

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

by

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EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - AFTERNOON

The neighborhood is alive with the sounds of children playing, dogs barking and parents chatting. BIRDS of all different kinds fly through the air above the neighborhood.

Kids play basketball and chase each other with squirt guns in the street. Parents chat and play fetch with their dogs. Barbecue grills send trails of SMOKE into the air.

The smoke billows upward until it reaches the beak of RICKY THE PIGEON. Perched on a telephone wire, Ricky sniffs the aromas of the barbecue deeply into his nostrils.

RICKY

Oh, man. That's some good stuff they got goin' down there. What is that, sausage?

Next to Ricky sits OSCAR THE FINCH. Oscar scoots closer to Ricky and sticks his beak up to smell the barbecue.

OSCAR

Oh yeah, that's nice Ricky. But I think those are just hot dogs.

Ricky looks at Oscar with shock.

RICKY

Humans eat dogs? I just saw a guy playing with one! I thought they were friends!

OSCAR

It's not actually dog, they just call it that.

RICKY

Oh, that's good. Still kinda messed up, though.

OSCAR

Yeah. It'd make more sense to call them hot pigs. Or hot cows.

RICKY

Is that what they're actually made of?

OSCAR

That's what they'd like us to think.

Oscar and Ricky are interrupted by the coos of a MOURNING DOVE.

MINDY THE MOURNING DOVE lands on the telephone wire next to Oscar and Ricky.

MINDY
Hey, fellas. Whatcha up to?

OSCAR
Hi Mindy.

RICKY
Well I was just thinking about swooping down and grabbing one of those hot cows down there. They smell delicious.

Oscar covers his face with his wing in embarrassment.

MINDY
Wow, that sounds yummy. Well good luck!

RICKY
Luck is for losers.

Ricky dives down toward one of the barbecues.

MINDY
You want me to grab you one, Oscar?

OSCAR
No thanks. I usually just pick little pieces of bread from the hamburger buns.

Ricky locks eyes on a hot dog. He swoops down and grabs the hot dog with his talons.

RICKY
Ooo, that's hot!

Ricky drops the hot dog a few feet away from the barbecue and flies back up the telephone wire.

MINDY
What happened?

RICKY
I don't know, it just slipped.

OSCAR
It slipped out of your talons?

RICKY
I guess! It was a slippery sausage,
okay?

The CAW of a crow is heard overhead.

SIMON THE CROW circles above before landing on the other side of the telephone wire. Two SEAGULLS land on the wire behind him. Simon speaks with a strong, rugged Australian accent.

SIMON
Well well, what do we have here? Looks
like our little pigeon friend dropped
his dinner!

The seagulls SQUAWK loudly and point their wings at Ricky as if they were laughing at him.

RICKY
It was slippery!

MINDY
(to Oscar)
Who is this guy?

Simon quickly turns his head to look at Mindy.

SIMON
Well little dove, my name is Simon.
These are buddies Chad and Kyle.

Simon gestures toward the seagulls. CHAD waves his wing at the other birds.

SIMON
And as you may or may not know, crows
are master scavengers. Watch and
learn, little birdies.

Simon flies high up into the air. Mindy, Oscar, and Ricky watch as Simon prepares his dive.

OSCAR
Woah.

Simon DIVES down toward the barbecue.

BOOM! An EXPLOSION erupts just above Simon, knocking him off

course. Colorful lights spread across the sky behind Simon as he falls to the ground.

MINDY

OH NO!

Simon spreads his wings quickly, allowing him to slow himself before hitting the ground with a THUD.

Another EXPLOSION erupts on the street next to Simon. Sparks crash to the ground at Simon's feet.

Simon gets up and runs as fast as he can away from the sparks.

POP! Another EXPLOSION goes off in front Simon, knocking him backwards. Loud CRACKLES erupt around Simon.

As the other birds watch from the telephone wire, another explosion DETONATES right next to the seagulls.

The seagulls SCREECH and fly away quickly.

The explosions continually go off in the air and on the ground. Colorful sparks and lights rain down as the loud CRACKLES and CLAPS fill the air.

Mindy, Oscar, and Ricky jump off the telephone wire and fly high into the sky.

Surrounded by smoke. Simon gets up off the ground.

Simon flies up to meet the other birds. The seagulls join in behind Simon.

RICKY

What's happening?

SIMON

I have no idea. But it seems like they're targeting us.

More birds are taken out by the explosions. Another PIGEON is knocked sideways out of the air from an explosion.

A group of GEESE flying in a V formation are hit by an explosion and their formation collapses.

Two HUMMINGBIRDS sitting on a feeder COUGH from the smoke.

Oscar, Mindy, and Ricky watch in horror.

OSCAR
Why are they doing this?

SIMON
Who knows? I can't imagine what those
monsters down there are thinking.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - BLOCK PARTY - SUNSET

From the humans' perspective, they laugh and smile as they set off fireworks.

The block party attendees dance and wave sparklers. The children watch in awe of the spinning fountain fireworks on the street.

Teenagers shoot roman candles into the air. Dads set off bright crossette fireworks.

An array of colors fill the sky as the humans cheer and celebrate.

CUT TO:

Ricky looks at Simon.

RICKY
What do we do?

SIMON
We gotta get out of here is what we
gotta do! Grab all the birds you can
and let's go!

Ricky looks down at the street as the neighborhood birds struggle to escape. He flies down and gestures to the humming birds. They fly up past Ricky into the sky.

Simon flies down and grabs the hurt pigeon with his wing, holding him as he flies back up.

Mindy and Oscar follow Ricky as he flies off toward the horizon.

Simon follows Ricky with Chad and Kyle in tow.

RICKY
(to Simon)
They won't get away with this.

Simon takes a beat.

SIMON

You're darn right they won't.

The birds fly off into the distance.

INT. WAR NEST - MORNING

Inside of a BIRDHOUSE, a makeshift war room has been assembled.

A large oval stump sits in the middle of the room. A map of the street comprised of sticks and berries is laid out on top the stump.

Ricky, Mindy, Oscar, Chad, Kyle and several other birds sit around the oval stump.

Simon walks in front the stump and addresses the birds.

SIMON

Ladies and gentlebirds... The humans have launched an attack on bird-kind. This comes on the heels of a centuries-old conflict between bird and man. We poop on them, they hunt us for sport. It's always been a give and take. But now... They've started something that we are prepared to finish. Birds will not go down without a fight!

The rest of the birds CHEER and clap their wings.

Simon turns to Ricky.

SIMON

Ricky. You're gonna be my second in command.

Ricky's eyes widen. He looks over to Mindy and Oscar. Mindy smiles at Ricky. Oscar gives Ricky a thumbs up with his wing.

Ricky slowly looks up at Simon. He nods his head.

SIMON

Alright. Here's the plan...

MONTAGE:

- Oscar, Mindy and several other birds leap from the birdhouse and fly down onto the street. The block is still messy from the night before. They scavenge the gutters, trash cans and under picnic tables for food.

SIMON (V.O.)

First, if they thought they had it bad before, just you wait. We are going to eat the nastiest, gnarliest, most indigestible foods imaginable. Then, when they least expect it, we drop on them like the New Year's Ball.

- Oscar pecks at a cheese puff on the ground
- Mindy finds a half-eaten Twinkie in a trash can.
- Birds peck at a piece of pepperoni pizza under a picnic table.

SIMON (V.O.)

But we're just getting started.

- Other birds scavenge the block for leftover fireworks. Chad and Kyle find a box with roman candles and shells.
- One bird grabs a roll of tape from an open garage.

SIMON (V.O.)

We will use their own firepower against them! They made it fair game, so we're playin' by their rules.

- Chad uses the tape to strap one of the roman candles to Kyle's back, wrapping the tape around his midsection to secure it.
- Chad rips the tape with his beak and they nod at each other.

END MONTAGE

INT. WAR NEST - DAY

Back in the birdhouse, the birds are lined up in front of Simon and Ricky. Chad, Kyle and several others stand with their fireworks strapped to their backs. Oscar, Mindy, and the rest of the birds stand next to them.

Oscar BURPS and rubs his stomach with his wing.

SIMON

This is it, folks. The time is now.
This is your chance to show humanity
that birds are not to be trifled with.
Ricky, any final words?

Ricky looks around at the birds. He takes a moment.

RICKY

BIRDS OF A FEATHER!

EVERYONE

(in unison)

STICK TOGETHER!

Everyone ROARS and CHEERS.

The birds leap out of the birdhouse one by one and swoop down toward the street.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

The neighborhood folks come out of their houses and begin cleaning up the block.

The kids are still energetic from the night before, jumping and running as the parents pick up cups and plates from their yards.

Adults greet each other in the street, regaling the events of the previous evening.

Two FATHERS speak to each other from across their yards, each with a mug of coffee in hand.

PLOP. Something drops into one of the coffee mugs. The father looks at his mug with confusion.

PLOOP. A puddle of BIRD POOP drops onto the father's shoulder. He looks down at the droppings with disgust.

A SHADOW appears above the block, shrouding the street in darkness. The humans slowly look up at whatever is causing the shadow.

All of the sudden, hundreds of BIRD DROPPINGS begin falling from above.

The humans RUN and SCREAM as they attempt to avoid the shower of bird poop, but it is no use. The adults and children are covered with the droppings. They slip and tumble as they are

hit with shot after shot of excrement.

Oscar and Mindy are among the birds flying above the the humans. They give each other a nod.

Ricky and Simon sit on the telephone wire as they watch the birds poop all over the street. Simon waves his wings at the rest of the birds.

SIMON

Let's go! Let's go! More, more, more!

The kids scramble as they return to their homes, aided by some of the parents. The rest of the parents stay outside as they struggle to understand what's happening. They look at each other in confusion as they are continuously hit with more bird poop.

SIMON

Everybody! Commence phase 2!

Chad holds a match with his beak. He scrapes it against a matchbox to create a flame.

Chad lights the fuse of the firework strapped to Kyle.

The fuse SIZZLES before LAUNCHING Kyle rapidly toward the humans.

Kyle puts his head down as he dives into the crowd of people. Kyle RAMS into a DAD, knocking him to the ground.

The rest of the birds follow suit, igniting their fireworks and launching themselves toward the humans.

The adults run away in a group as the birds dive-bomb towards them. Several of the adults are knocked over, causing the other adults to trip and stumble.

Kyle gets his to his feet and shakes his head. He gives a thumbs up with his wing to Simon and Ricky.

SIMON

That's it, people! That's what I'm talkin' about!

The adults start to recover as they stand up and rush inside their homes.

Oscar and Mindy fly up and land next to Simon and Ricky.

MINDY

Look, it's working! They're retreating!

The humans clear the streets and return to their homes. The street is now empty of people.

A MOM looks out her window with a phone up to her ear.

RICKY

I can't believe it. We really did it!

The sound of GIANT WINGS FLAPPING approaches in the distance.

The birds slowly turn their heads to see a NEWS HELICOPTER flying above them.

OSCAR

Oh my gosh.

MINDY

What is that?

RICKY

It looks like the humans made some kind of giant robot bird!

Many of the birds YELL and fly away in fear.

Mindy, Oscar, Simon and Ricky fly back to the birdhouse. Kyle and Chad follow close behind.

INT. WAR NEST - DAY

OSCAR

What are we going to do?

The birds all look toward Simon, awaiting his response.

Simon peeks his head out, staring intensely at the helicopter.

A CAMERAMAN points his camera out the side of the helicopter. The helicopter inches closer to the birdhouse.

SIMON

Only one thing left to do.

Simon walks over to the prep area.

SIMON

It's time to put up or shut up. Boys,
strap me in.

Kyle and Chad start attaching several fireworks to Simon's back.

The rest of the birds quickly rush over to confront Simon.

RICKY

Simon, what are you doing? You won't
make it on your own.

SIMON

You might be right.

MINDY

There has to be another way.

SIMON

Not this time, little birdies.

Ricky steps forward as Chad and Kyle finish strapping the fireworks to Simon.

RICKY

What if this doesn't work? I can't
keep this going without you.

Simon pauses and looks up at Ricky.

SIMON

What was it you said before? Birds of
a feather...

RICKY

Stick together.

SIMON

Right.

Simon smiles.

RICKY

You just take care of this little
family you got here. I'll take care of
the rest.

Simon approaches the entrance of the birdhouse. He looks out at the helicopter. The camera points straight back at him.

SIMON

Alright, boys. Let's blow this robo-fowl out of the bloody sky.

Chad lights the fuse on Simon's fireworks.

Oscar, Mindy and Ricky watch in suspense.

Simon BLASTS OFF toward the helicopter.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

The cameraman puts his camera down as his eyes meet with Simon's.

Simon CRASHES through the side of the helicopter. The fireworks BURST causing the helicopter to spin out of control.

The PILOT and NEWS CREW jump out of the helicopter and parachute to the ground.

The helicopter CRASHES to the ground in a colorful burst of light.

The birds around the neighborhood JUMP and CHEER.

INT. WAR NEST - DAY

Chad rests his head on Kyle's shoulder. Tears falls from their eyes.

Mindy, Oscar and Ricky hug each other. Oscar wipes a tear from his eye.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. WAR NEST - LATER

Dozens of birds are gathered in the birdhouse. Ricky stands at a podium made of tree bark with Oscar and Mindy by his side.

RICKY

I'd like to thank you all for your service. With great sacrifice, we have shown that birds will not be bullied, and we will not stand by and surrender. In Simon's honor, we will continue to stand up for bird-kind. And as your humble leader, I promise

(MORE)

RICKY (CONT'D)
to stand up for what is right. Because
birds of a feather...

EVERYONE
(in unison)
STICK TOGETHER!

The crowd of birds CHEER loudly.

Ricky smiles.

END