Never.

SECRETARY

Yes, well. I hope so.

They begin to walk out of the room together.

SECRETARY

Aren't you going to open it?

ARCHER

No, my sister is in the hospital and I've not seen her in a week and besides I know what's inside.

SECRETARY

Your mail. Mostly bills from the hospital.

ARCHER

My poor sister.

SECRETARY

Is she getting better?

ARCHER

No, no. Still the same.

SECRETARY

I'm sorry to hear that.

ARCHER

Any important emails?

SECRETARY

A love letter from Professor Vasques' assistant. One email for each day you've been gone.

ARCHER

Anything good?

SECRETARY

Well, some of it is rather passionate.

ARCHER

See, that's why I didn't take my phone. How can I work when I'm interrupted constantly?

SECRETARY

There is a real-life rodeo cowboy, and a stockbroker emailing you as well. I expect them to give up pretty soon, however.

ARCHER

And the young man over in Biology?

SECRETARY

No. He seems relentless.

They reach the door of the lab.

SECRETARY

Well, I've got to turn on the security cameras. I didn't want to get all that on tape, the

precession up here. Welcome back
and congratulations.

ARCHER

Thank you.

They exit the room while Archer locks the door, and she smiles at the guard. She puts the key into her blouse at the cleavage and then shakes left and right and through her outfit she pulls the elastic band of her panties out a bit. She shakes a bit more, and when she's satisfied that the key is in a safe place, she smiles again to the guard and walks downstairs.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Archer is on the elevator. She's nervous and holds the bridge of her nose as she rides up to ICU. She puts on a smile just before walking to her sister's bedside.

She tries to put on a happy face, but her sister is comatose, ashen white, and there are a lot of machines hooked up to her. Her eyes are open, but nobody is home.

Archer has brought an Alexa gadget and she places it next to the bedside.

ARCHER

(to comatose sister)

No, you don't look at yourself.
You were so animated as a child,
so happy and so well... young.

(to Alexa)

Alexa read from the following
books: The Little Engine That
Could, Cat in the Hat, Winnie the
Pooh, Where the Wild Things Are,
The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The
Tale of Peter Rabbit, The Wind in
the Willows, The Little Prince...

ALEXA

The French version?

Professor Archer looks at her sister, laying perfectly still, starring at the wall.

ARCHER

Sure, why not.

There is a long beat.

ALEXA

Anything else?

There is another long beat.

ARCHER

Yes, Make Way for Ducklings,
Curious George and Miss Nelson is
Missing!

(beat)

Oh, and add Frog and Toad Are
Friends.

(to her sister)

You always loved that one.

(to Alexa)

And when you are done, Alexa,
repeat, until she wakes up.

Alex begins reading The Little Engine...

Archer stops Alexa.

ARCHER

Alexa, stop!

And says to her sister.

ARCHER

You were always prettier than I
was. And smarter. I don't know why
you had to go to the college you
went to. Did you enjoy tubing the
river that much?

(beat)

The only positive thing I can
offer is that walking up and down
all those hills to and from class
sure built up your legs. You have
nice legs. You had nice legs.

(beat)

I hope you aren't bored up here. I brought you an Alexa, but I don't know why.

She contemplates a hopeless situation.

ARCHER

But I've been to Peru. I have a surprise for you.

She takes out her camera and slides through the photos. Her sister might or not see the photos.

ARCHER

And here is the little fellow himself.

She reveals the photo of the actual Chupacabra mummy. There isn't any reaction.

Well, the good news is, I'll be able to pay the hospital, as soon as I can get Dr. Vasquez to help to confirm everything. Books, television, maybe a movie. A museum tour and lucrative speaking engagements.

There isn't a response. Professor Archer has become even more depressed.

ARCHER

Alexa, start.

ALEXA

From the beginning or where I left off?

ARCHER

What does it matter?

ALEXA

It doesn't.

ARCHER

Okay then, begin from where you left off.

Archer is emotionless and leaves the room.

She cries on the elevator down.

INT. HALLWAY OF ARCHEOLOGY DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Archer arrives, and outside her office, she finds Xochitiotzi bending over, and she thinks he's looking in through the keyhole. But he learned he's only trying to deliver a handwritten letter.

XOCHITIOTZI

I've brought you a letter. Well, I just slid it under the door.

ARCHER

Oh, how sweet.

XOCHITIOTZI

Well, you didn't respond to my emails.

ARCHER

And that tells you what?

XOCHITIOTZI

Oh, to leave you alone?

ARCHER

No, I'm sorry. I was teasing you. You're mildly entertaining.

XOCHITIOTZI

Thank you.

ARCHER

I've been out of the country.

XOCHITIOTZI

I know. The professor told me to help you.

ARCHER

Dr. Vazquez asked you to help me?

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

She opens the door and picks up the mail that's been put through the slot in the door - the letter from the young research assistant.

ARCHER

Okay, I found your letter. You were not looking through the keyhole. I can see that. That's good news for you.

Next, she sees a newspaper. HEADLINE: Professor Gets Death Penalty in Governor's Murder.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

The judge is courteous and polite, but things change radically once the media comes into the room.

JUDGE

This is only a preliminary hearing in the matter of The State of Texas vs. Tomas Vasquez.

(beat)

I see you have been a professor of field biology for...

The judge reads...

JUDGE

Well, over 50 years. Amazing.

The judge reads...

JUDGE

And you're 88 years old and still working?

VASQUEZ

Yes, your honor.

JUDGE

Do you mind me asking? Why don't you retire.

VASQUEZ

Certainly, your honor. I have one last scientific discovery to make and it eludes me.

The media set up a TV camera. When it is clear the tape is running... the tone of things changes.

JUDGE

You brought a dangerous blood-sucking killer into the state and...

VASQUEZ

I didn't.

JUDGE

The Chupacabra comes from Mexico; how did you come into the possession of one if you didn't violate our nation's immigration laws?

VASQUEZ

A Twinkie.

JUDGE

No thanks, I'm diabetic.

VASQUEZ

I'm sorry I meant...

JUDGE

And you can't account for yourself the night our beloved governor... We build 136 new prisons during his tenure. Pay of law enforcement has tripled in those years, and that includes the pay of judges and other court officials.

All the court officials smile and nod to the judge.

VASQUEZ

I was with some oil hands out on a rig down...

JUDGE

Well, they aren't here, are they?

VASQUEZ

Yes, but if you give me time to contact them, they will tell you I was out in at a frakin'...

JUDGE

Hey! Professor or not, you watch your language in my courtroom.

VASQUEZ

I was out on a drilling operation, trying to capture a Chupacabra.

JUDGE

Uha! Got you there. So, you admit trying to capture an endangered species.

LAWYER

Uh, your honor, the Chupacabra isn't on the list of endangered species.

JUDGE

How many are there?

VASQUEZ

Well, one that I know of.

JUDGE

That's clear enough for me.

(beat)

Guilty!

VASQUEZ

Of capturing a Chupacabra?

JUDGE

No, not just that. Also, the murder of the Governor.

(death)

Death by lethal injection.

VASQUEZ

No.

PROSECUTOR

When your honor?

JUDGE

Tomorrow, about this time, I expect.

LAWYER

I object. Your honor, why so soon?

JUDGE

Well, how long will it take you to file an appeal?

LAWYER

I can't do anything until Monday.

JUDGE

Well, that's why.

VASQUEZ

I thought this was only a preliminary hearing.

JUDGE

Well, you thought wrong.

The judge looks at the media, who appear very satisfied. They will make a lot of money that night as it's run on the news.

REPORTER

(to camera man)

Higher and higher ratings, more viewers and more revenue.

The judge smiles at the camera and bangs his gavel. He leaves the courtroom. There is a little outcry, and people get up to leave the gallery-like it was any other day.

VASQUEZ

I don't understand what I said to make him so angry. How could this be happening?

LAWYER

You need to understand; judges are elected in this state.

VASQUEZ

That doesn't give them the...

LAWYER

They have all the permission to do whatever will get them votes. The population thinks the Chupacabra are goat killing bloodsuckers, so there you have it.

VASQUEZ

Yes, but the death penalty?

LAWYER

It's good public relations for them, and they have elections to win. Budgets.

VASQUEZ

But do they have to use me?

LAWYER

You're convenient and in the newspaper.

VASQUEZ

But...

LAWYER

Look at it like this. Pretend your heart is giving out and your cardiologist has done everything possible. You're 88 years old, and you've lived a remarkable life.

Professor Vasquez is dazed and confused.

BACK TO:

INT. HALLWAY OF ARCHEOLOGY DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

ARCHER
I don't understand.

XOCHITIOTZI
We have to get him out.

ARCHER
Where are they keeping him?

XOCHITIOTZI
Huntsville.
(beat)
What can I do to help? Can I come
along?

She storms off.

ARCHER
Stay out of my way.

EXT. PRISON - DAY

It's not a dreary place. There is a garden and a pond and a water fountain in the middle spraying water 25 feet into the air - good public relations. The water fountain is lighted, and it's a spectacular show. Not the Bellagio, but similar. The state is advertising the death row prison. A major highway runs directly by the location and it looks like their not so cold-blooded.

INT. PRISON - DAY

It's a dreary place inside.

Professor Archer has persuaded the guards that she is Vasquez's lawyer. They lead her into a room where they can speak privately.

ARCHER
I returned from Peru.

VASQUEZ
I can see that.

ARCHER

No, I returned from Peru with a mummy. He's about 3 feet tall and came from a tomb that gave every indication.

VASQUEZ

A Chupacabra?

ARCHER

Looks like a royal tomb.

(beat)

I hate to reference the newspapers, but they said you were equally successful in my absence.

VASQUEZ

I captured a phenomenal specimen.

ARCHER

Wonderful.

VASQUEZ

It only took me 58 years to do it. But I did it... and look what it's gotten me.

(beat)

He wanted to communicate. I just know he did.

ARCHER

You will have time for that.

VASQUEZ

I can't do anything about your mummy.

An officer in the prison is in a security room. He mostly spends the day sleeping but he's now awake and the tapes recorders are running. It is highly unconstitutional, but the prison guards are listening to the legal conversations. The guard bolts from the room and runs across the prison.

VASQUEZ

A civilization from outer space, different from our own.

ARCHER

It's wonderful.

VASQUEZ

Too bad, it will be swept under
the rug.

ARCHER

No,

The guard is obese and it's taking him a while to get
there.

VASQUEZ

I'm exhausted. And in the morning
I'm going to be executed.

ARCHER

No, I'm here to get you out.

VASQUEZ

Thank you but what is more
important is the Chupacabra.

ARCHER

I'm more worried about you.

VASQUEZ

No, think about it. Poor creature,
his first impression of humanity
was the basement of the animal
behaviour lab at the university.

ARCHER

They've been here, well, for
centuries. I think they realize
who we are.

VASQUEZ

And they don't want anything to do
with us.

ARCHER

But they are proof we are not
alone.

VASQUEZ

I know that, and now you can prove it. But this little guy's first impression of us from up close was what we do to the apes down in the basement.

ARCHER

He's advanced and will understand science.

VASQUEZ

Maybe not. What if he doesn't. It could scar his opinion of humanity.

ARCHER

No worse than growing up in a red state.

VASQUEZ

It could get ugly. So far they have lived here in peace, but what now?

The prison guard arrives out of breath and..

CUT TO:

INT. DEATH ROW CELLS - NIGHT

Now both of them are locked up. Vasquez is in one cell and Archer is in the next one. They are dejected and defeated.

EXT. PRISON - NIGHT

Archer doesn't know it but Xochitiotzi has followed her in his junker of a car. He is parked out in the parking lot waiting for something to happen. He occupies the time by polishing his boots.

Finally, Xochitiotzi gives up waiting. He reaches into the back seat of his car and brings out a toy drone. It's the small type, palm sized.

Across the street, Xochitiotzi notices a gun store. Flashing neon signs "OPEN 24 HOURS," and a smaller sign

"OPEN CHRISTMAS." There is a pistol packing Santa out front of the store.

EXT. GUN STORE - NIGHT

He enters the gun store and comes out with a Derringer sized automatic.

BACK TO:

EXT. PRISON PARKING LOT - NIGHT

He attaches it to the drone and is set to send the drone into the prison. At least two dumb ass guards leave the parking lot and wave to him. They think he's playing with his drone... at midnight... outside a maximum-security prison.

But, the gun is too heavy. Xochitiotzi reeves the motor but it only bounces up and down a few inches off the ground.

He's at a loss, but he's a Ph.D. candidate at a major university. He looks at the shoe polish. He attaches the shoe polish and a note to the drone. He successfully flies it directly into Archer's cell.

She reads the note to Vasquez.

ARCHER

Carve soap into shape of pistol.
Paint back with shoe polish and
escape?

(beat)

Do you have any soap over there?

Vasquez looks.

VASQUEZ

No.

ARCHER

What sort of prison doesn't
provide soap!

She writes a note and attaches it. Xochitiotzi flies the drone out of the prison back to the parking lot.

He reads the note.

XOCHITIOTZI

No soap.

EXT. HUNTSVILLE CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

Xochitiotzi takes some soap to the counter. He's a graduate student and he is 10 cents short paying for it. He looks at the cheaper soaps but they're not thick enough for what he plans. He returns to the car and pulls up the carpet. He finds an old dime. He purchases the soap.

EXT. PRISON PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Xochitiotzi flies the drone with the soap into the prison and waits.

Time passes...

Finally, Archer and Vasquez and a fat guard exit the prison. She's holding the fake gun on him and she makes them walk to her car, which is at the far end of the parking lot. They get into the car and she pitches the fake gun to the guard. He is about to shot them with it when he realizes it's soap. Over weight, it takes the guard five minutes to run back to the prison gate and the two professors escape.

EXT. RURAL TEXAS - NIGHT

Half of the Texas Rangers are out in the country side, shooting at shadows in the night. The Colonel of the Ranger is at a make shift command center, his patrol car parked under an oak tree. He has his radio handset ready for action. A map is draped out over the hood of the vehicle.

There are other Rangers coming into and out of the command location. They are retrieving radios, equipment and more weapons. There is a long line of Rangers just standing around waiting.

AIDE

What?

RANGER

More ammo.

Gun shots in the distance.

COLONEL
I hear shooting?

RADIO
It's not the Chupacabra.

COLONEL
You can't just shoot at everything
that moves out there.

RADIO
We can't?

COLONEL
This isn't your own personal
hunting party. If you want to
hunt, you can do that on your own
dime. Now, get me a Chupacabra.

The Rangers get sidetracked and kill a bunch of wild hogs.
They string them up to various trees and take photos with
them and post them on Facebook.

An aide shows the Facebook posts to the Colonel.

COLONEL
These guys don't care what thy
kill just as long as they kill
something.

They don't kill the Chupacabra because he's quietly sitting
in a tree above the colonel's command center, looking down
on them. Studying them.

EXT. UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Professor Archer drive Vasquez onto campus. She parks
directly in front of Vazquez's building.

ARCHER
Okay, professor. We're here.

Vasquez is out of it. He's 88 years old and not always
lucent. ☺

VASQUEZ
This isn't Yale.

ARCHER
You are still asleep. Take a
minute.

Long beat.

VASQUEZ
Okay, I'm awake.

ARCHER
You are at your favourite
university.

VASQUEZ
I am? Which favourite?

ARCHER
Want me to give you a hint? You
really like the football team.

VASQUEZ
Michigan? This isn't Michigan.

He looks around confused.

ARCHER
Take another minute.

ARCHER
Do you know where you are?

VASQUEZ
Sure Grandma. You've brought me
home. My bedroom is up on the
second floor. I have me key don't
worry.

He exits the car and turns to the building.

Archer's heart sinks. She speaks to herself in despair.

ARCHER
I'm never going to be able to
prove anything without the

professor. My career is toast and
I'll never be able to help my
sister.

EXT. EAST TEXAS DEER BLIND - DAY

Hamer is up in a deer blind. He's about to shot a deer. He
fires and the deer doesn't fall. It looks around left and
right. Hamer chambers another round.

A DPS vehicle comes up and frightens the deer.

HAMER

What are you doing?

SERGEANT

What?

HAMER

You frightened my deer.

SERGEANT

Sir, it's not deer season.

HAMER

Oh good thing you arrived when you
did.

(beat)

Well, what is it.

SERGEANT

Your lunch, sir.

He hands HAMER a bag of fast food.

INT. AUSTIN-BERGSTROM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

A charter plan arrives with a celebrated reality TV Hog
Hunter, JIMMY JOE BRIGGS. On the side of the plane is the
logo to the program and the broadcast dates and times.

The media is there in droves to meet him. The police are
having a difficult time holding them back.

The hog hunter walks up to the microphone.

BRIGGS

I'm Jimmy Joe Briggs and I'm the host of Hog Hunters on the Killing Channel, broadcast every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. central standard time. Channel 930 on Dish, 1234 on Time Warner and 2030 on Suddenlink. And of course you can stream our show at any time via our website - www.hoghunters.kill. And I'm here to tell you there ain't nuthing I ain't kilt before.

REPORTER #1

Have you shot a Chupacabra before?

BRIGGS

No, that's why I'm here.

REPORTER #1

But you just said...

REPORTER #2

You cut short your filming season to come help find the Chupacabra?

BRIGGS

Seems the new governor is a fan of the show. And the former governor well; we were close personal friends. And, I owe you all a debt in Texas, if I hadn't grown up here, I don't know what I'd be. Probably some low-life congressman or something. No, Texas made me who I am.

REPORTER #3

How will you find it?

BRIGGS

Well, I'll chase it down. Run over it in my truck if I gotta.

REPORTER #4

Do you know its habits or behaviours?

BRIGGS

It eats, sleeps and shits. Can't
hardly not shit, you know.

REPORTER #5

When will you begin?

BRIGGS

Well, right now.

Briggs' "trigger babes" (personal assistants) exit the plan and lay out on a table an impressive assortment of weapons. Briggs carefully chooses a few and then gets into a jacked up 4 x 4 pickup truck there on the tarmac.

REPORTER

(casual observation)

That truck is so jacked up so high
if he did run over a Chupacabra,
the truck would simple pass over
it's head and it would be
unharmd.

CUT TO:

EXT. RURAL LOCATION - DAY

Hamer and Briggs are in a hunting blind. The reality show TV crew is filming Hamer, who is eating his hamburger and whispering.

HAMER

Come out, come out, wherever you
are.

Briggs is beside him sleeping, but he's talking in his sleep.

BRIGGS

I hate television. After I get rid
of this Chupacabra, I am going to
clown school.

EXT. WEST TEXAS PASTURE - DAY

The goats are all there. The man counted them three times now. The weapon of Briggs discharges and while we don't harm any animals making this film, we do see the farmer's tears and grief.

Later we see the herder changing a large bandage around the belly of a goat.

EXT. SOUTH TEXAS PASTURE - DAY

Briggs and Hamer are out in a pasture and Hamer steps in some cow shit.

BRIGGS

I think you've found our
Chupacabra.

HAMER

I have? It's cow shit.

BRIGGS

Dung is the best way to track an
animal.

Briggs has a map laid out and is studying it.

BRIGGS

Unless I'm wrong.

Hamer chuckles.

BRIGGS

Have I a been wrong yet?

HAMER

You just started.

BRIGGS

Have you ever seen me be wrong?

HAMER

You cut out all those instances
and they don't make it to air.

BRIGGS

The Chupacabra could be in the
North, the West or the East.

HAMER

And not the South?

BRIGGS

Return to Mexico?

Briggs contemplates.

HAMER

Or he could go to Austin.

Briggs likes that idea.

BRIGGS

That's right. By the grace of god,
we'll find him there in Zilker
Park.

CUT TO:

EXT. ZILKER PARK - DUSK

The two hunters have a dozen goats all staked out at
various positions around the park.

CITY OFFICIAL speaks to them.

OFFICIAL

We have a dozen goats staked out
at various positions around the
park and all in sight of this
position.

He walks several steps and positions himself under a tree.

The sheep are bait and the hunters plan to simply wait.

Hamer moves three steps to the right of the tree and the
goats disappear from sight. Briggs moves three steps to the
left and the goats disappear from sight.

BRIGGS

I want you to know I'm oppose to
this hunt.

HAMER

On ethical grounds?

BRIGGS

No, there isn't enough light for
my cameras.

HAMER

Where is the moon?

BRIGGS

There isn't one tonight.

HAMER

It's pitch dark.

A liquid comes from the tree and splashes on Briggs

BRIGGS

Is it raining?

HAMER

No, it can't be. I can see the
stars.

They look up and it is clear night, but something darts
from the tree into the dark.

BRIGGS

Did that little rascal just
urinate on me?

HAMER

He was here all the time?

BRIGGS

Apparently.

INT. GOVERNOR'S MANSION - DAY

The Governor is watching TV with his toy dog on the couch
when his phone rings.

He doesn't answer it.

Finally, it stops ringing but an aide enters the room.

AIDE

It's professor Archer. She says she's been calling.

(beat)

Sir, she's an escaped felon. Are you sure you want to take this call?

GOVERNOR

But she's good looking as hell. What I'm I supposed to do? Where's my wife?

AIDE

At the mall.

GOVERNOR

Have the call traced. We might arrange a rendezvous. Oh, uh I mean stakeout.

The phone rings again.

GOVERNOR

Hello darling. How are you?

The governor's dog leaves the room. And the Chupacabra picks him up and exits the mansion out the back.

GOVERNOR

You know my daughter is a student of yours at the university. She only has fond things to say of your class.

ARCHER

Well, thank you. I appreciate that. She's charming young lady.

GOVERNOR

She dresses like a boy. I just can't understand. But to each his

(or her) own, I guess. So what can I do for you?

ARCHER

Well, not so much for me, but as the governor you can stop the barbaric death penalty and pardon the life of professor Vasquez.

GOVERNOR

Well, it's only my first term.

ARCHER

What a better way to start things out?

GOVERNOR

And there is an election coming up.

ARCHER

Compassion always plays well at the ballot box. Lincoln pardoned 14,000 men.

Wrong word to use, Lincoln. The governor isn't interested in being another Lincoln. He's skeptical.

ARCHER

He's innocent.

GOVERNOR

No one on the front page of a newspaper is innocent. I may be new to this office but I'm not new to the world.

(beat)

We have three dead bodies and one was a popular law-and-order governor, who never pardoned anyone, ever. And he was beloved, as I hope to be beloved as well.

ARCHER

The professor didn't kill him. It was an accident.

(beat)

Taking his life will put science back 20 years. He's on the verge of a fantastic discovery. We both are.

(beat)

My sister is ill, very ill and she will soon be forced to leave the hospital. And I'm desperate, I'll do almost anything.

GOVERNOR

What does your sister have to do with it? I'm afraid this entire conversation is well, I don't understand half of it.

ARCHER

(sexy voice)

I'll try to be more clear. If you will pardon the professor I can be very available.

The Governor's wife enters the room. She's looking for the dog. We get the impression the governor might agree, amour i pro quo (love in exchange for the pardon), but once the wife is in the room that's all forgotten.

GOVERNOR

I'll tell you what.

ARCHER

I'm ready whenever you are, big boy.

GOVERNOR

I'll think about it.

WIFE

Where is Toby?

The governor shrugs?

The audience should worry maybe TOBY is lunch.

EXT. CAMPING AREA - DUSK

Toby and the Chupacabra sit down. Toby is up on the table. The Chupacabra gets out a sharp steak knife and a fork. Chupacabra looks at the dog. The dog looks a bit frightened, but the Chupacabra uses the utensils to cut a steak. He shares it with Toby.

EXT. TOWN LAKE PARK - DUSK

Next, we see the Chupacabra calmly petting Toby on a bench overlooking Town Lake. The bats are flying out for a night of hunting. The Chupacabra is enjoying the evening with his new friend, Toby.

EXT. ZILKER PARK - DUSK

Hamer and Briggs are in a deer blind, again in Ziker Park.

BRIGGS

Silence and just plain old luck
are the hunters trade.

Hamer reaches for his phone.

BRIGGS

What are you doing?

HAMER

I'm going to call the sergeant and
have him bring me a burrito and
some margaritas. You want
something?

BRIGGS

Nonsense this is a hunt. The eyes
of Texas are upon you, my friend.

(beat)

The season finale last year, I
hunted a hog who bathed in the
Wichita River. All the Dairy
Queens are closed up that way and
we went three days without food.

HAMER

The crew too?

BRIGGS

Yes, but later on I learned that they had protein bars they concealed from me.

HAMER

It added to the drama?

BRIGGS

Well yes, of course it was reality TV. But, it hurts like hell not to eat.

SEXT. TOWN LAKE PARK - DUSK

The camera pans right and sitting on the bench beside the Chupacabra and Toby now is Xochitiotzi. And on the other side of Xochitiotzi is the Archeology Department secretary?

SECRETARY.

I don't know how you did it.

Xochitiotzi and the Secretary speak very carefully, not too loudly and certainly there are no sudden movements.

XOCHITIOTZI

I started by studying the books in the library and then the journals of Dr. Vasquez. Which confirmed the animal's sedentary nature. I interviewed the last individual to see the Chupacabra up close.

SECRETARY

Dr. Vasquez?

XOCHITIOTZI

No. Max.

SECRETARY

Excuse me?

XOCHITIOTZI

Max.

SECRETARY

Max is the chimp down in the basement.

XOCHITIOTZI

Yes. That's correct.

(beat)

So, Max gave me the idea that all our little friend wanted was this.

SECRETARY

A dog?

XOCHITIOTZI

Yes, but a bench with this view and bats flying overhead.

SECRETARY

You are kidding me?

(beat)

You learned that from an ape?

XOCHITIOTZI

Well, let's not get personal about it.

(beat)

You can see for yourself, he's content.

SECRETARY

He looks like he wouldn't hurt a fly.

XOCHITIOTZI

He won't.

SECRETARY

When why are we talking like this and not moving so much as a micron?

XOCHITIOTZI

Well, it's just a theory.

They look at each other from the corner of their eyes, afraid to move their neck or bodies.

SECRETARY

You're a genius.

XOCHITTIOTZI

Will you please tell my doctoral committee?

SECRETARY

I think they'll hear about it from the press. Here they come.

Here comes the press. They rush up to the bench with camera flashes going off and making a huge racket.

EXT. AUSTIN - DAY

The chase scene begins. What decent film doesn't have one? The chase ends with the reporters confused and lost and the Chupacabra and Toby safely in the Zilker Park Petting Zoo. Goats, sheep, cows, a Lama from Peru.

INT. AUSTIN POLICE STATION - DAY

The fugitive from justice, Professor Archer, has been captured.

ARCHER

And you traced my phone call to the governor?

COP

You called there twenty-seven times.

ARCHER

And he answered once.

COP

None the less.

ARCHER

Did you have a warrant for that wiretap?

The cop just is frozen.

COP

Uh, oh. Yes.

Gulp. He is clearly lying.

ARCHER

You fellows do this all the time
don't you?

COP

The governor's dog is missing.

ARCHER

And when you get caught you try to
justify it? Like It's okay to
violated the Constitution if you
are solving a big crime, whatever
crime you happen to be working on
at the time, big or small.

COP

Professor, this is a big crime;
the governor's dog is missing.

ARCHER

What?

(beat)

One of science's greatest
discoveries is on the brink now
and my sister is about to be
kicked out of a hospital room that
she gravely needs and you are
worried about a dog?

COP

Well, it says in the police report
that you intended to extort a
pardon for your partner, professor
Vasquez.

ARCHER

Do I look like a dog napper?

COP

The charge wouldn't be dog napping
but probably extortion or
blackmail. I'm always getting

those two charges mixed up. We'll probably just charge you with both.

ARCHER

Well do I look like one of either of those? An extortionist or a blackmailer?

COP

No, you look like you might be in Maxim magazine however.

ARCHER

Gee, thank you.

COP

Well, it doesn't matter anyway now. The governor has pardoned you both. He said you owe him a favor. But after that he wants you out of the state by the end of the week.

ARCHER

Oh. Well wonderful. Thank you, that means I can go?

The cop is enamoured and won't stop her.

COP

But I have one little small question? What are you doing after this? Dinner and a movie?

Archer doesn't react.

COP

Coffee?

ARCHER

Really?

(beat)

You arrest me, when you know I'd been pardon so you can ask me out on a date?

(beat)

Really!

EXT. POLICE STATION SIDEWALK - DAY

Two cops throw her out the front door of the police station.

ARCHER

I bring home the most astounding archeological discovery ever and this is the thanks that I get? You fleas! You ticks. Parasites on the public treasury!

A handsome cowboy tips his hat to her on the sidewalk and she makes no notice of it. She's that upset.

INT. BIOLOGY BUILDING - VASQUEZ'S OFFICE - DAY

The professor is sound asleep on his office couch.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

She walks to the hospital.

The nurse speaks to her as she passes the nurse's station.

NURSE

One more day Dr. Archer.

Professor Archer enters the ICU. Alexa is still reading the damned children's stories.

ARCHER

Alexa, shut up!

She looks at her comatose sister.

ARCHER

(to sister)

I'm sorry. Things didn't go as planned. I thought I would be worth a lot of money and I could keep you here with the best doctors. But it doesn't look like that is going to happen, sister.

(beat)

Dr. Vasquez has lost his mind. I need his help and he'll never be the way he was before.

She takes a long look out the window at Austin by night. Suddenly her phone goes off. It's an email. It's from Xochitiotzi. And it's good news.

ARCHER

Sis, he wasn't just blowing smoke up my ass, that handsome fellow I told you about in the Biology department is really going to help me.

She runs downstairs and takes an UBER lift over to Xochitiotzi's apartment.

ARCHER

I want you...

She kisses him before she can finish the sentence.

ARCHER

I want you to take me...

He kisses her back equally enthusiastically.

ARCHER

To the Chupacabra. You have him hidden away, you said.

XOCHITIOTZI

Yes, yes. Of course.

ARCHER

Well, let's go. There is a cab downstairs.

CUT TO:

EXT. ZILKER PARK PETTING ZOO - NIGHT

They reach the park. Xochitiotzi calls out so not to frighten the creature.

XOCHITIOTZI

Chewey? Chewey?

They reach a spot and she sees the Chupacabra who is asleep in the hay. The governor's dog is nestled beside him.

She looks at the creature and then at Xochitiotzi and then at the goats, sheep, cows and the lama and they are all safe and sound only feet from the sleeping Chupacabra.

She steps forward.

XOCHITIOTZI

Careful. He might think you're a goat and rip your throat out.

She looks at the pile of boxes of Hostess Twinkies piled up and the wrappers scattered about.

ARCHER

You didn't tell me you had a sense of humour. Your emails were all full of you were nominated for this award or you planned to accomplish something next year. In five years, in ten.

XOCHITIOTZI

Oh, I'm good for more things than you might think.

ARCHER

An interesting hypothesis. Should we experiment?

She kisses him and they fall into the hay.

CUT TO:

EXT. PETTING ZOO - THE NEXT MORNING

Professor Vasquez finds the lovebirds in the hay the next morning. He's slept and recovered from the prison break. The dementia is gone.

VASQUEZ

Ah hum! I said, Ah hum.

They stir from their sleep.

VASQUEZ

I guess it's the privileges of youth?

(beat)

We should have done this last night. Why did you drop me off at the school? We should have come here and collected the DNA and tested it.

(beat)

We could have had it in the morning papers, now it won't be out on the net well we can't be finished before noon.

The Archeology secretary has brought Vasquez to the petting zoo. Vasquez has with him a swab for collecting DNA.

VASQUEZ

Be still my friend and you won't even know.

Vasquez approaches the sleeping Chupacabra. He runs the swab under his lips and across the gums.

VASQUEZ

Got it.

The Chupacabra wakes up and Toby as well. There isn't a stir, the dog is more upset about being woken up than the peaceful Chupacabra, who just wipes the sleep from his eyes.

Vasquez puts the swab in a plastic container and that in the pocket of his coat.

They have a jumping up-and-down celebration. Archer, Vasquez, the secretary, Xochitiotzi.

DISSOLVE TO FLASHBACK:

EXT. ANIMAL BARN - STATE FAIR OF TEXAS - DAY

Archer remembers a similar celebration with her sister. It's a similar location. The animals are all there. Archer's sister has won a prize for one of her animals. Maybe champion steer or chicken of some sort. They've come to the barn from riding the Ferris Wheel and discover the judges have left a huge rosette on the pen. Sometimes they just do that, leave a rosette

BACK TO:

EXT. ZILKER PARK PETTING ZOO - MORNING

They continue celebrating but Archer stops jumping up and down. The Chupacabra notices.

He telepathically communicates with Xochitiotzi.

Xochitiotzi stops jumping up and down.

XOCHITIOTZI

He wants to know what is wrong?

VASQUEZ

How do you know that?

XOCHITIOTZI

He's been... expressing himself to me.

VASQUEZ

Oh? And how does this take place?
Please tell me?

ARCHER

Tell him my sister is ill and in the hospital. Tomorrow... actually later today... they are going to put her out on the streets. Not that I won't find a place for her, but it won't be so nice and without any of the good doctors.

(beat)

And tell him thanks for asking.

(beat)

Could he help her?

XOCHITIOTZI

He's only a poet and doesn't know
about such things, but...

Hamer and Briggs show up at the petting zoo with their rifles and telescopes and they are wrestling with each other who is going to take the shot.

Briggs knocks Hamer down and takes the shot.

At the last moment Professor Vasquez realizes and jumps in front of the Chupacabra. He take the bullet. He saves the Chupacabra but very may well die himself.

He hands the container with the swab of DNA to Archer and they wait on an ambulance. In the mean while, the Chupacabra has disappeared.

EXT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

The EMTs bring Vasquez into the ER and the health care professional's work on him.

The entire team (governor, secretary, Archer, Xochitiotzi, the media, others) arrive in various vehicles, cars and taxis, are there waiting for word on professor Vasquez.

The Chupacabra gets out of a city buss with a second Chupacabra, dressed in scrubs, and they ride the elevator up to the ICU. Archer sees them out of the corner of her eye get on the elevator.

She takes the next elevator, but by the time she gets to her sister's bedside, the Chupacabras are gone. Archer's sister however is out of her coma.

The sister smiles and says...

SISTER

How long have I been asleep? It
feels like years.

CUT TO LATER:

INT. ICU ROOM - DUSK

The sister is still in the hospital bed but eating like a cow.

Xochitiotzi arrives and sits beside Archer on the couch.

XOCHITIOTZI

The doctors say the professor will have to retire.

ARCHER

He's going to be okay?

XOCHITIOTZI

Yes. And your sister too.

(beat)

I wouldn't be surprised if he didn't do something downstairs as well. The doctor said it was a miracle, given his age and the injury.

ARCHER

But a poet? How?

XOCHITIOTZI

He said his father was a doctor.

ARCHER

In Mexico?

XOCHITIOTZI

San Antonio.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF SIXTH STREET BARS - NIGHT

The crowds are inebriated but mostly having a good time. They don't even notice a three-foot Chupacabra walking down the sidewalk with them.

But one stoner notices and gives the little guy the thumbs up.

STONER

Wow. Keep Austin weird, man.

The Chupacabra smiles and keeps walking.

EXT. AUSTIN AIRPORT - DAY

Archer and her sister decide they need a Cancún vacation to relax. The final scene shows her boarding a plane with Archer's new suitor, Xochitiotzi. Archer shows her sister a huge diamond engagement ring.

Some of the CREDITS:

INT. AIRPORT TELEVISION - DAY

Austin has made the national news.

NEWSCASTER

The population of Austin loves the little Chupacabra. Well of course, they're experiencing a new tourism boom. Visitors have come from as far as Japan and India in hope they get a glimpse of one of the friendly little fellows.

We see Asian tourists on the streets of Austin, in the bars and spending money at restaurants. Eyes open looking for a chupacabra.

More of the CREDITS:

EXT. INLAND CANCÚN - FOREST - DAY

In a mid-credits scene, Xochitiotzi accidentally runs across Briggs who is hunting Chupacabra in Mexico. Film crew. Still outraged that Briggs stole his shot at the Chupacabra, Hamer is right behind him. Hamer has followed Briggs to the Mexican jungle and is hunting him instead.

Briggs runs, followed by Hamer. Followed by the TV reality film crew who are eager to capture the killing on tape.

Before Hamer can kill Briggs, Mexican federal police arrest them both for the attempted murder of various Chupacabra.

Hamer and Briggs are taken directly to a Mexican prison and two hardened outlaws stare menacingly at the white men.

After the credits:

There is a final gag for those who remain for the entire credits: a tequila commercial. It is the same tequila commercial from the beginning, only this time it is in Spanish.

The Chupacabra poet has signed a contract to make tequila television commercials and appear on Margarita mix bottle labels.

FADE OUT: