

EXT. VOYAGEURS PATHWAY, GATINEAU - DAY

Katie approaches the scene. Gatineau Police Service have cordoned off the area. She flashes her badge to CONSTABLE 2 and crosses the line.

CONSTABLE 2

It's a bit of a hike. You want a lift?

KATIE

Nah, I'll walk it.

CONSTABLE 2

Body is at the pedestrian bridge.

Katie nods and heads down the path. As she walks she examines the pathway and its surroundings.

Approaching the bridge, Katie notes one of the shattered lamps. She stops briefly to look at the shards of glass scattered in the grass around the base of the post.

A flurry of detectives photograph and collect evidence from the scene.

The body of the old man is bagged and being carefully strung up on a stretcher and lifted up over the embankment.

SAMUEL stands on the bridge overseeing the process. He turns to look at Katie who stops beside him.

SAMUEL

Well?

KATIE

You know, your aversion to small talk may be your finest attribute.

SAMUEL

It's been a shit spring so no need to chit chat about it. What do you think? Accident?

KATIE

I suppose I could see someone taking a tumble here. He was alone?

SAMUEL

Him and his golden lab, Chief.

Katie shakes her head slightly.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

I know.

KATIE

Where's the dog now?

SAMUEL

Haven't found him. It could turn up at a shelter.

KATIE

The dog left him to die? Aren't they supposed to be loyal?

SAMUEL

No one else liked him so why should the dog?

KATIE

Cause of death?

SAMUEL

Could've been the fall. Could've drowned. Looks like he hit his head on a large rock there and landed face down in the water.

Katie gives him a side glance.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Ah, shit.

KATIE

I didn't say anything.

Samuel takes a beat.

SAMUEL

His wife says he wasn't drinking so yes, it's odd. Yes, the fuckin' dog is gone.

KATIE

What about the three broken lights?

Samuel's lip curls.

KATIE (CONT'D)

You called me.

SAMUEL

I thought we'd come to an agreement.

KATIE

Going against every precedent we've ever set together.

SAMUEL

I'm old, Kate. Have pity.

KATIE

You do look like hell.

SAMUEL

I feel it.

KATIE

Did he have any trouble at home?

SAMUEL

If my partner fingered an intern there would be a few issues at home.

KATIE

Even twenty years on?

SAMUEL

You think I'm a detective because I'm the forgiving type? By all media accounts his wife was though. Or she just liked the big fuckin' house.

KATIE

Mistress?

SAMUEL

You're more tied in to the political scene than I am. Heard anything?

KATIE

No. It probably takes a handful of blue pills to get him going anyway.

SAMUEL

Let's not knock the blue pill, eh.

Katie is mildly amused.

KATIE

What about on him?

SAMUEL

A few dollars. Wallet. Antacid. Dog treats.

KATIE
No phone?

SAMUEL
No. But it may have come out of his
pocket on the fall. They're
scanning for it.

An investigator approaches to speak to Samuel. Samuel turns
away from Katie.

KATIE
The location certainly feels
calculated.

SAMUEL
Pardon?

KATIE
The location.

SAMUEL
He lives just up the road.

Katie turns back to the scene and slowly scans the shoreline.

Samuel finishes chatting with the investigator and turns back
to Katie. The two start strolling the bridge.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
A few more feet and he'd be halfway
to New Brunswick by now.

KATIE
David told me to keep an eye on
you. Doesn't want the body showing
up on his side of the river.

SAMUEL
Who made that imbecile
superintendent? How they could
overlook you is beyond me.

KATIE
You assume I wanted it.

SAMUEL
Didn't you?

KATIE
You know I don't do well behind a
desk.

Samuel silently agrees.

KATIE (CONT'D)

What about you? You could go out on a high note with this one.

SAMUEL

(scoffing)

If this thing moves forward it means I don't get a weekend for God knows how long. Ugh. I just want to drift quietly through the rest of my existence.

KATIE

I'm sure if you ask nicely, they'll load you up in the back of the van there with the former Prime Minister.

Samuel gives her an annoyed side look.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Why don't you just retire?

SAMUEL

Three years. Full pension. Jeffrey's an artist, you know.

KATIE

Yeah, you knew that when you married him.

SAMUEL

Creativity is attractive until you see the paycheck...

The two continue walking.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

We'll see what Simard says.

Katie nods.

KATIE

Chin up, Sammy.

A disgruntled Samuel saunters away.