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Q

By Larry Cohen

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Oh, hello again  
you little creep.  
Here again today! How many times can  
you wash that same dumb window?  
There's my girlfriend.  
I love you.  
Oh, jeez.  
Hello?  
No, only in black. I can give it  
to you if I call the factory.  
Guess who's on my ledge again?  
That little jerk.  
I know you love me.  
I know you love me.  
Oh, that driving me crazy  
with that squeaking.  
Yeah. I'll check with the  
factory and get back to you.  
Ha! I wish he'd take a walk.  
Huh? Hey, what are you  
looking for?  
Looking for the head.  
The only place I haven't looked  
is up in the parapets.  
Won't be much left of it. You ever  
drop a cantaloupe from 40 stories?  
All right, so what the hell  
do you make out of all this?  
Well, I figure something fell  
out of one of the windows  
from the floor up above  
and hit him.  
Sheared his head clean off. A big shard  
of glass or something like that.  
There's no broken  
windows up there.  
Oh, shit. Maybe his head  
just got loose and fell off.  
Look, what do you want from me?  
The entire gig shouldn't take  
more than three  
and a half minutes, right?  
In and out.

Hey, Quinn.  
Take it yes on  
the cashew chicken will you?  
I'm sorry,  
I thought you had some.  
You got to watch this guy,  
you know.  
I'm telling you,  
he's a nervous eater.  
You got to defend yourself  
over here.  
Now, let's talk business.  
I'm strictly a wheelman.  
I don't go inside.  
And I don't carry a piece.  
And my cut is 20%.  
Oh, no, no, no.  
Your cut is 12.5%.  
And you haven't worked  
in eight months.  
Well, Quinn,  
what's it going to be?  
In or out?  
I'll let you know.  
You better let us know  
real soon, Quinn.  
Oh, you're not  
the only action in town.  
Oh! No, our friend  
has other prospects here.  
- I might have another job.  
- Oh, yeah, huh, Quinn?  
Working, yeah.  
Better step outside, son.  
You don't want to see this.  
He told the bellhop  
he was going to visit a museum.  
What museum?  
Boy, I'm telling you.  
Somebody did a terrific job  
on this guy with all  
the right tools.  
Peeled him like an orange.  
Not your

ordinary psychopath, huh?  
Bought a copy of "Q" magazine  
and took off.  
In less than six hours,  
somebody skinned him.  
Flayed is the correct term  
I think.  
But you don't  
hear it much anymore.  
At least not  
in that last ten centuries.  
Well, if you think that's weird.  
Yesterday we had a window washer  
whose head just floated away  
like a balloon.  
You never show your emotions  
you're always  
keeping it cool  
you take your time,  
there's no worry  
now everybody is pushing  
they're trying  
to get through  
dancing, dancing,  
go through the plan  
but you know  
that you're in the air  
when you can't even trust  
a friend  
and too close to the flame  
What is this?  
What is this?  
What--  
where--  
oh, no!  
Oh, my God!  
Get it off!  
Ahh!  
Shit.  
Oh, Jesus!  
Hey, who's up there?  
Hi.  
Hey, we don't open  
till six o'clock.

Oh, yeah, I know that.  
But I heard that you're  
looking for a musician  
on Mondays and Tuesday nights.  
- Oh, yeah.  
- Yeah, so I play a little bit.  
And I thought maybe I show you.  
Where did you hear that?  
Oh, I just, uh--  
I heard it.  
Go ahead, help yourself.  
- Oh, thanks.  
- Do something.  
All right, I will.  
And I won't hurt the piano  
like them rock signers.  
They hurt pianos.  
I treat them real nice.  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.  
Just play something, huh?  
Yeah, I will. And, you know,  
this piano couldn't be hurt.  
Go away, evil dreams  
leave my baby, or don't  
go away evil dreams  
go away now  
she wakes up  
crying every night  
Hey, uh-- did you ever find  
that guy's head yet?  
No, I looked around.  
What do you do?  
Two straight hearts  
too red wine  
tell me a story  
Hey, that's all right.  
That's fine.  
I got another job anyway.  
Sounded okay to me.  
Yeah, what the fuck do you mean?  
Yeah, what do I know?  
Okay, we go in on the hour.  
Give me the paper bag.  
Stash this under your coat.

What are you giving me this for?  
I don't take revolvers.  
- Let's go.  
- What do you mean?  
I'm staying here,  
I'm not going anywhere.  
We have a deal, man.  
- Not with me you don't.  
- Hey, come on, dude.  
You take an equal share,  
then you take an equal chance.  
Let's go.  
Hey, Morgan,  
I'm gonna wait here.  
Move it. Now.  
- Is it loaded?  
- Come on.  
Christ,  
I could blow my nuts off.  
Paul, who are those guys?  
Put it down!  
Oh, holy shit, no keys.  
Oh, shit.  
Where's my fucking bag?  
Come on, come on,  
answer the phone.  
Yes, hello,  
is Howard price there?  
This is Jimmy Quinn.  
I got to talk to Howard price.  
I'm a client of his.  
No, well, get him on the phone.  
I'm in big trouble.  
I don't care if he's in  
a meeting, get him on the phone.  
Tell him I'm on my way  
down there-- not to leave.  
Don't leave for lunch  
or anything, okay?  
Jimmy Quinn is on his way,  
all right? Okay.  
Hey! It's Jimmy Quinn!  
Come on.  
Open up!

Shit.

Just what I need.

Hey!

Hey! I hear you!

Come on out! You get a year  
for this, you fucking wacko.

Hey!

Hey, I hear you!

Ah, the hell with it.

I'm almost afraid of everything,  
but I never been afraid  
of heights.

Look at that.

A few minutes ago

I was in the gutters.

Now I'm top of the world.

Let's go to lunch, fellas!

Come on, pack your gear,

let's go to lunch.

Hey, who got my lunch pail?

What are you looking at me for?

Look at this, it's me again.

Everything he's missing,  
it's me.

Your umbrella, your

ruler, your Popsicle!

You wouldn't miss a Popsicle

in a Popsicle would you?

Come on, let's go downstairs.

We got one hour to eat.

Let's go, fellas, come on.

That's the third one this month!

Cut the shit!

You son's of bitches.

If anyone ate that sandwich, I'm gonna shove  
the thermos up your asses one at a time.

Shit.

She's says not

to let them see me blow.

What am I supposed to say?

Thank you?

And they make an asshole of me.

You know, his wife makes  
a damn good tuna sandwich.

I'm gonna stop by and see her and  
tell her about it one of these days.  
The Aztecs identified flayed  
skin with the new garments.  
Young vegetation.  
Let me get this straight.  
You're talking about  
human sacrifice now?  
Willing sacrifice.  
They give themselves  
to the God willingly.  
A ritual was performed  
using various objects  
to indicate cosmic events.  
Collimating in blood sacrifice to  
strengthen the forces of nature.  
Performed by the high priest.  
And the victims,  
you might call them a skin--  
after they're skinned,  
the high priest puts the skin  
upon himself,  
wearing it as like a garment.  
Of course, we're talking about  
the ancient Aztecs civilization,  
not this north American culture  
we see here.  
I understand, Mexico.  
The gods they prayed to.  
One God, Quetzalcoatl,  
the feathered flying serpent.  
I can give you some interesting  
books on that subject.  
Well, good, I need something  
to put me to sleep at night.  
Now, if you think  
that's what happened here,  
then this case wasn't murder.  
What do you call it?  
Suicide possibly.  
Oh, your Mr. Polly might've been  
coerced in one way or another.  
But you must remember blood  
must be giving willingly

for the God to appreciate it.  
He must giveth himself otherwise  
the ritual is meaningless.  
Well, they came to this museum.  
I think that's very certain.  
He met someone.  
He was engaged in conversation.  
Maybe they had  
a couple of drinks.  
And they went back to his hotel  
room, and they did the deed.  
I find it difficult to phantom why  
a guy with a wife and two kids  
and tenure at a university  
would suddenly decide  
to give up his life  
without even a chance  
to think about it.  
You see, gave himself a chance.  
Why else did he  
come to the city?  
Was there any other reason  
he should be here?  
Well, that's what we're trying  
to determine.  
You know,  
that's an interesting angle.  
No vacation.  
No research.  
Just some guy flies thousand  
of Miles to New York City  
to give his life  
on a sacrificial alter.  
Maybe I should take  
those books of yours.  
I'm not going to be able  
to sleep either  
if you keep looking at those  
horrible pictures.  
You don't think anything like that  
serpent ever really existed do you?  
Sure it did.  
And the Aztecs killed for it.  
Wouldn't be the first time in history

that a monster was mistaken for a God.  
And you have to figure out  
which it was?  
A monster or a God?  
Some detective.  
You don't believe in  
any of this stuff do you?  
Why don't you turn off  
the lights?  
In a minute.  
Guess that's why  
I have to kill it.  
If I can kill, it's not a God.  
It's a good old fashion monster.  
I better take  
my birth control pill.  
God!  
Maybe it's a bird, huh?  
- Joanie?  
- Yes.  
- Come on, open up.  
- Oh, okay.  
Lock it.  
Must've been some wild party.  
So where were you all night?  
What happened?  
Did you get mugged?  
Well, I hope you didn't go on the  
job appointment looking like this.  
There wasn't any appointment.  
Well, what happened?  
I had an accident.  
- Well, I hope you got--  
- will you shut up?  
Just give me a drink.  
Shut up.  
You know you shouldn't drink.  
Never makes things any better.  
I said I was sorry.  
And I told you  
next time you hit me,  
I'll break a lamp over your head  
while you're asleep.  
Ah, come on, I'm hurting.

Just one drink,  
that's all I'm asking for.  
Okay?  
Just one, all right?  
At least you haven't thrown  
any punches lately.  
And it wasn't my idea.  
I go for Chinese with these guys and  
they tell me it's going to be easy.  
- They said diamonds were easy.  
- I don't want another fact.  
And I told them, "you know,  
I only drive. I don't go in."  
They say, "you got to go in."  
I say, "no, I'm not going in."  
They take the keys.  
So what do I do?  
I got to go in.  
And then I go running around  
the city with this.  
Now, don't worry,  
I never fired a shot.  
I just ran.  
I left them there.  
They are not your friends!  
How many times  
I got to tell you?  
Why do you think you got  
to stick your neck out for them?  
You know what? They're probably down  
at the police station right now  
giving out your name  
and address.  
Probably saying  
it's all your idea.  
Please, take off your pants  
and let me look at your leg.  
Oh, no, no.  
Just leave me.  
I just want to sit here.  
I think I'm going crazy.  
Preparing your defense  
already, huh?  
No! I mean, I went way up to on

this building, 75-80 stories up.  
And I'm up there,  
and I don't believe what I saw.  
I saw a body up there. There was  
somebody murdered up there.  
- What are you talking about?  
- Listen to me.  
I see this body. I don't know what it is.  
Yeah, I think it's a--  
I think it's a woman  
because there's a bracelet on.  
But it has all been torn away.  
I've never seen anything  
like that before  
in my entire life.  
Are you back on something?  
I knew you'd say that!  
And I knew they think that.  
So I ran again.  
I ran twice in one day, I ran.  
And kept running  
till I couldn't run anymore.  
Until my side hurt so much  
I couldn't run anymore.  
Then I go to sleep. I go to sleep  
under a God damn stair case.  
I don't sleep, you know, because  
try to sleep. I can't sleep.  
Come here.  
- Feel better?  
- I stink. And I just want to cry.  
You know, I haven't cried  
since I was a little kid.  
- I just want to cry.  
- Go ahead, it's okay.  
No, but I'm supposed  
to be a man.  
Christ. I don't know what  
I'm supposed to be.  
You know, everything I touch  
on the outside turns to shit!  
Maybe I am  
an institutionalized person.  
Maybe I can't make

it outside the slammer.  
That I belong inside there  
like an animal in a cage.  
Right, we can have those conjugal  
visits once every four months  
if we got married.  
Why do I stay  
with a dumb ex-junkie.  
I don't know. Why?  
Well, I think there's a lot  
of good in you somewhere.  
Yeah, where?  
I'm looking.  
I'm looking.  
I get all this evil dreams,  
you know?  
Evil dream!  
Go up way!  
And I walk upside up top  
of this building.  
And I see dead things  
and a nest, you know?  
A rat's nest.  
No, well-- no, it couldn't have  
been a rat's nest.  
It was bigger than that.  
It was big.  
And there was something in it  
that looked like an egg.  
But it couldn't have been  
an egg, I mean,  
there aren't any eggs-- I mean,  
there's no eggs that big.  
Jesus. And there's a hole  
in the roof  
so it can get in and get out.  
So it can get in and out?  
Yeah.  
I just want to sleep.  
When you wake up, we'll have  
some nice bacon and eggs.  
No eggs. I don't want to  
ever see another egg ever.  
Quetzalcoat1,

I am the plume serpent.  
I fly and I crawl.  
Earth and air.  
Mud and sky.  
I have fallen,  
but I will rise again.  
All right, what did you  
bring me down here for?  
I hope it's something good.  
I thought you might want  
to look at this one.  
What is it?  
Another skinning job?  
Almost as crazy.  
Doctor said the heart  
was removed quite carefully  
and quite precisely.  
Number two.  
The human sacrifice theory, huh?  
Well, listen.  
The donor's heart  
is ritually removed,  
be presented to the gods.  
Sure sounds like it doesn't it?  
Luckily all we have to do nowadays is  
take the wafer and drink the wine.  
That's what I call  
being civilized.  
Personally I trust that curator or  
anybody else we talked to over there.  
I think they're all  
a bunch of freaks.  
And one of those freaks is probably  
the person running around,  
slicing people up.  
Well, then what we need  
is to have a run down on all  
of the employees of the museum.  
Everybody from the night Porter  
to the security guard, the works.  
Well, what I'm  
particularly interested in  
is anyone who has  
any medical background.

You know, someone with some  
expertise with surgical tools.  
Okay, captain.  
Yeah, we all love you, Shepard.  
So you don't think  
it's a lot of baloney.  
No, I think there  
was basis in fact.  
See, there was some  
kind of giant bird creature.  
And it would appear again  
in nature.  
But I doubt if new yorkers  
would mistaken it as a God.  
Why not?  
If they come to fear it enough.  
What else is God but an  
invisible force that we fear.  
For centuries we've tried  
to make it into our image.  
Give God two legs, pair  
of hands, lips, eyes.  
Perhaps it's only our vanity.  
I mean, we're only living in one small  
second of time in history of man kind.  
Look at the tablets  
of ancient Egypt.  
The Babylonians,  
go all the way back.  
The figure of that serpent  
keeps turning up all the time.  
The flying serpent in places  
as far away as Egypt, Mexico,  
and deep in the interior  
of China.  
You know, perhaps at one time  
the whole world was covered  
with these kinds of birds.  
And then they became extinct  
or almost extinct.  
I want to thank you  
for the information.  
I don't know what good  
it'll do me.

I can't even pronounce  
this Quetzalcoatl  
much less spell it.  
Well, God is a much  
shorter word.  
Just what do you believe?  
Who knows?  
I do know I'd like to get my hands  
on that thing once it's dead.  
What an exhibit.  
Remember the lines for the king  
tut over at the metropolitan?  
Gods stuff and mounted.  
Try not to damage it too much  
in the taking.  
Are you kidding?  
Thanks for the information.  
You scared the hell out of me.  
Of the dozens of witnesses,  
most admitted under questioning  
that they saw only a shadow  
or some unidentifiable form.  
Open up, Quinn!  
...a huge bird  
might escape detection  
by maintaining high altitude.  
We want to talk to you.  
I said get your ass out here!  
Open up, Quinn!  
Hey, Quinn, you got goods  
that belong to us.  
No, I don't.  
No, listen, I got hit by a cab.  
And all the stuff went under a truck.  
I don't have a thing.  
Well, then there's no reason for  
you to be scared to talk to us.  
Come on out!  
Okay, I warned you!  
Now stay away!  
I still got a gun!  
Ha! You got a gun,  
huh, Quinn?  
Hey, Quinn, they don't sell guns

with nerve.  
You got to use your own.  
And I'll use it!  
This time I'll use it!  
Open up, Quinn!  
We won't hurt you.  
What do you do  
what you do  
to make my baby fear?  
What do you do  
what you do to make  
my baby fear?  
Go away evil dreamer  
you better quit  
messaging around  
because I'm gonna  
get myself a gun  
you better quit  
messaging around  
because I'm gonna  
get myself a gun  
after I shoot you to pieces  
right under the evening sun  
I'm gonna shoot you  
to pieces  
right under the evening sun  
Listen! Listen.  
Let me tell you something.  
The diamond company reported  
to the insurance company  
that the man that escaped  
got away with a pouch  
valued at \$77,000.  
Now, you're no crook are you,  
Quinn?  
- I lost it.  
- Oh, yeah?  
Then we're gonna hurt you.  
Personally, I don't think  
you can stand very much.  
So you're gonna tell us  
everything.  
No! I'll tell you.  
I'll tell you.

Yeah, I'll tell you everything.  
Well, take us there, Quinn.  
I'll show you where it is.  
We gonna have  
trouble getting in?  
There's a watchman on duty.  
We'll take care of the watchmen.  
Excuse me, sport.  
Have you seen this guy around  
here last couple of days?  
- Yeah, that's him. - When was the  
last time you've seen him around here?  
Couple of days ago.  
He got--  
no, no, no, that's it.  
That's enough, he's out cold.  
You want the jewels don't you?  
Let's go.  
Come on.  
Come on, let's go.  
You know, Quinn,  
if that stuff is not here,  
you and your ass is going right  
down this elevator shaft.  
Personally, I'll punch a hole  
in your chest.  
Oh, shit.  
The heights again.  
What? What's up there?  
This is a dome.  
We're up under the needle.  
There's a lot of stashes here.  
You sure can hide something.  
You know, we'd have never found  
this place without you.  
Yeah, it's a great idea  
isn't it?  
- Slow down, Quinn.  
- Yeah, hold it, Quinn.  
I got the gun right here  
so don't get cute.  
All right.  
Don't shake up there, Quinn.  
Right behind you, Quinn.

Do you like heights, Quinn?  
Yeah, he likes heights  
all right.  
He likes heights all right.  
What the shit?  
What is this, Quinn, huh?  
Son of a bitch.  
More heights, huh?  
Yeah, we got to go up one more.  
Yeah, don, our friend says  
one more.  
Son of a bitch.  
Your ass, Quinn.  
Hey, Webb,  
is this fantastic, huh?  
Didn't I tell you this is an  
incredible place to hide things?  
Yeah, I thought of that, Dan.  
Look at that sight!  
Isn't that incredible!  
Huh? Look!  
You know, it's fantastic!  
You got the whole  
lower of Manhattan.  
Yeah, it's incredible here!  
Yeah, yeah, he's doing fine.  
He's doing great.  
Hey, Quinn, is there  
another way out of here?  
Get it, don!  
Bring it down here!  
You stay right where you are,  
you hear me?  
You stay right where you are.  
No. I'm going up.  
Hey, don.  
Don!  
Don, you better not  
be getting slick.  
I'll kill you!  
Doyle's already up there.  
Just keep going.  
I'm sure it's up there.  
Get him!

Get him!  
Eat him!  
Eat him!  
Oh!  
Eat them!  
You said you wanted  
to find it, huh?  
Oh, boy, did you find it.  
It's not my fault.  
It's not my fault.  
I never killed  
anybody in my life.  
I didn't kill you guys.  
You asked for it.  
Sure as I'm standing here.  
40, 41, 42,  
43-- I am having  
such a good time.  
I can't begin to tell you.  
47, 48,  
49, 50.  
You dragged me all the way up here,  
so I can watch you do push-ups.  
58-- I'm having more fun  
as the moments go by.  
60, 61--  
well, you have a wonderful time.  
Oh! Look out!  
Hiya, Quinn.  
Where you going, fella?  
Oh, Harry,  
look at what we got here.  
Now, that's it.  
You know the routine.  
- Look, just read me my rights.  
- You want your rights, huh?  
- Read his rights. - Yeah, you got  
the right to remain silent, Quinn.  
So shut the fuck up!  
Also the right  
to take you up on charges.  
Should have never  
turned my back on those guys.  
Well, nothing was taken.

We checked  
all top floor offices.  
Nothing was broken into.  
What do you think  
those guys where after?  
There must be something  
of value around.  
Otherwise why would they hire me  
to guard the place?  
I mean, they sure as hell  
weren't vandals.  
I mean, there was no graffiti on  
the wall or nothing like that.  
Let's take a seat  
down over there, all right?  
Not to--  
I can't remember too much.  
Hey, somebody really did a  
professional job on your ass, huh?  
I fell on my ass.  
I'm clumsy.  
Yeah, right.  
I understand you bumped  
into a taxi also, huh?  
Beautiful fucking fee,  
but I'll tell you.  
You know, your friends made you.  
They named you and we got an  
APB out on a Doyle and a Webb.  
Oh, those names don't mean  
anything to me.  
They don't, huh?  
Come on, sweetheart.  
You're not gonna tell me  
you're gonna take the fall  
for those guys, huh?  
They said it was your idea  
from the start.  
Said you got them together  
and then you ran out on them  
and didn't even use your gun.  
Shit, I only told them,  
you know, I drive.  
That's all I do.

I don't go in.  
I told them I don't go in.  
Tell what I'm going to do.  
Get somebody in here  
to type up your statement  
so you don't have to keep  
repeating it, okay.  
Yeah, but I didn't say a thing.  
So you better call my attorney.  
Let me tell you something.  
That constitution doesn't mean a God  
damn thing in a prison, you got that?  
I think you miss the place,  
don't you?  
I think you miss it.  
You like it up there.  
You like the treatment,  
don't you?  
That's why all you guys go back,  
isn't it?  
Shut up!  
Big black cops are worse  
than the white ones.  
You damn right.  
You got that message,  
didn't you?  
An empty box or something?  
Maybe it was three guys  
looking for a place to stay.  
Uh, listen, can I, uh--  
can I go to another room,  
you know, that's quieter?  
- Another room, huh? - Yeah, can't  
stand all the noise in here.  
Um. You know, then I'll make  
a statement to you.  
That's what I like.  
A man who wants his privacy.  
I think I might be able  
to find something for you.  
A nice little quiet cubicle. Come  
on, get the fuck out of here.  
Come on.  
Uh, Paul, let me talk to you

for a minute, will you?  
Shepard,  
let me see you out here.  
Just a sec.  
Joey, take care  
of this piece, huh  
you guys can  
call this anything you want.  
Mass hysteria,  
anything you want.  
But 43 witnesses  
and they all concur, okay?  
Rooftop pool,  
57th street and 2nd Avenue,  
luxury co-op, a guy is snatched  
out of the pool and carried away.  
Joseph Peadrian, divorced,  
has a firm someplace  
in the garment district.  
I mean, he's snatched out of the pool and  
carried off by something that flies.  
That son of a bitch  
is getting bold.  
You know, something I don't  
quite understand.  
You don't seem at all surprised by this.  
Why is that?  
Maybe it's time  
I showed you my report.  
What is he talking about?  
I'm becoming  
kind of a bird watcher.  
You know, birds are six times  
stronger than men for their size.  
And some of them have to eat up to seven times  
their weight just to stay alive everyday.  
This is a very large bird  
we're talking about.  
He's not putting us on?  
Putting you on, huh?  
Like a window washer  
with his head cut off?  
A construction worker?  
That woman taking a nap

on a roof?  
Yeah, big laugh.  
Big laugh.  
Hey, hey, hey. Keep the voice  
down a little bit, all right?  
Here. Come on, come on,  
come on.  
Can we contain this a little bit  
among ourselves, huh?  
Yeah, well, how do you  
expect to do that?  
Why don't you ask the commissioner?  
How is he gonna stop a panic?  
Hey, look, what about  
the ritual murders?  
I mean, are we off that case  
or what?  
Oh, will you shut up.  
This is that case, get it?  
I don't see how it is  
the same case.  
Hey! Hey. Hey.  
I'll tell you what.  
Fuck off, Shepard.  
All right. All right.  
Hey, you guys  
through with me now?  
Uh, yeah!  
Pal, I'm sorry.  
We forgot about you.  
It's okay, you can go home now.  
We'll call you if we need you.  
You're a little dense,  
do you know that?  
Would you please come over here?  
Just a little just a little.  
You know, it can take us weeks to  
find where this thing's hold up.  
I mean,  
it could be in the woods.  
Away from the city someplace. It  
could be over in Jersey someplace.  
My God, with a wingspan  
like you're talking about here,

that thing could fly Miles  
into New York City every day.  
And it would do that of course  
because, you know,  
New York is famous  
for good eating.  
Bull shit. It flew that  
far, it would get spotted.  
Nah, midtown Manhattan.  
Moves out quickly,  
takes its prey back to the nest.  
Look, the thing could be just smart  
enough to fly right in line with the sun.  
So when people look up at it,  
it's blinded from it.  
What I want to know is,  
how the hell does this tie in with  
the murders and the mutilations?  
Well, that's what  
brought it back.  
Awakened it  
from its centuries of sleep.  
This thing has been prayed  
back into existence.  
Right.  
Okay, okay.  
Before you put  
the straight jacket on me--  
excuse me, captain.  
Read the fucking report, okay?  
I got to read a fucking report.  
I'll deal with your ass later.  
Joe, take him downstairs.  
Hold it.  
You got something to say to me?  
You want to talk to me, huh?  
Yeah, happy hunting.  
Yeah, you got  
big ears also, huh?  
Get him out of here.  
Ease up.  
Listen, you shouldn't  
done that to me.  
You know,

they're gonna hear from me!  
Because with  
the stuff I know, man!  
Right now, I am the most  
important man in New York City.  
And, you know, I'm sitting  
in the tank back there  
thinking about it,  
thinking it over.  
And I'm not talking about  
just burying this wrap.  
More than that.  
I'm talking about  
tens of millions--  
fifty hundred million dollars  
in loses  
every time this city has  
to grind to a screeching halt.  
And only yours truly  
can prevent that.  
You're talking crazy.  
If you know something,  
you have to tell them.  
Well, sure, make them heroes?  
Yeah, get promotions and I go to  
the shit house for five to ten.  
You know, someone tried  
to break into the apartment.  
Tell me something  
I don't already know.  
And those two--  
boy, they're no longer alive.  
I took them on a little trip.  
I mean, I set them up,  
and they got it good.  
Okay, so that's something  
I got to square away  
with the police.  
That I'm not  
responsible for that.  
I did that in self-defense.  
- Are you all right, lady?  
- Yeah.  
- Yeah, sure, she's fine.

- Just take it easy.  
You got three more minutes.  
I don't think  
we're gonna need the time.  
Where are you going?  
Quinn, you got to do  
the decent thing.  
Forget your charges.  
You got to tell them.  
All my life I've been a nobody.  
And right now  
I can be somebody important.  
You expect me to give that up?  
What are you going to do  
if somebody dies tomorrow  
or the next day or the next day?  
I'm not gonna think about it.  
You know, it won't be my fault.  
It'll be there's if they don't  
give me what I want.  
I think I liked you better  
as a small time crook.  
I'm only asking to be a big man for  
one lousy minute for Christ's sake!  
Hold it down.  
I want to get a message  
to the commissioner of police.  
And try to get it straight.  
From the reports, the damn  
thing is growing in size.  
Getting bigger every day.  
Another sighting,  
negative contact.  
It didn't even come close.  
There's no doubting  
its existence now.  
If I may interject, sir,  
we have a very definite lead on  
these ritual killings.  
Traces back to the museum. Former  
medical student who is now employed--  
save it, sergeant Powell.  
We're here to hear what Mr.  
Quinn has to say for himself.

Well, I see we got all the heavy weights here today, huh? Look, you said you wanted to speak your peace, now go ahead. Mr. Quinn, I assume you brought your attorney with you.

Oh, no.

I do my own negotiating.

This is commissioner O'Connell.

- Hello, how are you.

- Mr. Quinn.

- Jimmy Quinn. - Would you sit over here, please, sir?

Yeah, sure.

Hello, sir, I don't believe-- uh, Mr. Quinn, just sit here, will you?

Now, wait a minute.

Don't push me.

You guys got the education on me.

Got the experience.

I am just a little kid from the streets.

I'm out there with a lot of other guys shouting into wind and nobody here was listening, right?

We're listening to you now, Jimmy.

We can't ascertain if you're telling the truth or not, Mr. Quinn.

Sir, don't try our patience.

I understand that, commissioner.

You want a little credibility.

That's what

the New York times says,

"we want credibility."

Well, what about one of the victims, female I think, with a gold bracelet on her wrist.

The kind of bracelet that once you put on you can't get it off.

Shepard?  
Powell, what do you got?  
Charm bracelet.  
Yeah, that's correct.  
She was sunbathing  
up on her roof.  
It's the only piece of jewelry  
she had on.  
We checked it out  
with her roommate.  
It's missing.  
Was this ever released  
to the press?  
No, not to my knowledge.  
Oh, come on, what, you think  
I read that in the press?  
Well, did I read there were  
little dainty elephants?  
Little itty-bitty,  
dainty elephants on that chain?  
Now, Mr. Quinn, these little bitty  
dainty elephants were gold.  
They must've been valuable.  
Why didn't you take them?  
You don't strike me as the kind of guy who'd  
leave that kind of stuff lying around.  
Well, I'm not the kind of guy who  
plays around with dead bodies.  
Are you into that, huh?  
Told them what else you saw.  
A nest, big nest.  
What do you want,  
Polaroid shots?  
We believe you, Mr. Quinn.  
What's the location  
of this nest?  
Well, Mr. commissioner, you know there is  
nothing in the world that is for free.  
Well, no doubt you've  
thought of terms.  
Would you care  
to let us in on them?  
Yeah, sure.  
And I don't need this.

I got my own little paper here.  
Immunity for the job  
you got me on now  
and for anything else  
that might crop up on me.  
You are beautiful,  
do you know that?  
You think we can give you  
immunity for crimes  
we don't even know about?  
Yeah, didn't Ford pardon Nixon  
for anything and everything?  
I'm just asking for  
a Nixon-like pardon.  
And if that could be arranged,  
what else?  
Money. One million dollars  
in cash, tax free.  
Sweet Jesus Christ.  
And you pay the taxes on it.  
I suppose if you pay the taxes,  
I got to pay the tax on the tax.  
But you can work that out  
with the IRS.  
I have never paid tax  
in my life,  
and I'm not about to start now.  
Excessive, the city will never  
go along with that.  
You paid that God damn lottery  
winner one million dollars!  
And I'm saving the big apple  
ten-- a hundred million dollars!  
Maybe a billion dollars. And you're gonna  
Welch on one million lousy dollars?  
You know,  
if I had decent negotiator,  
he'd be asking ten million  
dollars and you know it.  
- And that's it?  
- No, not exactly.  
I want exclusive rights to all the  
photographs of the nest and--  
of the nest and everything

else up there,  
including of the remains  
of the thing  
once you killed it or whatever.  
I want to sell them  
and own them and rent them.  
I own the negatives  
and the book rights.  
You want to make a bundle, huh?  
Huh? Yeah, well, why not?  
You know, a lot of murders and  
crooked politicians have done that.  
So what's wrong with me?  
Very well, Mr. Quinn, we can  
arrange to have the press kept out  
and the police photographers  
will be instructed  
to surrender the negatives  
to you or a representative.  
What else?  
Yeah, I want it all signed, sealed,  
and notarized with witnesses  
and then handed over  
to my lawyer in cash.  
Banks are closed  
until tomorrow morning.  
Open one.  
Hey.  
A man died yesterday.  
You've been sitting  
on this damn information.  
You could've prevented it. How the  
hell does that make you feel?  
Like a hero because I'm  
preventing tomorrow's death  
and the day after that  
and the day after that.  
So kiss my ass in public.  
I'm the Johnny Carson shit.  
Piss ass!  
Behave yourself,  
sergeant Powell.  
Because I'm pissing all over you  
and there's nothing

you can do about it.  
I don't believe  
you're sitting in here,  
buying this garbage.  
Sergeant Powell,  
you better wait outside.  
Powell, you heard what he said.  
Yeah, I'll wait outside. The stench in  
here is enough to make you throw up.  
And I don't want any assholes  
like Powell laying cocaine on me!  
And bum repping me!  
Two years, three months!  
Nineteen-years-old, I was bum  
repped by a cop like Powell  
because he wanted  
to get a conviction.  
The other one I did.  
I'm all right, let me go!  
I'm all right! The next  
one I did, that was legit  
but the city owes me one!  
You set me up in business!  
All right, Mr. Quinn,  
we get your point.  
If it makes you feel any better.  
Oh, what do you mean,  
"feel any better"?  
I feel great.  
Do you?  
Can we get the God damn  
typist in here,  
so we can  
get started this thing?  
I'll have to get the mayor's  
approval on the money.  
What do you mean?  
You probably already got it.  
I bet he authorized a million and  
half-- two million, didn't he?  
Didn't he?  
I see you're not answering me.  
While they're typing it up, why don't you  
let me buy you a cup of coffee, huh?

You buy me, I'll buy you.  
Everything should be ready for  
signature in about 20 minutes.  
All the units are ready to move just  
as soon as we ascertain the location.  
At Mr. Quinn's convenience,  
of course.

Well, all you have to do is hand  
all the cash over to my lawyer  
who is that dull looking fellow  
in the next room.

You know,  
I met you once before, Quinn.  
Right here if you don't mind.  
The bar in the village,  
you remember that?  
You were signing  
some kind of scat song.  
There's a big dog on the floor.  
Oh, you heard me play?  
Yeah, you were pretty good.  
Yeah, you told me to fuck off.  
Excuse me.

Madam, we're going to have two  
coffees, and I will pay the bill.  
Hey.

- So you heard me play, huh?  
- Sure.

You know who taught me  
how to do that?  
A big seven foot spook  
in the box taught me that.  
That big Niger maniac  
who came to me.  
He killed five white punks.  
And he comes to me and says,  
"I'm going  
to teach you something, boy."  
And he teaches it to me,  
you know?  
It's one of the best things  
anyone has ever gave to me.  
It's more  
than you'll ever give me.

Come on, Jimmy.  
I've given every thing I can.  
You know, I talked  
to your girlfriend.  
My ex, she turned on me.  
Ah, she just wanted you  
to do the right thing.  
Oh, come on, man. What is a white  
chick doing with a con like me?  
I accept she wants  
to rehabilitate me.  
She wants to control me.  
She can go and shake  
her tambourines somewhere else.  
- Thank you. - Old Quinny is  
gonna take care of himself.  
Ha! Sure you are, Quinn.  
Couldn't even use that gun when you  
needed it to protect yourself.  
You're not much of a killer,  
Jimmy.  
But, you know, yesterday,  
that guy up  
in the swimming pool,  
well, you killed him.  
Shepard, how dumb  
do you think I am?  
You know damn well  
the bird killed him.  
What? You think  
I trained the bird?  
You're unbelievable. You come on  
to me all about my music, right?  
Give me this  
nice song and dance.  
And then you start  
laying a bum rap on me.  
Who do you think I am?  
No, no.  
No bum rap.  
You say I have no nerve, huh?  
Two guys up there, Webb and Doyle.  
I took them up.  
You won't be able

to recognize them  
because they're  
all over the place.  
They're in little pieces.  
And I lead them up there because they  
were putting heavy pressure on me.  
And I walked them right into it.  
Quinn, you're not going to lead us  
into anything like that are you?  
Well, a few cops may die.  
I've seen this bitch in action.  
She can move anywhere  
she pleases, in or out.  
- In and out of what?  
- The roof.  
There's a hole in the roof,  
and she goes into the roof.  
- Did you actually see this thing?  
- Hey, what is this?  
Hey, Mousekewitz, get these guys  
out of here. Get them out of here.  
Take another photo.  
No, Shepard, get them back here.  
I want my photo op here.  
Come on!  
This city needs me now!  
And get the owner  
of that newspaper.  
What's his name?  
Murdoch!  
Get Rupert Murdoch down here  
with his arm around me.  
Come on, sit down.  
I'll be on television.  
I'm going to be  
on all the shows.  
Yeah. You're just jealous,  
Shepard.  
Jealous, what can I say?  
You know, the only way you guys  
get your picture in the papers  
is when you get shot.  
Look, you're Eisenhower, right?  
This is d-day.

We're your soldiers.  
Tell us what to do.  
What I do is I get  
a whole fleet of helicopters.  
No, I'm with you.  
Fleet of helicopters.  
- Yeah, and they come--  
- okay.  
They come up  
and they fly around.  
And between them is this canvas thing that  
they take it over the top of the building.  
Drop right down like--  
canvassing, yeah.  
Like a tent.  
Like a circus tent.  
Circus tent? Is that going  
to be strong enough?  
Well, it'll be strong enough  
to keep the mother in there,  
you know, while they're  
pumping shots into it.  
You know, slow it down.  
What?  
It is a mother, you know?  
I'd seen an egg there.  
Boy, is it a mother!  
- Egg?  
- Yeah.  
- There's an egg?  
- Yeah.  
Okay. All right,  
let me get this straight.  
We call up Ringling brothers,  
and we say,  
"lend us a circus tent."  
Of course, it's not going to be in  
very good shape when we send it back.  
Yeah, well,  
they can sue the city.  
Yeah, why not?  
Everybody else is doing it.  
Like what is the building look--  
it's top of it?

You want to know  
the shape of it?

Yeah.

It's a cone.

Like a cone.

- Well, you know the building.

- Yeah?

It's--

great timing.

You know, pal,

if you hadn't

walked in that door,

I would've spilled my guts

all over the table.

Shepard, give me 15 minutes

alone with her

and I'll get

any answer you want.

That's fine.

Documents are in order.

Have my client brought back up.

So I guess we got to find

somebody to tell

what's his name

that he's a rich man.

Oh, I want do that myself.

I want to talk to that bastard.

- Now, captain.

- Hmm?

Be polite.

That's the only way.

Uh, Shep.

Yes, sir.

I like you most of the time.

And that's why I'm giving you

back this report unread.

I never saw.

Never heard of Quetzal.

- Quetzalcoatl.

- Quite so.

Unless you're looking for

a sanity hearing, my dear boy.

Yes, sir.

Sir, two days ago,

you didn't even believe  
this creature existed.  
Now, wouldn't it be possible for  
you to suspend your disbelief  
just for one  
little degree further.  
You are talking about the incarnation  
of some ancient Aztec God.  
And it's my duty to kill it.  
Now, it's much easier for me to  
think of killing a bird than a God.  
So do away with that report.  
A connection. A connection  
between the ritual killings--  
there is no connection.  
- The appearance of--  
- two separate cases.  
Keep them that way.  
A mere coincidence.  
I don't suppose you have  
any objection if we continue  
to pursue this murder  
vigorously.  
Not at all.  
Get him without no connections,  
no linkages, understand?  
Get me that bird!  
All right, come on, let's go!  
Looking good!  
That's it, move in.  
That's it, go, go.  
All right, here we go.  
We're going, all set.  
Move those doors.  
Okay, guys,  
she's right up there.  
Go on up the stairs  
and keep going.  
And when you hit the ladder,  
keep going up the ladder,  
you'll run right into it.  
All right, come on.  
Let's go.  
Come on, easy.

Don't push me.  
It's in the nest. Where the hell is  
the canvas to cover up the roof?  
Oh, we didn't have  
time for that.  
That was a good idea though.  
We got our own way  
of covering the hole.  
- Quinn, lead the way.  
- What are you talking about?  
Well, you got your million dollars,  
now you're going to earn it.  
Oh, come on,  
I want nothing to do with it.  
Come on, go.  
Come on, go.  
Go, move it.  
Move on up there.  
Come on, let's get going.  
Jesus, it's another one.  
Thing brings them up here  
and stashes the leftovers.  
It so stinks.  
I don't know why it didn't  
come down after me both times.  
Maybe it's using you. Maybe it  
wanted you to bring us back here.  
Here.  
We don't want you  
to go on up there unarmed.  
What are you talking about? Why  
is everybody giving me revolvers?  
I mean, I don't want a gun.  
I point, you go.  
It's up there, go.  
Okay, Quinn, I'm first,  
you're second.  
What do you mean?  
Why do I have to go up there?  
Jesus.  
Jesus, look at that  
fucking omelet.  
SWAT team moving into position  
below second level tower.

All other units stand fast.  
Shepard only makes  
with the jokes  
when he's scared of something.  
Everybody just stay  
where you are, okay?  
Just hold back down there.  
Fry up about  
500 pounds of bacon.  
We're gonna have us  
some breakfast.  
Get the hell up here, come on.  
Now, leave it. The scientist  
will want to look at it.  
They didn't even get the bird.  
They got the egg.  
If they had done  
what I told them to,  
put the canvas over the top.  
Hey, Quinn, come on up here.  
Jesus.  
I'm coming as a witness.  
This trip's worth  
a million bucks to me.  
Hey, that's it.  
That's my baby.  
Hey, Shepard,  
one million dollar egg.  
It's just a reflex action.  
That's it!  
I'll meet you downstairs.  
I can't believe you guys,  
you know?  
I told you how to do it. You put  
the canvas right over the top  
and what do you do?  
Well, I guess you blew  
the big bucks.  
What are you talking about?  
Well, the money was for the  
mama bird, not the baby bird  
oh, come on, man.  
I told you everything I knew.  
That was the deal.

You fucked up.  
You let the thing get away.  
I let him get away.  
I told you how to do it.  
Put the canvas over the top  
and the thing wouldn't get away.  
Yeah, you screwed yourself. City  
is gonna demand a full refund,  
the unused portion of the funds.  
Horse shit!  
I got that in black and white.  
Now, just so it's not  
a complete lose.  
That's for the coffee  
you bought me.  
Oh, come on, man. You can't  
feed me an act like that.  
I had that signed.  
Police commissioner signed that.  
And I'll have my lawyer  
sue your ass.  
Okay, you do that!  
You do that.  
I don't know if we're gonna honor that  
amenity part of the agreement either.  
It's in black and white.  
You can't touch that.  
And I'll have you dropped.  
If you'd done what I told you,  
you'd had that bird.  
And here, take this  
and stick it--  
stick it up your--  
up your brain.  
Your small little brain.  
Oh, yeah?  
See you later Charlie Christian.  
I'm staked out in front  
of the museum.  
The suspect just entered  
with what it looked like  
a medical bag.  
Yeah, but there was  
another guy with him.

Like a prearranged  
meeting our something.  
- Maybe another victim.  
- Okay, hold your position.  
I'll notify Powell and get  
right over there to the museum.  
Is Shepard coming?  
No, no, Shepard's staying  
right here in the tower.  
He thinks the fucking thing  
is coming back.  
Okay. Hurry up.  
All right, Mr. magic,  
that's the man with the bag.  
What do you say we nail him?  
I found out he was  
a medical student at Columbia.  
I knew he had to have  
some scalpels around.  
Pick up your money.  
Let's go.  
- How much did you make?  
- Not much.  
Bird must've been bad  
for business.  
Attention all units,  
suspect and possible victim  
heading South.  
Yellow cab,  
New York, 6-7-George-4-1-Frank.  
Continue surveillance.  
It's by one of those  
God damn lofts down there.  
What the hell are waiting for?  
Catch him in the act?  
This is a farce. There ain't no  
way we're gonna get a conviction.  
All they're gonna do is throw him in  
the looney bin along with his victim.  
- I know. I know.  
- Who the hell is gonna believe  
a ritual sacrificial murder  
in 1982.  
Who the hell is gonna believe

a cop in that get up?  
What the hell is the statue  
of liberty doing up there?  
Yeah, it's the original model  
they used to build the statue.  
The liberty warehouse bought it  
and put it up there.  
How do you feel?  
It's cold.  
The lights will warm you up  
in a bit.  
That pal and the kid must be up  
on the roof by now.  
Let's go.  
I am the plume serpent.  
I crawl and I fly.  
Drop that scalpel.  
Leave him alone!  
Let us finish in peace!  
Get out!  
He was coming from me.  
He was coming from me.  
He's heading up to that statue!  
Listen, know that all the doors of the  
roof tops are locked from the inside.  
That means we got him  
trapped up here.  
Check the other end.  
Damn kite.  
Okay, okay, so they trashed you!  
Why trash up  
the whole apartment?  
How do you like  
that asshole lawyer?  
He's sending them  
their money back!  
No fucking loyalty!  
Well, maybe you're better off  
by forgetting the whole thing!  
I mean, those two extra bodies  
up there.  
That got talked about in court.  
They press charges against you. They  
say you killed those two on purpose.

Then you're on their side, huh?

Huh?

If you're through smashing up  
this place,

why don't you take a walk!

Huh?

I'm sure there's a park bench  
out there somewhere

that it's going to fit you!

You mean that?

Yeah. I always thought,

"well what the hell?

"This guy hurts so bad.

He's been kick around so much  
that you can forgive him  
almost for anything."

But I saw you, Quinn. When you  
thought you had some power  
and it wasn't pretty.

And I don't want  
to share in that!

So you just take a walk!

Okay, fine.

I'll send for my things.

And if you can't wait,  
throw them in

the fucking incinerator.

All right, it's coming back.

Load tracer ammunition.

I want to see the trajectory.

Get those guys into the basket!

Look at the size of thing.

Told you, didn't I?

- Feel like saying a prayer?

- Yeah.

Let her have it!

Come on,

feel like climbing, huh?

- Not exactly.

- Ah, come on.

Well, if shooting

doesn't kill it,

I just might start

praying to it myself.

Give me another magazine  
up here!  
Shepard!  
Shepard!  
Don't!  
We got that damn thing.  
Shep, we did it!  
We did it!  
Okay, everybody hold  
your positions!  
Everybody stay  
right where you are, all right?  
Don't move.  
- Big.  
- Yes.  
I saved you all.  
I saved the whole fucking city.  
And what do I get for it, huh?  
Don't move, Mr. Quinn.  
Don't turn around.  
What are you doing?  
It was meant  
that we should meet.  
Unit, check out the hotels  
on 8th Avenue.  
You guys, across the street.  
I'll go up here. Put Quinn  
under protective custody.  
You are the betrayer. And now  
you must humble yourself.  
What? What did I betray?  
You must give yourself  
to receive forgiveness.  
No, I understand.  
I understand.  
You must make flesh holy,  
so it is good as a sacrifice.  
I understand.  
I understand.  
- I fucked up all my life.  
- Shh!  
With your sacrifice  
and the sacrifice of the others,  
the plumed serpent

will rise again.  
A serpent?  
A plumed serpent?  
What? Do you mean  
that fucking bird?  
But if you say  
the prayer with me,  
you will have salvation.  
Piss-- piss on your prayer.  
I ain't saying  
any God damn prayers.  
I never did.  
I never will.  
Fucking priest told me  
to say my prayers.  
I didn't say my fucking prayers.  
Cops tell me to say my prayers.  
I'm not saying my prayers.  
And I ain't saying your prayers.  
I've eaten shit from you.  
I've eaten shit from city hall!  
Do it!  
Look, I cannot do it  
until you say the prayer.  
I'm not saying shit for you.  
Hope you had your tetanus shots.  
How did you find me?  
We've been searching every flea  
bag hotel in town for hours.  
Ever since--  
this guy does not die easily.  
I figured  
our fanatic friend here  
might look you up  
to get you to repent your sins.  
Thought he was  
gonna get up again, huh?  
All right, come on.  
I'll take you back to your girl.  
No, I'm not going by there.  
What're you talking about?  
Well, we're not  
good for each other.  
You know, she's doing me

favors all the time.  
I'm getting her into trouble.  
I got her in there.  
What are you talking about?  
She's there waiting for you.  
Next time I see,  
I'm gonna have a job.  
- Look, you with a job?  
- Yeah.  
- What are you talking about?  
- I'll be playing piano somewhere.  
I'm pretty good.  
Yeah, what the fuck do you know?  
Yeah, that's right.  
What the fuck do I know?  
But I know I'm not  
afraid anymore.  
Just your  
good old fashion monster.