

A PROMISE TO A CROW

Written by

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EXT. PARK - DAY

A quaint park sits below a highway. JOHN (50s) sits alone on a bench. He has a naturally angry face.

Above the highway soars a MURDER OF CROWS. The group rides the wind from the cars. Towards the back, a large MOTHER CROW flies with two BABY CROWS on either side.

The mother watches the babies closely as they quickly flap their wings trying to keep up with the murder.

Suddenly the smaller baby begins to fall. She dives down after her, but the other starts to fail as well. Both babies sink towards the highway.

John looks up and sees two black stars fall from the sky.

The small baby desperately flaps. She cries out before getting hit by the mirror of a truck. She stumbles over the edge and falls down into the park.

The larger baby lands not far away. The mother lands next to him. She pecks and flaps, trying to help him up. The small baby twitches on the ground.

She continues to struggle and caw. The large baby stands and flaps back to the murder. The mother hops towards her until a man riding a lawnmower approaches.

She hesitates and stumbles back while staring down the mower. The mother makes her choice and flies away, leaving the baby cawing out for help alone.

John slowly approaches her. She watches him with fearful eyes but doesn't resist being picked up. He holds her gently and leaves the park.

INT. JOHN'S HOME - NIGHT

The baby rests in a cut up shoe box lined with a blanket. Her wings are bandaged up with mini splints.

John kneels down next to her with a small bowl of mashed banana.

JOHN

Do you resent her for leaving you
behind?

He sets the bowl down next to her beak.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I think she just got scared. One
day you'll see her again, I'm sure
of it.

She slowly eats the banana while John moves to the corner. He
watches her until his eyes droop.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD CAMP - DAY

John (now 30s) rushes to a tent set up in a war-torn
hellscape. On his shoulder is a red cross. Countless injured
soldiers lie waiting for treatment. John spots ERIKA (20s).

ERIKA
Rogers! Get our men out of here!
The 104th needs evac now!

John looks around, scanning the face of each soldier.

JOHN
Sergeant... where's Lieutenant
Wright? If the 104th is here, then
why isn't he with them?!

Erika gestures to the injured.

ERIKA
These are the only ones we found,
and if you-

John sprints off.

He runs through gunshots and explosions, frantically looking
around. Finally he spots WRIGHT laying on the ground. He's
bleeding profusely from his leg.

Wright spots John and starts crawling towards him.

A crow caws from the sky.

John stops and looks past Wright. Over the horizon is
thousands of tanks and soldiers steadily marching towards
them.

WRIGHT
Rogers? Rogers! I need help!

Blood spills from Wright's mouth while John continues to
stare down death.

John takes a step back.

WRIGHT (CONT'D)
No... please...

John turns and runs away.

Wright's screams for help echo through his mind until they twist into caws.

INT. JOHN'S HOME - NIGHT

John snaps awake with a gasp. He's covered in sweat and shaking. He recollects himself and looks down.

On his lap is the baby crow, sleeping soundly.

John gently places his hand on her back and pets her.

JOHN
You'll see her again, I promise.