Totem

By Bryan Paul Hunt

FADE IN.

EXT. WAREHOUSE. DAY

The front of a warehouse glistens in the last rays of dusk. The Calgary Skyline appears in the background.

HEADING 'Calgary: 2035'

Glass explodes from a secondary window. A figure dressed in a brown and grey mottled cloak flies backwards out of the window. This is the vigilante known as TOTEM. A small lynx icon is almost imperceptible on his cloak. Grabbing his neck and also flying through the window is a knife wielding GANG MEMBER.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Things are not going well. That's me, part of the vigilante known as 'Totem'. I may be the last of the originals. Generally flying backwards out a window is not advised. This is not a comic book

Totem, in the brown and grey lands with a crack, his left arm broken. He screams out in pain. The gang member breaks his fall on top of Totem.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

(continued)

In real life there are consequences. It's only a second floor, but that was my arm. I needed it to back roll out of this mess and get the jump on this maniac. Now that is not an option.

The pair skid along the ground for a few feet before halting. The gang member swiftly brings out a knife and holds it to Totem's throat.

GANG MEMBER

(giddy)

I got him! Ooo! Ooo! The muthafucking totem.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

This may be the end of me. It was not a bad run. I am too old for this anyway. My body screams in agony, but I do not yell. I do not respond. There is no use in discourse and pain is simply

my reminder that I live still. But I do smile. It often unnerves them, like I have a secret.

The gang member sits atop Totem pinning him with his knife firmly planted across Totem's neck. He runs his left hand across his forehead, wiping away some blood from a cut, as well as the sweat and grime that are all over him.

GANG MEMBER

(panting, grinning)

Ya, I got you fucker....you gonna bleed slow like.

The Gang Member presses the blade to Totem's neck slowly and a trickle of blood appears. Totem's face grimaces slightly below his mask.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

(smiling)

It strikes me funny that this whole business is going to end like it began: with a crash through a window. Apparently fate likes to bookend things.

INT. FLETCHERS CONVENIENCE STORE, NIGHT

HEADING: 7 Years Earlier

LEE FLETCHER stands at the cash register serving a CUSTOMER, while his wife, CAROL FLETCHER restocks some shelves and his daughter, IMOGENE FLETCHER, sweeps in the back aisle. Hanging off Imogene's belt loop is a keychain sized stuffed animal: a lynx.

TOTEM(LYNX) V.O.

I was so weak back then. I could not protect myself, let alone my family.

Carol flashes a flirty grin at Lee as he hands the customer back his change.

A motorcycle speeds up on the street in front of the store and crashes through the front window.

Racks and merchandise fly everywhere. Carol is knocked into the cola refrigerator. Imogene screams.

The biker gets off his motorcycle. A crown tattoo is prominent on his forehead. He is a member of the GRIT KINGS, a local gang. Two other Grit King members hop through the broken window. They look left and right holding their weapons.

GRIT KING GOON #1

(to Biker)

All Clear, Herod!

The customer goes to flee.

HEROD

(lifting his gun, talking to customer, sarcastically) Stop. Please.

He shoots. Lee gets a splattering of blood on him. The customer falls. A spray of change flies up.

HEROD

See? She stopped. She listened well. Now everyone else, listen the fuck up. Or I will make you a good listener too. Any questions?

Herod looks around.

HEROD

Good. Now you know what you are going to give me?

Herod pauses, waiting for a response.

HEROD

No? Absolutely everything fucking thing I ask for!

The Grit King goons laugh.

Lee twitches out of his petrified state.

LEE

Umm....that may not....

HEROD

(interrupting)

What's that princess? I couldn't hear you?

LEE

Umm...I mean...look there is a Coru Security station just two buildings down. This may not be the best place to rob...

Herod smirks and the looks to his goons.

HEROD

What do you say boys, does he have a point? Should we chance it?

The goons laugh again.

GRIT KING GOON #2

Let him phone.

HEROD

(nodding)

Let him phone – good idea. We'll even wait until they arrive.

Lee is frozen.

HEROD

(gesturing with his gun)
Well, what are you waiting for cupcake? Phone them!

Goon #2 picks up Carol and holds a machete to her neck.

CAROL

Lee...just phone...

Lee nods and picks up the phone. He dials.

LEE

(into the phone)

...Uh yes...the Grit Kings are robbing my store, 'Fletchers Convenience'...yes...ok...3 minutes. Thank you.

Lee puts down the phone.

LEE

(to Herod)

They are on their way. You better go while you can.

HEROD

(smirking)

I think we will stay. What do you say boys?

The goons nod, laughing.

HEROD

(shrugging)

Stay it is, it seems.

Sirens are heard and two Coru Security cruisers screech to a halt in front of Fletcher's Convenience store. The spiral shell logo of the Coru Oil and Gas company can bee seen on the black doors of the cruisers.

The PATROL OFFICERS jump out of the vehicles and enter the store through the window. Two of them aim their pistols at the Grit King Goons while holding their energy shields. The third, clearly in charge steps forward.

PATROL OFFICER #1

Herod, are you robbing this place?

HEROD

I cannot tell a lie, officer, I am robbing this place completely

The officer turns to Lee. Officers 2 and 3 keep their weapons aimed at the goons and Herod.

Patrol officer #1 pulls out a computer tablet. He punches in some data.

PATROL OFFICER #1.

I have your address. Are you Lee Fletcher, owner of this establishment? And further to this is that your spouse, Carol, being held over there?

LEE

(relieved)

Yes, officer.

PATROL OFFICER #1

Is there anyone else in the establishment (looks down to the dead customer) ...alive?

LEE

Umm, my daughter Imogene is in the back isle.

PATROL OFFICER #1

Ahh, let me enter that....

The officer types quickly into the tablet.

PATROL OFFICER #1

This will just take a second.

The tablet beeps.

PATROL OFFICER #1

Hmm. This is unfortunate.

On the tablet, two headings can be seen. One says 'Cost of Operation: \$10000' then other says 'Value to CORU: \$2000'. A final entry flashing in red says 'Application Denied'.

Herod looks at his goons and laughs. They laugh with him.

LEE

(nervously)

What...what is unfortunate?

PATROL OFFICER #1

Oh, it appears your value is less than the value of this operation. We cannot, in good faith, help you out here. (motioning to his men)

Come on, off we go.

The other patrol officers put down their weapons.

LEE

(hysterical)

Look...look. You have to help us. He is going to kill my wife.

HEROD

Going to?

Herod snaps his fingers. Goon#2 rips the machete across Carol's neck. Blood sprays across the cola refrigerator and up to the ceiling as she falls to the ground.

Imogene screams.

LEE

(shocked)

No!!!!!

Patrol Officer #2 raises his weapon and shield again, training it on Goon #2.

PATROL OFFICER #1

Officer Williams! Stand down immediately.

HEROD

Yes, get your boy in order.

LEE

(in shock)

You...you...just let that happen...what is wrong with you?

PATROL OFFICER #1

(to Lee)

Look Mr. Fletcher. It is unfortunate. I wish I could help, but my hands are tied. Your value just isn't enough. I was hoping your daughter would have pushed it over the top...

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Sir, we can't just leave it like this. It's wrong.

PATROL OFFICER #1

You will stand down, officer! That's an order!

Officer Williams slowly lowers his weapon, clearly shaken by the experience.

The three patrol officers back out through the broken window.

PATROL OFFICER #1

Herod, I ask you now not to kill anyone else here. That's not too much to ask.

HEROD

Oh, you have my word on that.

The goons laugh.

PATROL OFFICER #1

(backing into his car)
Ok then. Good day Mr. Fletcher.

LEE

Good day!?! Fuck you!

The patrol cars turn off their flashing lights and drive away.

HEROD

Now, now...Lee. Let's watch our language, shall we? Now open your register and give me all the cash.

(to Goon #2)

Go get me the daughter.

LEE

(furious)

No! I will not. You get the hell out of my store! You killed my wife. You get nothing else!

Lee hops the counter and charges towards Herod. As he gets close Herod simply raises his boot and kicks Lee in the chest, sending him flying back. Then quick as a snake he runs in, grabs Lee by the throat and rams him into the front side of the counter. Lee screams in pain as he hits.

Herod calmly turns Lee's head towards Goon #2, who now has his daughter.

HEROD

(to Lee)

You see, Mr. Fletcher, you just aren't thinking straight. Grief can do that to a man. What you have to consider is that you have...so...much...*more* to lose.

Lee's eyes bug out .He nods slowly.

Herod pats him on the cheek a few times.

HEROD

That's a good man.

Herod helps him to his feet.

HEROD

Now that we have come to an understanding, I will need that money

Lee shuffles around to the other side of the counter and opens the register, getting all the cash he can take out of it.

Herod looks through a display of chips nearby.

HEROD

Oh, and one pack of these Doritos. Are they any good?

LEE

(broken)

Uhh...what?...oh, yes they are good. A little spicy though.

HEROD

(nodding)

Good. I like spicy.

Herod grabs the cash. He takes his pack of chips and turns away from the counter walking a few steps.

He stops.

HEROD

Oh, one more thing Lee. We are taking your daughter.

LEE

IMOGENE

No!! You can't

Daddy! Help!

HEROD

(rolling his eyes)

Always with the drama...

LEE

You take my daughter and I will...I will...

Herod picks up his bike.

HEROD

You will what, Lee? The thing is she is safer with us... (pointing to the goons) clearly you can't protect her from the dangerous men in this world. And these are very, very dangerous men.

The goons drag Imogene out of the broken window.

IMOGENE

(screaming, desperate)

Daddy! Help me!!

LEE

(quieter, broken)

I will...

Herod pushes his bike out the window.

HEROD

I think I broke him...

The Grit Kings are gone. The store is silent.

Lee slumps down against the wall.

LEE

(crying)

I will save you....I will never stop...

A piece of glass falls from the broken window frame.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I had one of these moments where reality failed me. Or should I say, my perception of reality. All I thought of the world and how it worked burst like a bubble. What washed over me was a sense of grief and loss and helplessness. Everything I held important was gone. Every delusion that I could protect myself and my family was gone.

EXT. CORU SECURITY STATION, DAY.

Lee Fletcher walks towards the door of the security station. A bruise around his neck is still visible from the night before. From his walk, he is clearly in pain. He opens the door and enters.

INT. CORU SECURITY STATION. RECEPTION. DAY

Lee stands arguing with a CLERK at the front desk.

LEE FLETCHER

(furious)

...Well, I need to speak with your commander then.

CLERK

Sir, you don't want to do that.

LEE FLETCHER

I certainly do. My wife is dead and my daughter has been taken. You won't even listen to me. Get your commander.

CLERK

Fine. It will be your ass on the line.

The clerk spins a dial on a wire on his uniform.

COMMANDER O.S.

(from speaker on clerks uniform) What is it?

CLERK

(speaking to commander)
I have a citizen here demanding to speak to you. A Lee Fletcher of Fletcher's Convenience.

There is a short pause, yet the Commanders typing is audible.

COMMANDER

Send him in.

INT. CORU SECURITY STATION. COMMANDER'S OFFICE. DAY.

The COMMANDER sits at his desk as Lee enters.

He motions to Lee to sit.

He looks down at his tablet computer as Lee sits down.

COMMANDER

Well...it looks like you had an incident at your store last night. Is this what your visit is about?

LEE FLETCHER

Yes. The Grit Kings robbed me, killed my wife and took my daughter. Your officers did nothing.

The Commander looks at his tablet.

COMMANDER

Yes, this is all recorded in the log – except for your daughter. You have my sympathies there.

LEE

Sympathies? Well, that's great, but it doesn't bring them back.

The Commander continues to look at his tablet.

COMMANDER

Yes that is unfortunate. It looks like the officers did all they could for your relative value. It says here the lead officer convinced the perpetrator not to kill anyone else. That is above and beyond the call of duty.

LEE

(enraged)

Relative Value? Look here now. When the government handed over policing to the corporations...to you guys... there was no talk of relative value. You need to get my daughter back.

The Commander sets his tablet down and leans back in his chair.

COMMANDER

That is your suggestion here? Or is it a demand?

LEE

Um. This is what I demand. My wife is dead, I get that. But you can still get my daughter back for me.

The Commander reaches into his desk and pulls out his gun. He lays it sideways on top of the desk.

COMMANDER

What you need to understand Mr. Fletcher is that I don't give a shit about what the government intended. Whatever they intended is long gone, like last fall's leaves. I am paid by CORU Oil and Gas with a certain mandate.

LEE

But....

COMMANDER

Do not interrupt me, Mr. Fletcher. This office must not operate at a net loss to CORU. Which means that any operation we engage in must have a smaller cost than the resources or individuals we are saving or protecting from the perspective of the CORU corporation. The lead officer in this case made the right call. Rescuing your daughter is even more preposterous. Raiding the Grit Kings compound will cost well over 100000 dollars.

Lee looks shocked. He leans forward to speak but is waved off by the Commander.

COMMANDER

Don't say anything! What you need to understand is that your value is just too low. In addition you just demanded something from the security commander. That's nearly a threat.

(He picks up his gun and points it at Lee)
I could end you right here and be justified. Do you understand?

Lee nods.

The Commander lowers the gun.

COMMANDER

I am lenient. I am not going to do that. But you need to understand the nature of your value. I suggest you accept that your wife and daughter are gone. Mourn them. And get on with your life. Now get out of my office.

EXT. HARRY HAYES BUILDING. GOVERNMENT OFFICES. DAY

The Harry Hayes building gleams in the sunlight.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I felt I had only one recourse: the government. Surely they would move to protect their citizens

INT. HARRY HAYES BUILDING. OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN. DAY

The OMBUDSMAN sits attentively at his desk listening as Lee tells his story.

LEE

...and they wouldn't even lift a finger. He even threatened to shoot me.

OMBUDSMAN

(chewing on a pencil as he thinks) Hmmm. That is a pickle. What to do about this?

LEE

(hopeful)

So there are things we can do, right?

OMBUDSMAN

Oh yes, plenty. But see, the problem is that by the Carey Act Corporate Security Services are allowed to police according to their own mandates, protecting the citizens as they see best to do.

The ombudsman leans back in his chair, chewing on his pencil, deep in thought.

LEE

And?

OMBUDSMAN

Well, therein lies the problem. The officers did not act in such a way as to break or threaten their contract to serve as a policing force.

LEE

You've got to be kidding me. Surely the government never intended for things to work this way.

OMBUDSMAN

Surely not, but that is the way they are. I do see two very good options for you though.

Lee leans forward in his chair, eager.

OMBUDSMAN

(continuing)

First, we can push for a formal inquest into your mistreatment at the security station. You will need a signature from the station commander for that though.

LEE

That may be a problem. He is the one that threatened to shoot me.

OMBUDSMAN

Well, I am afraid that leaves only one option: a formal complaint to the federal government. We will just need you to fill out these 1054 forms – three of them.

The ombudsman shuffles through his desk looking for the forms.

LEE

And how long does this process take.

The ombudsman closes the desk

OMBUDSMAN

Ah, here we go.

He passes the forms to Lee, with a fresh pen for signing.

OMBUDSMAN

The process is very streamlined. Once your forms are signed by a local designate, namely me, they go to a local steering council for judgment on relative weight. At this point, if they are found to be with merit, they are sent to the municipal clerk for checks in accuracy and wording. There are about three other steps from there until it reaches the Federal council to be examined and possibly sent to the Government's punitive team.

Lee looks confused.

LEE

And then what?

OMBUDSMAN

Well, seeing all this is successful, which it likely will be, it will put a formal reprimand in their file. If enough reprimands are found, the punitive team will then have a stern discussion CORU management.

LEE

And then they will help me get my daughter back?

OMBUDSMAN

Goodness no! We have no way of forcing their hand in this matter. But it may persuade them to act differently in the future. And it only takes 6 months – which is quite streamlined – provided that there are no snags along the way.

LEE

But I need to help my daughter now. If this won't help her, why would I do it?

OMBUDSMAN

Well, at least there would be an official record. Now let's get to filling out these forms...

Lee jumps up from his chair and tosses the forms in the air.

LEE

Useless! Totally useless!

EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY STREET. DAY

Lee walks down the street, slouched and slow.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

The police force would not help me. The government would not help me. I had no hope in this situation. I did not think things could get worse. They would. But sometimes something bad triggers something new.

A grubby looking JUNKIE moves in behind Lee and shoves his gun into Lee's back.

JUNKIE

Your money! Now!

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

People often underestimate the power of a man who has nothing to lose.

Lee's eyes go wide and crazy.

His arm comes up and he spins his elbow backwards to the right, knocking the Junkie in the head.

JUNKIE

(in pain)

Oww!

While he is off balance, Lee kicks him in the groin and punches him again in the neck.

He grabs the gun as the junkie is doubled over in pain.

JUNKIE

(defensive, holding up his hands)

Hey, wait man...I didn't

Lee strikes him in the face with the butt of the gun

LEE

(crazy)

Don't ...

He hits him again.

LEE

You...

He hits him again. The junkies nose is broken and he falls to the ground. Lee follows him down.

LEE

(hitting him with each word)

Know...not...to...threaten...someone...with...no...value?

The junkie has blood all over his face and is clearly unconscious.

Lee stands up panting.

CORU Security cars scream around the corner. Two officers quickly exit their vehicles and point their guns at Lee.

Another officer squats behind his patrol car door, speaking into a megaphone.

OFFICER

(Into megaphone)

Sir! Put your gun down and lie on the ground!

Lee turns to them, put keeps the gun pointed down.

LEE

No!

He continues to stand there.

The two officers with guns trained on him look at each other in confusion.

OFFICER (Megaphone)

Sir! Do as we say or we will be force to take measures.

Lee steps forwards towards the officers.

LEE

I don't think you will. You see I know how this works. The man was a junkie who was trying to rob me. How much value does he have? How much is this operation costing you?

The megaphone operator is quickly typing into his tablet.

Lee puts the gun in his waistband.

LEE

That's what I thought. Good day to you.

Lee walks right past the officers.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

The junkie had shown me something. I had enough skill in that situation. Surely I could rescue my daughter all by myself. And the Security Services would not intervene as the Grit Kings had no value. I was wrong, of course, but these thoughts laid out my path.

EXT. ROOF TOP OF A BUILDING. NIGHT

Lee Fletcher sits crouches on a rooftop, dressed all in black, with binoculars up to his eyes.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

My first step was surveillance. I had to watch how the Grit Kings hideout operated. How many guards were there? What was their pattern of patrol.

Lee puts the binoculars down to make notes in a notebook. Then he puts the binoculars up again to watch the Grit Kings hideout.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I analyzed the patterns. I thought I was being so smart and careful. Eventually I found what I thought was a gap in their security.

EXT. GRIT KINGS COMPOUND. NIGHT

Lee, dressed all in black, skirts along a fence. He has blacked some of his face with camouflage striped.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I wasted no time. Once I found the hole, I needed to act.

It was already weeks since they had taken my daughter.

Lee checks left and right for Grit King guards. Seeing none, he pulls a set of bolt cutters, and chooses a spot of fence to cut.

As the bolt cutters are about to cut, a pistol is pushed into his neck.

HEROD

Well, well, princess...good to see you again.

Three guards appear behind Herod.

Lee tries to spin around with the bolt cutters as he did with the Junkie.

Herod blocks his attack and counters with an upper cut to Lee's jaw.

Lee goes flying and lands against the fence. The bolt cutters go flying. He has blood coming from his mouth which he wipes away with his shirt.

LEE

How...

HEROD

Oh, well, you see, we saw you every time when you were watching us. And we missed seeing your dimpled face. So we simply lured you in.

Herod swiftly kicks Lee in the side. Lee howls in pain.

HEROD

I am impressed though. I never thought you would actually try it. Had you gotten past the fence, perhaps I would have made you an honorary Grit King. Tell you what. I will drop the gun and we can fight man to man. If you win, you get your daughter.

LEE

(grunting in pain)

And if you win?

HEROD

Well, cupcake, I am going to win anyway. If I win, I take the satisfaction of winning. See what a gentleman I am?

Herod tosses his gun behind him where one of the goons easily picks it up. A thunderclap can be heard. Herod motions for Lee to get up.

HEROD

Come on now...you wouldn't want to miss your one chance.

Lee stands up, wiping his mouth again.

Herod motions for him to come forward again.

Lee steps forward and quickly shoots out a fast cross. Herod bobs left and punches Lee in the ribs.

The rain really starts to pour now.

HEROD

Not bad, but very, very sloppy.

Lee throws a jab, then another jab, then a cross, then a hook. Herod deftly sidesteps each.

On the next cross, Herod pulls Lee's arm sideways and sidesteps left such that he is positioned above Lee's elbow. Lee is bent over in this position unable to move.

HEROD

You may want to brace yourself, this is going to be a harsh lesson.

Herod quickly comes down on Lee's arm, breaking it. Lee screams in pain.

Herod then takes Lee to the ground, pushing his face sideways into the mud. He positions himself so his knee is on Lee's head keeping it down.

HEROD

I like you Lee. I won't kill you today. But I did win, didn't I?

Lee's mouth bubbles a bit.

HEROD

(letting Lee up a bit)

Sorry about that. Now I won, right?

LEE

Yes...

Herod keeps his knee on Lee's head.

HEROD

In a moment I am going to let you go. Go home. Don't try this again. I may kill you and that just *wouldn't* be gentlemanly.

Lee's attention is focused ahead of himself, he does not even hear Herod.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

It was then, defeated and broken, that I saw something that would shape my destiny. It was just a rock, but written on the underside, where you could not see from the top, was a simple message.

A close up of the rock reveals what Lee see's

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

'Do you want things to stay the same?'

Herod gets off and he and his goons fade into the night.

Lee stays lying in the mud, defeated.

EXT. CITY STREET. DAY.

Lee walks down the street, arm in a sling, head down in defeat.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I started to see those messages all around after that point. But

Always in my neighborhood and always on trees or rocks.

Lee stops to look at a tree. Written on it is 'We can change things'

EXT. CITY PARK. DAY

Lee examines a rock. On it, it says 'Do you want change?'

EXT. CITY STREET. DAY.

Lee sees a leaf stuck in between a few bricks in a brick wall.

Unfurling it, he reads 'Do you want to help?'

EXT. CITY PARK. DAY.

Lee leans down looking at the previous message rock.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

It caught my curiosity. So I responded. I placed a note under the rock. It simply said 'I want to help'

Lee slips a note under the rock, looks both ways to see if he was see.

EXT. CITY PARK. DAY

Lee checks under the rock to find another note, scribbled on bark.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I checked the rock every day. Seven days later I had a response. It said 'Come to the abandoned bakery on the boulevard tonight. Wear a mask'. Who was I to argue with a rock?

INT. DAVINCIS BAKERY (ABANDONED). NIGHT

Lee slips in through a side window, wearing the black clothes he wore on his Grit King compound attempt. A black mask adorns his face as well. His arms remains in a sling.

Amongst the rubble of the bakery, three other people wearing masks are sitting. An older women, a younger woman, and a man.

They watch him approach.

LEE

(whispering)

Are you here for the...

The older woman simply raises her finger to her mouth to silence him.

Lee nods and leans against a dusty door frame.

Two others enter within the next half hour. Both men.

One of them goes to speak as Lee did. This time Lee puts his finger to his mouth to silence him.

From a hole in the roof, a figure drops down and lands on the stove in a half crouch. He is dressed in a mottled brown and grey, with a similar mask upon his face.

It takes a moment for the dust to settle. He says nothing. The rest say nothing.

MOTTLED MAN

(breaking the silence)

My fellow conspirators! I am happy to see you all here. Our world has become a festering pustule. Together, we can change this, we can fix that which is rotting.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I came expect him to speak like this always. With a flair for the dramatic. We were stunned, to say the least.

MAN IN BACK

So, what exactly...

The mottled man held up his hand to silence the mans question

MOTTLED MAN

Before we speak freely, I have a few rules. We should never know each others faces. We should never know each others names. There is safety in that. If we do not know each other, we cannot betray each other. Make sense?

There are brief nods from the attendees.

MOTTLED MAN

Good. Now you are all here because you recognize that things desperately need to change. You may have had problems with the security forces or the gangs or both.

A man in a green mask steps forward.

GREEN MASK MAN

(interrupting)

The damned gangs, they killed my...

The mottled man puts his hand out to silence the green man.

MOTTLED MAN

I don't want to know. Knowing your story is akin to knowing your name or face. Just trust that similar things have happened to all of us. Myself included...

He turns away, needing a moment to compose himself.

MOTTLED MAN

(continuing)

Sorry about that. After my...event...I trained for years. Thoughts of vengeance were always on my mind. I sought to be a force of change and good. Someone like Batman. The more I trained, though, the more I came to understand that one person cannot be Batman. At least one person cannot be Batman for long. You get what I am saying?

The attendees look confused.

MOTTLED MAN

(continuing)

He would be discovered or killed very quickly. One man is not an unstoppable force. And quick detective work would find out who had the means, motive, and no alibi. But, I had this idea...

(holding up 1 finger)

one man could not be a Batman...

(opening up his hand)

but many men could be *one* Batman

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I grasped his plan immediately. It was brilliance. With many of us masquerading as one vigilante we could do things one man could not. We would all have an alibi sometimes. It would leave no one person as a suspect.

The green masked man raises his hand.

GREEN MASK MAN

Question.

MOTTLED MAN

Go ahead.

GREEN MASK MAN

I can see your point here, but, look at us...

(pointing to the others)

Some of us are fit and in our prime. Good material for vigilante work. But others are old or unfit.

The older woman glares at the green mask man.

MOTTLED MAN

An iconic figure, like we are to become, has more skills than just a good punch or kick. Everyone here has something they can offer that is of value. I promise that.

The older woman nods to him in approval.

MOTTLED MAN

But we will train. We will train for what will seem like forever. You will learn the skills necessary for us to win.

Every eye was on him.

MOTTLED MAN

We will make them see. We will grab them by the throat and force them to feast upon what a better world looks like. And those of evil ways be warned, for we will come upon them like a storm...

Cheers and applause followed.

INT. DAVINCIS BAKERY (ABANDONED). NIGHT

A row of masked individuals work at several sewing machines and other crafting stations hard at work.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

What came as a surprise to me is that our first step was sewing. He Explained to us that we needed a common look. We would need to look identical in order to pass as one individual. We all made mottled cloaks to match his own.

The mottled man dumps his cloak on a table pointing to pockets on the inner surface. The pockets clearly carried knives, darts, and various packages.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

He showed us good spots to sew in secret pockets for equipment that might be needed.

Lee works, sewing on a small animal silhouette on the bottom of his cloak.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Even though we were to look the same, we each chose an animal call sign and sewed it into our cloak to tell leach other apart. I chose 'Lynx' in honour of my daughter who was always fascinated with them.

Each of the other's patches are shown in succession.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

The Mottled Man chose an Osprey as his icon. But there were coyote, sharp-shin, bear, yellow jacket, and recluse as well. Collectively, we called our hero 'Totem' for our primal nature.

INT. DAVINCIS BAKERY (ABANDONED). NIGHT

The members of 'Totem' train in the abandoned bakery, with Osprey calling out commands.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Osprey trained us only in the deadly and incapacitating martial arts moves. Only the quick and effective moves were taught to us to save training time.

Lynx spars with Coyote in the foreground. Lynx throws a fake right cross, then moves in to the side to try to land a left hook.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Counter it!

Coyote blocks with an arm up and uses his other arm to slam into Lynx's chin. Lynx goes flying to the ground.

He sits up rubbing his chin.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

Eee hee! Got ya good there, didn't I?

TOTEM (LYNX)

Remember that we are playing for the same team here, right.

Coyote just grins

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I hated sparring with Coyote. He took way to much pleasure in dealing out pain.

EXT. ABANDONDED FIELD. NIGHT

The young female takes aim with a bow and fires.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Yellow Jacket had some skill with a bow, so she instructed us in its use.

Bear takes the bow and stands to take aim.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

Bear, remember feet in line with your target!

EXT. ROOF TOP OF A BUILDING. NIGHT

Lee Fletcher sits on top of an abandoned building with his mask on.

He has binoculars out, watching the Grit Kings compound.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

On my free nights, I would watch the Grit Kings compound. I looked for weakness in their perimeter, but hoped for signs of her. This night I had success. I wish I hadn't.

Through his binoculars, he spots Imogene walking around freely. She is wearing heavy dark makeup, sporting gang apparel, and has a fresh tattoo on her arm.

LEE FLETCHER

(frowning, talking to himself) That complicates things.

EXT. CITY STREET. NIGHT

Lee hurries quietly along a city street. His mottled cloak is reversed so that the inside (which is black) is now outside.

He swiftly runs along side a brick wall, quiet as a mouse.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Once our martial arts skills were increasing, Osprey taught us skills of stealth, camouflage, and tracking. We would go out in the night. Six of us would move around and stay hidden, while the seventh would hunt.

Lee reaches a stairwell with brick walls on each side. He runs and springs off one side wall, jumps to the other, springs off it to jump back to the first, grabbing the top of the wall. Once there he pulls himself up.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

We were taught parkour to efficiently and quietly get us around the obstacles the city puts in our path. I took to these stealth activities like a fish to swimming.

Lee lowers himself over a brick wall and drops to the bottom, 20 feet below. He spins mid air and rolls when he hits the bottom.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Where Bear and Coyote were talented at martial arts, and Yellow Jacket and Sharp Shin were marksmen with the bow...

Lee waits, crouching after the roll. His breath makes clouds of frost in the air.

A figure is silhouetted on the wall behind him.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

(continuing)

...I took to these stealth and movement techniques like a pro. In that regard 'Lynx' was an apt name.

The figure jumps off the wall with a foot flying towards Lynx's head. It is Osprey.

Lynx spins catching the leg and tossing Osprey aside.

Osprey rolls and spins around, panting.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Good! I thought I had you there, but you were just luring me in.

Lee nods.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Actually I just heard the whooshing noise of his fall and reacted. I did not correct him.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

(introspective)

I think we are ready.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Yes?

TOTEM (OSPREY)

The first step. Supplies.

INT. DAVINCIS BAKERY (ABANDONED). NIGHT

The Totem team sits on various stools, etc listening to Osprey speak.

Sharp Shin raises his hand.

TOTEM (SHARP SHIN)

Isn't raiding a security station risky? Doesn't it put out the wrong message? I mean as crappy as they are, they are trying to police...should we really attack them first?

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Don't think of it as an attack. We are merely taking some policing supplies for ourselves. It is theft, but a necessary theft, as these 'police' are not doing their jobs right. But Sharp Shin brings up a good point. We should not appear too far on the wrong side of the security services. No killing in this assignment. Non lethal attacks, and only when necessary. Our position, with these guys, should always be to incent them towards truth and justice.

Coyote rises in anger.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

Why no lethal force? Aren't they just as much the enemy we are fighting? I want a piece of...

Osprey holds up his hand to silence Coyote

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Then you will not be part of this mission. We do this my way. I will act as Totem for this. I want Lynx and Bear to be my shadows and Yellow Jacket to be our covering support.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

He had explained that each mission would have a primary 'Totem' character to supply the drama and theatrics. The shadows would wear inverted cloaks and act as support and cleanup. The shadows would do the real work and ensure that no evidence was left behind. The covering support would stay up high and use arrows when needed. Recluse would get a job as the hub of our operations.

Osprey pulls out several electronic devices out of his pack...

TOTEM (OSPREY)

I give my thanks to Bear to appropriating these: mini-magpulses. A burst from these will knock out a video camera or other electronic device.

He hands one to Lynx and Bear. Bear stops him holding out his hand.

TOTEM (BEAR)

Got my own.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

(nodding, smiling)

Of course. I see our outfits are working well. Everyone good for tomorrow night?

There were nods and cheers all around.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I cheered with the rest, but I wanted to yell 'No'. I wanted

to scream that we should hit the Grit Kings compound. But that was for my own needs. Logically, I knew this was Osprey's show and I knew that we needed the equipment from the station;.

EXT. CITY STREET. NIGHT.

Osprey crouches in the shadows, behind a dumpster, across the street from the security station; wearing his Totem cloak.

Lynx and Bear are barely visible beside him in their reversed, black cloaks.

Osprey raises his arm and talks into his wrist-walkie

TOTEM (OSPREY)

(whispering)

Recluse. You set in the web?

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING. NIGHT.

Recluse sits in a chair with electronic equipment surrounding her. She has a tablet computer, a scanner, and a walkie on her wrist.

She scans the table, looking at video feeds inside the station.

Even though she is hidden away in a building, she still wears her Totem cloak.

TOTEM(RECLUSE)

(into the walkie)

I am set. Reviewing video streams. I will let you know when a call comes in.

EXT. BUILDING TOP. ACROSS FROM SECURITY STATION. NIGHT

Yellow Jacket crouches on the roof, bow in hand.

WALKIE (OSPREY)

(crackling)

Yellow Jacket? You in position?

She slides her arm up so she can talk on the walkie.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

(INTO WALKIE)

Eye on the prize! Affirmative!

EXT. CITY STREET. NIGHT.

Osprey looks onward to the police station.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Now we wait.

Lynx relaxes and leans against a wall.

EXT. CITY STREET. NIGHT.

Lynx and Bear sit with their backs to the wall, clearly bored. Osprey remains crouched behind the dumpster, alert.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

And wait we did. People do not realize how much waiting around there is as a superhero.

Osprey's wrist-walkie display lights up.

WALKIE (RECLUSE)

There is movement. They have call.

Osprey raises his wrist

TOTEM (OSPREY)

(into walkie)

Affirmative. Team, we go when they scream out.

WALKIE (YELLOW JACKET)

Copy that, big O.

Minutes later, two security services cars tear out of the station.

EXT. BUILDING TOP. ACROSS FROM SECURITY STATION. NIGHT

Yellow Jacket remains in position on the roof.

WALKIE (OSPREY)

This is it, Yellow Jacket. Take out light one.

She loads an arrow and fires. A street light shatters.

A security services officer exits the station to see what shattered.

WALKIE (OSPREY)

Good. Now light two.

Yellow Jacket reloads and fires. A light behind the officer shatters. He turns to see.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

What the...

WALKIE (OSPREY)

Now the officer, with a blunt.

Yellow jacket puts in an arrow with a rubber mallet end on it. She draws back and fires. It hits the Patrol Officer in the back of the neck and he crumbles to the ground.

EXT. CITY STREET. NIGHT.

Osprey stands with his walkie to his mouth.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

(into walkie)

Excellent. Stay sharp.

WALKIE (YELLOW JACKET)

Will do, big man.

Osprey points to Bear and Lynx.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

(to Bear and Lynx)

You two, stick to the shadows. Retrieve the arrows and make sure the officer is unconscious. I will come across in 3 minutes. Go!

Lynx and Bear run in a low crouch across the street in the shadows.

EXT. SECURITY SERVICES STATION. NIGHT.

Lynx roves beneath the darkened street light, sticking in the shadows. He picks through the broken glass quietly to find the arrow. Once found is slips it onto a cloak pocket.

Lynx edges over to the officer, hesitates, then checks his pulse.

Lynx stands and gives a low whistle.

Another whistle is heard form down the street. Bear.

Osprey starts across from his position behind the dumpster. He walks slowly, deliberately, and in full view of security camera's.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Osprey had explained it to us. Being seen was just as important as being invisible. The prime factor was choosing what to show your enemy. When you had the choice, you could build the drama. In essence, you could build the story, the legend of what 'Totem' would become.

INT. SECURITY STATION LOBBY. NIGHT.

Osprey strides into the security station in full totem cloak and mask.

The desk clerk turns to see who has entered.

DESK CLERK

Holy shit!

Totem stops midway through the lobby. He holds up his hand.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

(calmly)

No need to panic, my good man. I mean you no harm. Can you direct me to the armory?

The desk clerk pulls his side arm.

DESK CLERK

(yelling)

On the ground!

Totem drops a few capsules on the ground. Smoke starts to spew out of both of them. Before long the lobby floor is covered in smoke.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Now. Now. I doesn't have to be like this. There is no need for violence.

EXT. SECURITY SERVICES STATION. NIGHT.

Lynx and Bear are crouched outside the station. The smoke can be seen filling the lobby through the glass doors.

Bear signals to Lynx.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I was terrified. I remembered all the times I had failed. My family. The Grit Kinds compound. Everything. I did not know why this would be different. I was petrified it would be the same. But when Bear opened that door, I did not hesitate.

As the door is opened by Bear, Lynx and Bear roll through into the lobby hidden by the smoke.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING. NIGHT.

Recluse watches a tablet and moves her wrist-walkie to her face.

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

(into the walkie)

Another one entering lobby from the North.

INT. SECURITY STATION LOBBY. NIGHT.

Osprey stands at the ready with his hands in front of his face as a second officer enters from the North door.

Lynx and Bear are mostly hidden by the smoke, but barely visible moving towards the officers

SECOND OFFICER

(training his weapon on Osprey)

Freeze!

TOTEM (OSPREY)

I see you have chosen the path of violence. So be it.

Osprey shoots his hands forwards.

On cue, Bear and Lynx throw batons at the officer's weapon hands.

Each baton hits quickly, knocking the guns out of their hands.

Osprey smiles. The officers back up.

Osprey quickly dives over the desk in front of him punching the Desk Clerk in the face.

The desk clerk goes down into the smoke where Lynx covers his mouth, subduing him.

Osprey then turns to the officer advancing on him and deflects his cross. He grabs the officers fist as it flies past his head and spins him so he is facing downwards. From here he quickly slides his elbow into the side of the officer's neck and knocks him out.

Osprey looks towards the lobby camera.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Your men need training. That was sloppy work.

Osprey heads to the Northern door and goes through it.

INT. SECURITY STATION. NORTH CORRIDOR. SECURITY CAM. NIGHT.

From the point of view of the security camera, Osprey can be seen walking gracefully down the corridor. Then the screen goes blank.

INT. SECURITY STATION. NORTH CORRIDOR. NIGHT

Lynx is seen just finishing zapping the camera with the one of the devices that Bear provided.

Bear strides past following Osprey, zapping the next camera. Lynx follows.

INT. SECURITY STATION. HALLWAY. NIGHT.

An officer walks slowly down the hall humming to himself.

Bear sneaks up silently behind the officer and wraps his arm around the officer's neck in a sleeper hold until he passes out.

Bear silently lowers him to the ground and then clears his throat.

Osprey then comes around the corner stopping in front of a door marked 'Armory'

TOTEM (OSPREY)

(to Bear)

Keys.

Lynx comes around the corner as Bear takes the keys off the unconscious officer.

He tosses the keys to Osprey who opens the door.

INT. SECURITY STATION, ARMORY, NIGHT

The door opens. Lynx and Bear enter quickly darting to each side and zapping cameras with their devices.

Osprey enters after them.

The room is neatly filled with armor, energy shields, guns, batons, ammunition, etc.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Take the armor, enough to supply the team. Shields too. Plus any knives and batons that you can carry. We don't need the guns.

Lynx and Bear start loading up.

Osprey writes a note. It says: "Came to collect some supplies. Thanks for the hospitality – Totem"

INT. SECURITY STATION. LOBBY. SECURITY CAMERA. NIGHT

Osprey crosses the lobby, turns towards the security camera and bows before leaving.

INT. CORU SECURITY STATION. COMMANDERS OFFICE. DAY

The COMMANDER sits behind his desk. PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS sits on the other side. Between them is a tablet showing the security footage of Totem bowing in the lobby and a scrap of paper.

COMMANDER

This is all we have? This video and a scrap of paper?

Officer Williams nods.

COMMANDER

Christ! What a cluster fuck. Who is this guy? How does he waltz in here without anything and steal 8 suits of armor and other shit?

Silence.

The Commander taps his fingers on the desk.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(nervous)

Sir, we don't know. He must have had help, but there is no record of that. All I know is that I heard the streetlight...

COMMANDER

(interrupting)

Yes, as to that. That is why you are in here and the other officers on duty are not. You were the first he took down, this...this...

The commander picks up the paper on the desk, reads it quickly and slams it down.

COMMANDER

(continuing)

...this 'Totem'! So I consider you responsible for the entire fuck up.

Officer Williams shifts uncomfortably in his chair.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Sir. That isn't really fair. I...

COMMANDER

(interrupting)

I don't give a camel's ass what you think, Officer Williams. This is how it is. This 'Totem' is your case now. Your only case. If you do not solve it and get our equipment back, it may come out of your pay. Do you get me?

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(downcast)

I get you sir.

Officer Williams pauses.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

What do we tell the media?

COMMANDER

Ass fuck all, that's what we tell them. We don't want the stink of this getting out. This is merely an internal matter.

Officer Williams rises and heads to the door. Only to turn suddenly back to the desk to pick up the note written by Totem.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Evidence.

INT. DAVINCI'S BAKERY. NIGHT.

Lynx and Sharp Shin spar in their new suits of armor as Osprey watches.

Coyote suits up in the foreground.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

You're slow. Keep your hands out. Closer to your opponent. It will make up for what your armor robs you in speed.

Yellow Jacket walks in.

Sharp Shin holds his arms farther out and Jabs quickly, hitting Lynx in the face.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Good. Good. Just because you have armor, Lynx, doesn't mean you do not need to block.

(to Yellow Jacket)

Yes?

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

Osprey, I have something you need to see.

INT. DAVINCI'S BAKERY. BACK ROOM. NIGHT.

A shield is set up on a desk, bolted to it.

Yellow Jacket points an energy gun to it.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

Brace yourself.

Osprey nods. Yellow Jacket fires. A bolt of energy hits the shield and dissipates.

Yellow Jacket hands Osprey a traditional gun.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

Try it.

Totem plugs her ears with her fingers.

Osprey takes aim and fires. The bullet ricochets off the shield.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

It's the same with knives...but watch this.

Yellow Jacket pulls out her bow and places an arrow with a stone tip on it.

She draws back and fires.

The Arrow goes straight through the shield and sticks into the wall behind.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

Wood. Bone. Stone. They all penetrate the shield.

Osprey paces for a second, hand on his chin.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Outstanding. So they protect themselves from modern weaponry, but their Achilles heel is the primitive weapon.

(laughing)

That's what we will use then. It is in the spirit of our primitive Totem persona, eh?

Osprey pats Yellow Jacket on the shoulder, proud.

Yellow Jacket beams back.

Bear enters.

TOTEM (BEAR)

Ah, there you are Os. I got to thinking. I know you said we should not use the shields, that our arms needed to be free. But what if I made them smaller and integrated with the chest plate?

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Hmmm. Go on...

TOTEM (BEAR)

Well, you see, the paralex weave in the armor is great protection against bullets and knives, but it absolutely blows when it comes to protecting against an energy weapon. If I cut the shields down to size and placed them here

(pointing to pectorals)

And here...

(pointing to the abdomen)

...then we could at least have some minor protection.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Can you do that? I mean, I thought the unit had to be separate for the shield to work.

TOTEM (BEAR)

Well, that's the official line, but I think I can do it, yup. I have some talent in tinkering.

Osprey nods.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Don't say any more. You risk giving away your identity. But yes, let's try it.

Osprey leaves out the side door as Bear watches Yellow Jacket fire through the shield with her bow.

TOTEM (BEAR)

Crazy.

INT. DAVINCI'S BAKERY. MANAGERS OFFICE. NIGHT.

Osprey enters. Recluse is busy at her tablet. Her grey hair spilling from beneath her mask.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

What have you got for me?

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

Well boss, no official word in the media of our heist. But it got me to thinking...if anyone had any skill with a scanner, they would have heard our entire operation...

TOTEM (OSPREY)

I thought it was encrypted?

TOTEM(RECLUSE)

It was. Call me paranoid though, but encryption can be broken. I think we should try something like steganography instead.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

I don't follow.

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

Steganography is the art of hiding a message in plain sight. I Was thinking if we encoded our communication in music, even If it was decrypted, no one would know what it was.

Osprey pauses, staring blankly.

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

(continuing)

You know...a certain chord for this action. A certain song snippet for something else. The guys in the field could just whistle it.

Osprey breaks into a smile.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

That, Recluse, is sheer genius.

INT. DAVINCI'S BAKERY, NIGHT.

The entire Totem crew sits listening to Osprey.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Alright, my fighters. We will start regular patrols tomorrow night. I will take first patrol with Sharp Shin and Coyote as my shadows. The Lynx with Bear and Yellow Jacket the next.

Everyone nods.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I was stunned. What did I do to deserve the honour of going second. I was just a regular guy, not like Osprey who had real talent. I often wondered where he received all his training.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

From there it will rotate. Coyote with Sharp Shin and Lynx, Bear with Yellow Jacket and myself. And so on. That way we all have alibis for most of the patrols. Everyone please familiarize yourself with Recluse's new system.

EXT. PRAINTE RESIDENCE . DAY.

The Prainte residence looms on the horizon. It is a very large mansion, befitting the COO of Coru Oil and Gas. A large fountain bubbles with life in front of the driveway.

It also teems with death as a dead body floats in it. A gang member.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Osprey made quick work his first night. He busted up an attempted rape, killing the offender in the process. He dumped the body in the prize fountain of Gordan Prainte, Chief Operating Officer of Coru Oil & Gas.

Two security services patrol cars zip up the driveway and screech to a halt.

Officers exit their vehicles and are met on the walkway by a very beet red GORDAN PRAINTE.

Yelling goes back and forth.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Osprey's theory was that until these common problems were put on the wealthy and elite, they would continue to be ignored. On the other hand, it is very difficult to ignore a corpse in your fountain.

An officer drags the body out of the fountain. Tied to its neck is a note saying "Rapist caught 1:30 AM; Memorial Park. No thanks necessary – Totem"

EXT. ALLEYWAY. NIGHT.

Lynx, Bear, and Yellow Jacket wait in the shadows in an Alleyway behind a dumpster.

Lynx wears the Totem cloak, while the others wear theirs inverted (black)

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

When it came time for me to act as the Totem, I was suddenly unsure of myself and our mission. Was it right to counter violence with more violence? Would I not, then, be just as bad as the gangs? How would I know not to go too far? Could I stay on the side of right?

Lynx holds his wrist-walkie to his mouth.

TOTEM (LYNX)

(into the walkie – AS A WHISTLE)

Recluse, In Position?

Piano notes can be heard from the wrist walkie.

TOTEM (LYNX)

(To others)

Nothing yet. We hold here.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

When the fist mission came in, my hesitations left. It was earily similar to my own story.

Lynx's wrist-walkie screams to life with a flurry of piano notes mixed with violin.

TOTEM (LYNX)

(to others)

Convenience store robbery off Bowness road. Let's go.

The three take off at a run.

EXT. BOWNESS ROAD. NIGHT.

Bear and Lynx head into an alleyway near 'Big Bow Corner Store'. Bear shoots his magno-pulse gadget at the nearest camera.

Yellow Jacket scurries up a fire escape across the street.

The security services are at the grocery, lights blazing.

Lynx whistles into his walkie.

EXT. BUILDING ROOF. NIGHT.

Yellow Jacket busily sets up her bow and quiver and gets into position as Lynx's whistle comes through.

She looks across at the patrol cars and raises her wrist-walkie and whistles into it.

EXT. BOWNESS ROAD. OUTSIDE BIG BOW CORNER STORE. NIGHT

The officers exit the building as Lynx and Bear hide in the shadows in the alley.

STORE OWNER

(to officers)

You can't leave me like this! Don't go!

Laughing is heard from the inside of the store as the security services cars squeal away.

Lynx turns to Bear.
Bear nods.

Lynx runs around the corner.

INT. BIG BOW CORNER STORE. NIGHT

Three members of the 'Lowland Lords' gang mill about in the store. Each carries a semi automatic weapon.

The owner lies on the floor with his hands behind his head. Two people lay dead in pools of blood on the floor.

A capsule flies through the broken front window, smoke escapes it filling the lower portion of the room.

LOWLAND LORD #1

(noticing)

What the? Lance, you seeing this man?

Lynx dives through the window, rolls, and is back up on his feet.

TOTEM (LYNX)

I have rudely interrupted – for that I apologize. But I have judged you guilty of theft and murder. I will now attend to your sentencing.

A Lowland Lord steps forward laughing.

LOWLAND KIND #2 (LANCE)

You got balls, chief...but fuck off now or reap it.

Lynx whistles.

EXT. BUILDING ROOF. NIGHT.

Yellow Jacket hears the whistle on her walkie and lets an arrow fly.

INT. BIG BOW CORNER STORE. NIGHT

An arrow flies through the front window and pierces the Lowland Lord known as Lance in the throat.

He tries to speak, gurgles and falls.

The other two Lowland Lords are stunned.

LOWLAND LORD #1

Fuck! Why'd ya do that to Lance? What the fuck did he ever do to you?

Lynx raises his had to point to Lowland Lord #1.

Lowland Lord #3 sneaks around an aisle to flank Lynx.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Are you next?

Lowland Lord#1 raises his weapon.

From the fog bear reaches up and throws his baton at Lowland Lord #1.

He yelps as his wrist is hit and drops his weapon.

Lowland Lord #3 grabs Lynx from the back and wraps his arms around his neck to choke him.

LOWLAND LORD #3

Got you, Fucker!

Lynx reaches up grabs some of Lowland Lord #3's fingers and twists them backwards until they break with a snap.

LOWLAND LORD #3

(yelling)

Oww.....shit!!

Lowland Lord #3 lets go of Lynx and falls back. Lynx spins grabs Lowland Lord #3's good wrist with one hand, pulls and slams his body into the same elbow breaking it backwards...

Lowland Lord #3 screams again and falls to the floor.

Lowland Lord #1 charges Lynx.

Lynx spins and as #1 gets close, he elegantly sidesteps him and throws a left hook to his temple.

Lowland Lord #1 steps back stunned.

Lynx looks at him briefly then strikes Lowland Lord #1 in the throat hard enough to send him flying backwards. He gasps several times, then falls silent. Dead.

Lowland Lord #3 wails on the ground.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Have you learned your lesson then?

Lowland Lord #3 works his way up to his knees.

LOWLAND LORD #3

(crying, wailing)

Yuh...yuh...yes. For the love of god, don't kill me...

TOTEM (LYNX)

(to the owner)

You can get up.

The owner gets to his feet.

OWNER

Thank you...I can't believe...I mean, how did you...?

The fog begins to dissipate. No sign of Bear. But there are no arrows, batons or anything else.. Bear has cleaned up the evidence and left already.

TOTEM (LYNX)

No thanks necessary. I am Totem. I am here to balance the scales of justice. Tell everyone.

Lynx grabs Lowland Lord #3 by his jacket and pulls him up. #3 tries to struggle, but Lynx stops that by cranking on his arm at the broken elbow.

LOWLAND LORD #3

(yelping)

Fuck! Don't!

TOTEM (LYNX)

(to owner)

I will take care of this trash for you.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

As I looked at him I saw a mirror of who I was. I saw his innocence and I envied him. I saw his weakness and I pitied him. But more than anything I wondered why a Totem didn't exist to save me when I needed it. That's how I knew what I was doing was right.

EXT. HARRY HAYES BUILDING. GOVERNMENT OFFICES. DAY

Lowland Lord #3 sits chained to a lamp post outside the building. A bone protrudes from his broken arm. Hanging on his neck is a note.

Two Coru Security Services Patrol cars flank the Lowland Lord. Patrol Officer Williams and Patrol Officer Murphy inspect the scene.

Patrol Officer Williams picks up the note off of the Lowland Lords neck.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(reading)

This thief and murderer was looking for a hand out and ironically got what he wished for. Perhaps you can help. Signed 'Totem' (turning to the other officer)

Murph, can you pull up the security feed?

The other officer pulls up his tablet and furiously types.

PATROL OFFICER MURPHY

Hmm. Mostly static, but one good one of him dropping the body.

Officer Williams motions for him to bring the tablet.

It shows Totem bringing the body and dropping it, then static.

He swishes his hand to the left to rewind and then watches it again.

Then again.

PATROL OFFICER MURPHY

You see something?

Re rewinds to watch again.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

No, nothing...wait...there!

With a flurry of finger motions he stops the broadcast and brings it back slightly. He plays it at that motion. Moments before the screen goes to static, another shadowy figure in the background can be seen raising his arm.

PATROL OFFICER MURPHY

Well?

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Nothing really. But perhaps a lead.

INT. CORU SECURITY STATION. RESEARCH ROOM. DAY

Patrol Officer Williams hurries in and sits down at a terminal. His hat and tablet flop down beside him.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to computer)

Show me footage of the Totem event, lobby scene.

The computer starts the footage showing Totem entering the lobby of the security station.

Officer Williams is attentive on the screen.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to computer)

Again.

The footage restarts.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to computer)

Again, angle 5.

The footage restarts from a different angle.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to computer)

Stop! Zoom in quadrant 3 section 8-5.

The monitor zooms in on a section just above the fog. A hand can barely be seen about to throw a baton.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Smart....very smart. There is more than one of you...

He sits back in his chair, then shoots forward again in interest.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to computer)

Angle 1. Zoom in quadrant 2 section 4-8

The monitor zooms in on Totems hand.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to computer)

Ok. Now bring up footage from the Harry Hayes Totem file.

The footage comes up on the monitor in a separate window.

Officer Williams scans through until he has Totem on screen.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to computer)

Ok, now zoom in there on quadrant 1, section 3...uhh...anywhere.

The Harry Hays footage zooms in on Totems hand. The monitor shows both pieces of footage zoomed into Totem's right hand. They are drastically different sizes.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Huh. This just got interesting...

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Our efforts did not go unnoticed. After a week or two of regular patrols, 'Totem' could not be kept a secret from the media any longer. We were hot news.

SERIES OF SHOTS - TV Interviews

- WOMAN -Totem was massive and muscular
- MAN -A white male, 30's
- TEEN A skinny guy, weird smile
- TEEN 2 A black guy. Short, but ripped.
- GIRL She's a woman.
- ELDERLY WOMAN She is what we need.

END OF SERIES OF SHOTS

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

No one could quite agree what Totem looked like, or even what gender Totem was. None of that mattered. Totem was all of us. Totem was that ideal, that abstract thought made flesh that could fix our world.

INT. DAVINCI'S BAKERY. NIGHT.

The entire Totem Squad sits around in the Da Vinci main area. All wear their cloaks reversed (black) except for Osprey who wears his as the Totem.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Alright everyone, we have had some success. We have had some

media coverage. Each Coru exec has had gang members, thieves, and murderers dumped on their property. People are taking notice. We have momentum, but we cannot allow ourselves to rest on our laurels so to speak. We need to step up our game. Any ideas.

Lynx stands up.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

This was my time. I had waited patiently for a moment where I could put forth the plan to save my daughter without outing myself or seeming like I was forcing the group.

TOTEM (LYNX)

I say we hit a gang compound. We wipe out one entire festering boil in this city.

The rest of the squad nods and murmurs in approval.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

A bold plan. I like it. Someone will fill the void, of course, but if we keep taking these out, criminals will get the message 'Not in our town!'. Lynx, since it is your suggestion, do you have any gang in mind?

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I had to play it subtle like. I could not be seen to care too deeply.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Hmm...I don't know....uhh...how about the Grit Kings. They are the gang the rest look to. If we pound them, it sends a clear message.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

(nodding to himself)

Yes, that it would. Let's do it. This will give us a chance to try out a strategy that Sharp Shin has cooked up. Sharp Shin?

Lynx sits down as Sharp Shin rises.

TOTEM (SHARP SHIN)

Well I got to thinking the other night. We are trying to instill fear in criminals by creating this superhero. Shouldn't it have super powers?

Yellow Jacket looks to Recluse who shrugs.

TOTEM (BEAR)

Say what?

TOTEM (SHARP SHIN)

(cutting him off)

I know, I know, it sounds crazy right? But let's say that Totem could teleport. Wouldn't criminals fear a hero that could appear wherever it wanted?

Coyote stands suddenly.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

Man, your crazy cycle done lost a wheel!

Osprey motions for Coyote to sit. He does.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Continue.

TOTEM (SHARP SHIN)

Right. Well, I know it sounds crazy, but hear me out. So let's say that Lynx here is in the middle of an operation and wants to teleport. Let's say he drops a smoke pellet and makes a real obvious sound like a 'pop' or a 'zip' or something. We can make the sound electronically or something. Then he disappears into the smoke. Now we have a second member drop a smoke pellet in another location...

TOTEM (BEAR)

Oh my god. I see where you are going here...brilliant.

TOTEM (SHARP SHIN)

(continuing)

Not bad, right? Ok, so the second guy...let's say Bear...drops a pellet and makes the sound and appears out the smoke. Now mind you, he is in a whole new area. For all appearances, the 'Totem' just teleported.

The room is silence.

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

Boy, that's about the smartest thing I ever heard. I think I even have the perfect musical snippet for it too: Mission Impossible.

The bakery erupts in laughter.

EXT. ROOFTOP OF A BUILDING. NIGHT

Osprey and Yellow Jacket set up on a building top across from the Grit King compound. Unlike Lee Fletchers first stakeout here, they are silent and stealthy.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

We were to use all members of the team for this one. It was worth the risk, we decided. We were going to make such a racket this night that if we needed an alibi we could claim we came to see what all the noise was about. Osprey, Coyote, and I were to act as the totem, 'teleporting' between each of us. When one was the Totem, the other two would act as the shadows. Yellow Jacket, Sharp Shin, and Bear would use the bows to protect us while Recluse orchestrated the whole thing as usual. The plan was simple. One distracts, while others enter.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING. NIGHT.

Recluse has an array of tablet computers in front of her and quickly unrolls her keyboard.

She carefully selects a button on a tablet called 'Osprey' and plays a few notes on the keyboard.

EXT. ROOFTOP OF A BUILDING, NIGHT

The notes crackle through Ospreys wrist-walkie.

He pulls it to his lips and whistles a few notes back.

Immediately he shows himself on the roof and stands up.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING. NIGHT.

Recluse nods to herself and picks up another tablet. This one has a sound waveform on it and a 'Play to Nearby Devices' button.

She presses this.

EXT. GRIT KING COMPOUND, FRONT GATE, NIGHT

Two gang members guard the entrance as both their phones go off. They pick them up and put them to their ears. The message booms from a nearby speaker as well.

SPEAKER

Grit Kings, your lease on crime in my city is gone. You have been Found guilty. I, Totem, am here to carry out this sentence.

Grit Kings pour out of the compound

GRIT KING GUARD 1

(pointing to the roof)

There!

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING. NIGHT.

Recluse hits a button labeled 'Lynx' and one labeled 'Coyote' and plays a few notes on the keyboard.

EXT. GRIT KING COMPOUND. SIDE FENCE. NIGHT.

Lynx, wearing his cloak in reverse (black), nods as the sound plays on his wrist-walkie.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

It occurred to me when we started this mission that I may have made a crucial mistake. My aim was to rescue my daughter, but she had integrated into the gang. If she fought any other member of Totem, she may end up hurt, or even dead. I needed to get to her first.

He pulls out a torch, cuts through the fence like butter and enters the compound.

EXT. GRIT KING COMPOUND. FRONT GATE. NIGHT

GRIT KING GUARD #2

What are we waiting for?

Guard #2 aims his gun and fires.

On the roof, Osprey drops a smoke pellet, and drops to the ground. A zipping sound can be heard as he does so.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING. NIGHT.

Recluse nods, hearing the zip, presses the Lynx button and plays a riff from Mission Impossible.

EXT. GRIT KING COMPOUND. YARD. NIGHT.

Lynx walks stealthily in a crouch behind to Grit King members that had run out of the compound.

He drops a smoke pellet, crouches, and reverses his cloak. He taps his wrist-walkie which produces the zipping noise.

GRIT KING GANG MEMBER #3

What the...?

Lynx rises as the Totem in between the gang members raises a hand behind each of them, cupping their heads.

He then smashes their heads together.

One falls to the ground unconscious. The other screams as blood pours from a head wound.

Lynx grabs his head with both hands and twists violently. The neck snaps and the gang member falls silently dead to the ground.

Another Grit King Gang member runs towards Lynx.

GRIT KING GANG MEMBER #5

He's here! How the fuck did he get in?

Lynx moves his wrist-walkie to his lips and whistles.

EXT. ROOFTOP. KITTY CORNER TO THE GRIT COMPOUND, NIGHT.

Yellow Jacket hears music coming from her wrist-walkie, takes aim and lets loose and arrow.

EXT. GRIT KING COMPOUND. YARD. NIGHT.

GRIT KING GANG MEMBER #5

(to Lynx)

Your fucking dead, man.

An arrow pierces the gang member's neck. He falls to the ground gurgling and clawing at the arrow.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Sticks and stones, buddy.

EXT. GRIT KING COMPOUND. FRONT GATE. NIGHT

Osprey sneaks along the fence line in the shadows.

The two guards are watching the action on the inside.

As they move to help their friends on the inside, Osprey rises punches one in the throat, while swiftly choking the other. The first guard falls to the ground gagging. Osprey stomps on his neck, ending his misery.

EXT. GRIT KING COMPOUND. YARD. NIGHT.

Two more gang members exit the compound spraying bullets out of semi automatics.

A bullet ricochets off of Lynx's breast plate.

Lynx drops a smoke pellet and drops to the ground, tapping his wrist. The zipping noise is heard.

INT. GRIT KING COMPOUND. SECOND FLOOR. NIGHT.

Several Gang members stand in the corridor, protecting it from any intrusion by the Totem.

Smoke fills the corridor and the familiar Zip teleport sound is heard.

CORRIDOR GANG MEMBER #1

What the fuck....

Coyote rises amongst the group, smiling.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

(grinning)

Hello there!

One gang member raises his gun. Coyote grabs it from him smashing it back into his face. The gang member's nose breaks and teeth fly out from his mouth. Blood flies everywhere as Coyote laughs.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Coyote was beautiful to watch, though a bit disturbing. They way he seemed to enjoy inflicting pain unnerved the best of us.

Coyote spins, grabbing the arm of the second gang member, breaking it at the elbow. He laughs out loud as he does this.

The third gang member turns to run.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

Not so fast, sweety.

He pulls a knife out of the holster of one of the downed gang members and throws it at the fleeing gang member. It hits the back of the neck and drops him instantly.

He drops down to the broken nosed gang member.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

Cowardice.,.I thought so.

He reaches down and twists the already broken nose of the gang member. The hall is filled with screams and laughter.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING. NIGHT.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

And always at the hub was recluse; our spider coordinating everything. We might have been dealing out pain and death, but it was composed by her as much as any maestro with their masterpieces. It may have been a symphony of pain, but that is the song this world understood.

Recluse is a blur hitting buttons on tablets, playing snippets of music, hitting other buttons. Her job clearly takes as much physical skill as any other. The look on her face is one of job and creation.

INT. GRIT KING COMPOUND. LEVEL 3. NIGHT.

Herod passes down the hall, a machete in his hands.

Lynx drops from the ceiling in his Totem garb. Clearly he is the Totem at this point. His drop to the ground is utterly silent.

Immediately he falls in step silently behind Herod.

Herod exists a doorway onto a walkway. Lynx follows, grasping the door before it falls shut.

EXT. GRIT KING COMPOUND, LEVEL 3, WALKWAY, NIGHT,

He pulls out a baton as he shadows the Grit King.

As soon as he is close enough, his baton swings and knocks Herod in the wrist.

Herod screams and swivels.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Herod. Your reckoning is at hand.

Herod positions himself in fighting stance.

HEROD

Oh, you thought I didn't know you were there? You think I fear this fight? Bring it.

When Lynx doesn't advance, Herod attacks. He brings his leg up as if to kick then follows with a cross.

Lynx is not fooled by the kick feint and deflects the cross as it comes towards him. Immediately, Lynx throws a hook at Herod, bloodying his cheek.

Herod stumbles back, wiping blood from his face.

HEROD

Is that you, Princess? I think I recognize your weak hook.

Herod settles back into a fighting stance.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

In the movies, this is where an epic battle of dominance would ensue. In real like, things are more practical.

Lynx raises his wrist-walkie to his mouth and whistles.

HEROD

(continuing)

I bet you thought you were all that, dressing up and...

Before he can finish, an arrow takes him through the eye and he falls to the ground.

Lynx leans over him, pulling the arrow the rest of the way through the head, wiping it on Herods shirt and putting it away in his pack.

TOTEM (LYNX)

(to Herod's corpse)

Just between us princesses, your debt can never be repaid to me. 100 times I would kill you, both quickly and not. But this will have to do, until death takes me too. There I shall deal you pain again.

A snippet of 'Mission Impossible' music can be heard on the wrist-walkie. Lynx taps his wrist and the zip sound is heard. He drops a smoke pellet and drops, emerging with his cloak reversed (black).

He looks towards the direction that the arrow came from and sees a silhouette there.

EXT. ROOFTOP NEAR GRIT KING COMPOUND, NIGHT

Bear sees Lynx looking at his direction and salutes back.

A whistle plays on his wrist-walkie. He loads another arrow and fires down into the yard.

EXT. GRIT-KING COMPOUND. SECOND LEVEL. WALKWAY STAIRCASE. NIGHT.

Lynx makes his way silently down the staircase of the walkway to the second level towards the fighting. He stays within the shadows mainly.

A low level of smoke permeates the area dissipated from a recently dispensed smoke pellet.

Coyote battles several Grit King gang members. One throws a cross as Coyote easily sidesteps, reaches under the arm, bends it and passes by twisting the arm in the should socket until a ripping noise is heard.

The second gang member throws a forceful kick towards Coyote. He jumps to avoid it and when landing, he lands with his heel firmly on the knee of his opponent. It cracks and the leg bends backwards.

Lynx makes his way along the shadows towards Coyote.

The two gang members scream on the ground. Coyote efficiently crouches down and punches both in the neck at the same time. The screaming stops.

As Coyote stands back up, a door opens behind him. Two females emerge. Both are carrying knives ready to stab and both have grit king tattoos on their arms. One is IMOGENE FLETCHER.

Lynx abandons stealth and runs towards Coyote.

Coyote spins and raises his wrist-walkie whistling twice.

EXT. ROOFTOP NEAR GRIT KING COMPOUND. NIGHT

Bear loads an arrow and fires.

EXT. FIRE ESCAPE NEAR GRIT KING COMPOUND. NIGHT.

Sharp Shin loads an arrow and fires.

EXT. GRIT-KING COMPOUND. SECOND LEVEL. WALKWAY. NIGHT.

Lynx dives forward as Coyote stumbles back.

One arrow flies past Coyotes ear to take the first girl in the neck. She crumples.

Lynx outstretches his arm in the dive. The second arrow pierces his arm and sticks there, inches from Imogene's face.

Lynx rolls, yelping. He spins and comes to face Imogene.

Imogene slices at him wildly as Coyote feels his bleeding ear.

Lynx dodges the knife as it strikes left and right. As Imogene slices again to the left, Lynx smacks her wrist with his knuckle.

The knife falls.

Imogene jabs with her left hand. Lynx ducks the jab and hits Imogene with a left hook to the temple.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I did not want to hit her, but the longer she remained conscious, the better chance she would be killed by Coyote or one of the archers.

Three solid notes come through both Lynx and Coyote's wrist-walkies.

TOTEM (LYNX)

(to Coyote)

All clear. The mission is over.

Coyote nods as he starts cleaning up arrows and evidence.

Lynx pulls out a bottle and squirts its contents on a few drops of blood on the walkway.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I couldn't leave my blood at the scene for evidence, so I bleached it. That way there are no DNA markers for them to follow. Not that they would. DNA tests cost money. I could not see them spending it on a Gang Member raid.

EXT. GRIT KING COMPOUND. YARD. NIGHT.

The whole Totem squad (missing Coyote and Lynx) are huddled around a pile of bodies.

Coyote and Lynx walk up. Lynx has Imogene over his shoulder and an arrow through his arm.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Ouch. You will have to take care of that...

Lynx drops Imogene to the ground.

TOTEM (SHARP SHIN)

Sorry man, that was me. All of a sudden your arm was just there...

TOTEM (LYNX)

It's no problem. I didn't want to remove it and bleed over everything.

TOTEM(OSPREY)

(nodding)

Smart.

(gesturing to the bodies)

Anyway. We need to exit here quickly. Five of you need to dump unconscious Grit Kings at different Coru properties. I will leave a note here for our friends at the security services.

Coru Security Sirens sound off in the background.

TOTEM (YELLOWJACKET)

(interrupting)

Who will be here soon.

Osprey gestures them to get moving.

Lynx picks up Imogene, throws her over his shoulder and starts jogging off.

The remaining members search the bodies for someone alive.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I had feigned enough indifference that they did not suspect I had any relationship to the girl I was carrying. And I do not think they every found out that I did not dump her on a Coru executives lawn. I felt bad deceiving them, though. They were like a family to me now. One big violent family.

EXT. GRIT KING COMPOUND. YARD. NIGHT

Coru Security Services patrol cars dot the perimeter of the compound, blue lights flashing wildly.

Several security services patrol officers examine the yard. Patrol Officer Williams examines the pile of bodies and tied up (and unconscious) gang members.

A note is attached to the bodies that says 'Cost of me doing your work for you: 0\$, value of one of our cities gangs being out of business: you decide. No thanks are necessary – Totem'

Officer Williams squats down to examine a hole in one of the dead gang members head. He spots something inside and uses some tweezers to pull it out. It is a sliver of wood. He carefully places it in an evidence bag.

He stands up and looks upwards at the fire escapes and building tops nearby.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to himself)

Hmmm. Silent snipers.

INT. LEE FLETCHERS APARTMENT. BATHROOM. NIGHT.

Lee stands in his bathroom looking at the arrow in his arm. Before him are some tools: a saw, a pair of cutters and a pair of pliers.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I could hardly believe I had her back. My mind was like a hurricane. Now that I had her back, should I still be part of Totem? I had joined so I could rescue her.

He wraps a tourniquet around his upper arm.

He uses the cutters to cut off either side of the arrow.

He stuffs one of the cut off sections of the arrow in his mouth to bite on.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

But once one had the means and method to make their world better, was it not their duty to engage to do so?

A muffled cry can be heard outside the bathroom.

LEE FLETCHER

(muffled by the arrow in his mouth)

Be right there...

Lee pulls the pliers up to the bottom of the arrow chunk still stuck in his arm. He shakes as he pinches the arrow and pulls a bit.

LEE FLETCHER

(muffled, in pain)

Fuck!

A muffled cry can be heard again.

LEE FLETCHER

(muffled)

Just hold on!

(to himself)

Ok....do it....do it!

He pinches the arrow with the pliers again and pulls with all his might. Lee groans in pain as the arrow slowly pulls through his arm.

Once out, he lets go and it falls into the bathroom sink. He spits out the arrow piece in his mouth.

Lee falls back exhausted to the bathroom floor.

The muffling is again heard in the other room.

LEE FLETCHER

(to himself, panting)

Kids. You can never let them cry it out...

INT. LEE FLETCHERS APARTMENT. IMOGENES BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Imogene is tied up in a chair in her room with a gag over her mouth. Her eyes blaze fiercely as Lee enters. Lee is wearing a long sleeve shirt to cover his wound.

LEE FLETCHER

Good. You are awake.

Imogene muffles a cry under her gag.

LEE FLETCHER

Ok, I didn't know how you would react. You have been with that gang for quite a while. If I take off your gag, do you promise not to scream?

Imogene looks at him and nods. Her eyes are still fierce.

Lee slips her gag off.

IMOGENE

(screaming)

Help!!

Lee moves to put the gag back on. Imogene tries to bite him

IMOGENE

(screaming)

Help!

Lee finally slips the gag back on.

LEE FLETCHER

See now...that is what I was afraid of. Look, until you can be quiet, it is going to be like this.

SERIES OF SHOTS – TV INTERVIEWS

- A WINO PUSHING A CART FULL OF CANS 'He took out the entire Grit Kings...I mean all of them mofo's'
- A COUPLE OF TEENS 'Dude can teleport did ya hear? He's like our very own superman'
- A MOTHER HOLDING A TODDLER 'Vigilante? Who cares he's cleaning up our streets'

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. CORU SECURITY STATION. COMMANDER'S OFFICE. DAY.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

We were getting some good press and that was helping. But it was not all good. The security services were now paying attention. We were making them look bad.

The COMMANDER sits at his desk reading a note. PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS sits across from him.

COMMANDER

(shaking the note)

He's not wrong, you know.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Sir?

COMMANDER

He is saving us money. Each dirt bag he kills or catches is one more call we do not need to answer. The problem, though, is these...

The commander drops the note and picks up a stack of others.

COMMANDER

He keeps dumping dead criminals on the lawns of our executives. Five more last night

(reading)

'One down, more to go', 'Here is your justice', 'Help change things',

'Is this secure?', and my very favorite one: 'A rival CEO'

Silence.

COMMANDER

Any suggestions here, Williams?

Officer Williams shifts in his chair.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Just one, Sir. If we made an effort to capture these criminals ourselves...well...

The commander scrunches his face up.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(continuing)

Well...the Totem would be out of a job, so to speak. No more dead criminals on rich lawns.

The commander turns beat red.

COMMANDER

You think that is VIABLE? Think, you moron. That costs. We would be out of jobs. I am taking tremendous heat over this 'Totem' thing. If we take him down, this stops. You understand?

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Uh...yes sir.

COMMANDER

With that in mind, what is the state of your fucking investigation?

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

I have some leads, sir, but I would rather keep them to myself until I am certain of their validity.

COMMANDER

Fine. You have two days, Williams. Then you will either hand it all over to me, or you are fired. Understood?

Officer Williams nods.

INT. CORU SECURITY SERVICES. HALLWAY. DAY.

Officer Williams walks down the hall muttering angrily to himself.

A strange music can be heard; snippets of piano and whistling.

It catches Officer William's interest. He walks up and down looking for the source. He finds it at one door 'Dispatch'.

He opens the door. DISPATCH OFFICER MERINE sits inside. The strange music blares on his music player.

DISPATCH OFFICER MERINE

(looking up)

Ah, Officer Williams, what can I do for you?

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(pointing to the music player)

What is that?

DISPATCH OFFICER MERINE

Some sort of new age-jazz fusion. You dig it?

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(nodding)

Well...it is interesting. I like the patterns in it.

DISPATCH OFFICER MERINE

(continuing)

I hear it every few nights on the wave. Last night they had a huge broadcast.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Every few nights, eh? What is the frequency?

Officer Merine grabs his tablet and scans it.

DISPATCH OFFICER MERINE

Umm...here we go....314.15.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Thanks man.

INT. CORU SECURITY STATION. RESEARCH ROOM. DAY

Patrol Officer Williams sits in front of his the research desk terminal, his tablet at the side.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to computer)

Show me the nights that subject of interest 'Totem' was active.

A yearly calendar displays with orange flashing highlighted days.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to computer)

Now show me nights in the same period where there was a broadcast on 314.15 on the wave.

Now the yearly calendar updates with purple flashing highlighted days. They match the Totem's activity one to one.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to himself, smugly)

Got ya!

(to computer)

Copy this research file, label the new copy 'Totem – An Analysis'.

Then copy the original to my tablet and delete.

INT. LEE FLETCHERS APARTMENT. IMOGENES BEDROOM. DAY.

Imogene is still tied up, though her gag is removed. Lee stands beside her with a bowl of soup, trying to feed her.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I had a few days off due to my injury. Really, I was fine, but I appreciated the time to deal with Imogene.

Imogene takes a mouthful of soup and spits it at Lee. It covers his shirt.

IMOGENE FLETCHER

So weak! A fucking joke!

Lee grabs a towel and wipes his shirt down.

LEE FLETCHER

Look. Your new friends are dead. You shouldn't forget, they were the ones that killed your mother...the ones that took you.

Imogene jumps forward with her chair, launching herself at Lee.

IMOGENE FLETCHER

Because you were too weak to protect us. They were strong.

Imogene lies on the floor on her side, still tied to the chair.

Lee dusts himself off and rises. His long sleeve shirt blossoms with blood where he was injured.

LEE FLETCHER

No. It wasn't that I was weak. It was that I believed the world was different than it was.

Imogene notices the blood.

IMOGENE FLETCHER

Why are you bleeding? (realizing)
Gods! It was you!

LEE FLETCHER

(quietly)

Yes. *I* got you back.

EXT. HARMONIES PUB. NIGHT

Three gang members walk out of the pub with hands above their heads.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

News of our takedown of the Grit Kings spread. It had some positive effects. Sometimes the criminals we were pursuing would simply surrender.

Totem emerges behind the criminals to tie them up.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Those were the best nights.

Patrol Officer Williams peaks around the corner of a building on the opposite corner, clearly staking out Totems operation.

EXT. PRAINTE RESIDENCE. POOLSIDE PATIO. DAY

The three gang members are tied, sitting, to chairs, around a table on the patio. PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS and PATROL OFFICER MURPHY examine the scene.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Of course, we still left them in interesting places.

Officer Murphy picks up the note from the table.

PATROL OFFICER MURPHY

(reading)

'Three little piggies invited for tee. Not even one attempted to flee' signed 'Totem'. Man, this guy has a sense of humor.

Officer Williams nods.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE, DUSTY OFFICE, NIGHT

Recluse sits in front of her keyboard and tablets.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Like all things that are good, it cannot last. And it didn't. The zenith was over all too quickly. We should have seen it coming.

A tablet squawks to life.

TABLET

Coru Central Security. Attempted Robbery in Valiant Park. Value deemed low. Keep long distance to avoid cost.

Recluse quickly starts playing on her keyboard and tapping buttons on her tablet.

EXT. VALIANT PARK. PARK GATE. NIGHT.

Coyote (as the Totem) strides through the front gate. Lynx, with the cloak reversed, hops the fence 30 feet down, while Yellow Jacket climbs a fire escape in the background.

EXT. VALIANT PARK. PARK GATE. NIGHT.

Two thugs point guns towards a woman and a man. The man and woman are on their knees in front of them.

Totem enters, with a mist of smoke around him.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

Drop the guns.

One thug turns.

THUG #1

Aw fuck. We're humped, Tony.

Thug # 2 (Tony) drops his weapon. Thug #1 follows.

THUG #2

Look. We weren't going to hurt them. Our families need to eat too, right?

They walk towards Coyote with their hands held high.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

(trembling)

You think you can just surrender? You take their stuff and cut them up...and you can surrender?

MAN

We are unhurt.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

(to man)

Shut up!

(to thugs)

You can't just stab and stab and get away with it. You need to be punished!

The thugs are confused and start to back up.

TOTEM(COYOTE)

(smiling)

Oh, I don't think so.

Coyote leaps forward and smashes his fist into the first thugs face. They both fall to the ground.

Coyote continues to mercilessly hit the first thug.

THUG #1

(gurgling in his own blood)

Tony...help...

Coyote grabs one of the guns that had been dropped and starts beating the first thug with it.

Thug #2 (Tony) starts towards totem.

Lynx moves to intercept, but an arrow flies past him taking Tony in the neck.

Tony drops to the ground, flailing around. Thug #1 has ceased to make any noises.

Lynx steps in to snap Tony's neck.

Coyote stands up, panting. His face is full of blood spatter.

The man and woman stare at Coyote.

TOTEM(LYNX) V.O.

There was s shift in the very air. Something felt different and wrong. I could not put my finger on it until later. I mean, in some ways it was the standard operation. We interrupted a crime in progress and criminals ended up dead. The difference was that these criminals had surrendered.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

(wiping his face, yet smiling)

sorry....

INT. DAVINCI'S BAKERY. MAIN ROOM. NIGHT

The entire totem squad sits in various places around the room. Osprey paces back and forth.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

...last night is unfortunate. It could have been worse. There were still criminals. But things have changed for us since our operation against the Grit Kings. We can't be harming the criminals that genuinely surrender.

Sharp Shin raises his hand.

TOTEM (SHARP SHIN)

Question. How do we know if their surrender is genuine or if it is just a ploy to get us to lower our guard?

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Good .Yes. That is the question. We really have no way of knowing. I know this though. We are a mirror. We are reflecting back the violence against those that perpetuate it. If we get in the business of creating the violence or going beyond a mere reflection, then we become the criminal for someone else to reflect. We cannot cross that line. We should not start violence. We should only answer the violence brought to us.

Members of the squad nod and murmur in agreement.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Coyote, you are on sniper duty for the next little while. Consider it a break from the violence you have seen recently. Ok?

Coyote nods.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

(whispering)

But it was fun though...

Lynx, sitting next to Coyote, looks towards him

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I think I was the only one to hear him. It was the way he said it. It chilled me to the soul. I would wonder always, if what I said next caused any of what came after.

Lynx leans over towards Coyote

TOTEM (LYNX)

(whispering to Coyote)

No worries man. Those thugs weren't even a challenge for you anyway.

Coyote nods.

INT. LEE FLETCHERS APARTMENT. KITCHEN. DAY.

Imogene sits, tied in her chair. She isn't gagged.

Lee cooks lunch on the stove.

IMOGENE FLETCHER

Look. I understand.

Lee stops stirring the pot and steps towards Imogene.

LEE FLETCHER

I never...

IMOGENE FLETCHER

Shut the fuck up! Let me finish.

(taking a breath)

I understand. How could you have prepared for that. And what you did to get me back...I mean I am grateful. But you have to understand you let them kill my family. You let them kill my innocence. Then you slaughtered my new family. I understand, but it's a lot to process.

LEE FLETCHER

Imogene...

IMOGENE FLETCHER

No. You don't get to look at me like that. I am so ANGRY with you. And I am so grateful. I have to work through it. But you can

untie me. I won't run away.

Lee looks at her briefly before walking briskly over to untie her.

Imogene gets up, rubbing her wrists.

Lee moves to hug her. Imogene backs away quickly.

IMOGENE FLETCHER

No! I am not ready...

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

It was something. Not much. But something. Sometimes it is the little victories that are the sweetest. At least in hindsight.

EXT. ALLEYWAY. NIGHT

A man has a woman pinned to the ground. She screams.

WOMAN

Help! Somebody! Help!

RAPIST

No one cares, sweety.

TOTEM (LYNX) T.B

That was not entirely true. Security services was called. They didn't deem it a valuable mission. I was the shadow for Osprey that night though, and he pursued this one with a passion I hadn't seen. It was all I had to keep up with him.

Osprey runs into the alley

TOTEM (OSPREY)

You let her up. My judgment is swift and my mercy will be greater if you comply. Now LET HER GO!

The rapist rises, looks quickly at Osprey and runs the other direction.

Osprey takes after him down the alley. The rapist jumps for a fire escape and starts climbing. Osprey is close behind.

Lynx enters the alley panting

TOTEM (LYNX)

(seeing Osprey)

Fuck.

Lynx whistles a few notes into his wrist-walkie and continues to run.

EXT. ROOFTOP. NIGHT

The rapist scrambles to the roof. Osprey comes up behind him.

The rapist looks to the far side of the roof for possible escape. Lynx rises from that side. They have him trapped.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

There is no place to go. You need to give up.

RAPIST

Why should I?

Osprey whistles a few notes into his walkie.

EXT. BALCONY. NIGHT.

Coyote is set up with a bow on the balcony. He hears a few notes on his walkie and sets and arrow in his bow.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

(to himself, whisper)

Fun...the blood ...the pain.....

EXT. ROOFTOP. NIGHT

Lynx moves closer to the Rapist as Osprey talks.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Well, you see, all I have to do is whistle through this.

(holding up his arm)
and an arrow will end you. You got it.

The rapist backs up a bit.

RAPIST

Look man.

EXT. BALCONY. NIGHT.

Coyote looks through a spotting scope.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

(focusing on the neck of the rapist)

Good...good...

(switching focus to Osprey's neck)

Ah...but better...more of a challenge...better...

The arrow is released.

EXT. ROOFTOP. NIGHT

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Look, if you give yourself up...

An arrow hisses through the night and takes Osprey in the neck.

He reaches up in horror and touches the wound. He brings his hands back full of blood.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

(gurgling)

Cuh...Yo...Tee...

He falls to the ground.

TOTEM (LYNX)

(yelling)

No!!!

The rapist turns and shoves Lynx to the ground running for the fire escape.

Lynx ignores him and heads for Osprey.

Osprey gasps and gurgles on the ground. Clawing at the arrow.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Be still. You will only hurt yourself more. I have to get you out of here.

Osprey nods. Lynx picks him up in a fireman's hold and starts down the fire escape.

Osprey screeches in pain.

EXT. ALLEYWAY. NIGHT.

Lynx runs down the alleyway with Osprey draped over his shoulders.

Osprey winces and shouts out with every other step.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

St..puh....

Security Service sirens can be heard in the background.

Lynx slows down.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

Put...me....dow...nuh

Lynx pauses, then lowers Osprey gently. Osprey puts a hand to his neck.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

I'm done.

TOTEM (LYNX)

(shaking his head)

No. No. I have to get you to somewhere safe.

Osprey pushes Lynx away.

TOTEM (OSPREY)

You....ahhh!....you hear me? I am either dead here or they find me and take me to a hospital. Either way, I am best here.

Lynx starts to cry.

TOTEM (LYNX)

(crying)

I can't leave you...

TOTEM (OSPREY)

You can. Take my cloak. They cannot find Totem. They can only find...ahhh..me.

TOTEM(LYNX)

But you are the Totem...

TOTEM (OSPREY)

No, Totem is bigger than I am. I am simply flesh...

(coughing blood)

Take my things...

Lynx nods and begins to strip Osprey of all his clothes. The sirens sound much closer now.

Lynx wraps the clothes in a bundle and reverses his cloak to the mottled side. Osprey closes his eyes.

TOTEM (LYNX)

(crying)

Goodbye, my friend.

Osprey reaches out and grabs his wrist.

OSPREY

They will hunt you when they find who I am. Oh, how they will hunt you. Prepare the others...

Lynx nods wiping his tears.

OSPREY

We made a difference, didn't we? Didn't I?

TOTEM (LYNX)

You changed everything. You were our leader...the change this world needed...

A security services officer steps into the far side of the alley and raises his pistol.

SECURITY SERVICES PATROLMAN

Freeeze!

OSPREY

Go. Now.

Lynx nods and heads off into the night.

Osprey's breathing is short and shallow.

INT. DUSTY SHOP. NIGHT.

Recluse sits among her keyboard and tablets.

She starts to play something, and then stops.

She starts to play something else, and then stops.

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

(to herself)

Why didn't we make a code for 'What the Fuck?

She looks at the tablets.

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

(to herself)

Screw it.

(pressing a button on the tablet)

Lynx, what the hell is going on out there?

EXT. PARK. NIGHT

Lynx holds the walkie to his face.

TOTEM (LYNX)

He's dead. Fucking dead. Coyote's gone crazy. He killed him.

INT. DUSTY SHOP. NIGHT.

Recluse sits motionless.

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

(whispering)

Oh shit.

She plays a few notes on the keyboard and presses the Lynx button on the tablet.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

(coming from a tablet)

I could not help myself. ...

EXT. ALLEYWAY. NIGHT.

As the patrolman approaches, Osprey looks at him and then falls over. His breathing stops in a gasp. Blood flows on the ground.

The patrolman flips Osprey over to see who he was.

SECURITY SERVICES PATROLMAN

Oh my god.

(picking up his walkie)

Dispatch, we have a big fucking situation here.

INT. LEE FLETCHERS APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

Lee enters his apartment, throwing his backpack on the ground. Tears stream down his face.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

My world had shattered. I was once again thrust into a situation where it seemed that it should be impossible. And yet it happened.

LEE FLETCHER

Fuck!

Imogene rushes in.

IMOGENE FLETCHER

Dad. It's on the wave. What the hell happened out there?

On the screen in the background, a reporter is live at the spot where Osprey died.

REPORTER

Moments ago, Coru Security Services found Oscar 'Oz' Prainte, son of Coru COO Gordon Prainte dead in the alley. Security Services have released that he died of blood loss and that the masked vigilante known as 'Totem' was seen fleeing the scene.

Lee wipes away some of his tears.

LEE FLETCHER

Oz Prainte....Osprey. That crafty bugger gave us his name the whole time.

(to Imogene)

He was killed. He was our leader...

IMOGENE FLETCHER

(cold)

Good. Now you know how it feels.

LEE FLETCHER

Imogene, the Grit Kings were criminals. Osprey was trying to do right in the world. He was trying to make it better. Don't you understand that?

IMOGENE FLETCHER

When you care about someone, morality just doesn't seem to trump grief.

INT. CORU SECURITY STATION. RESEARCH ROOM, DAY

Patrol Officer Williams sits with his tablet in front of one of the research computers.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to computer)

Can you display all sites where the Totem was active in at a reported crime?

A map of Calgary is displayed with red dots indicating the places where Totem has stopped a crime.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to computer)

Good. Ok. Can you display all sightings of Totem on the same days as these events. Show the sightings before the event in blue and the ones after in green

A haze of blue and green dots appears on the map.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to computer)

Ugg. We need to clean this up. Ok, can you display these as arrows to indicate directionality, given the time.

The dots change to arrows and a pattern begins to emerge.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Better. Ok, can you extrapolate a possible area of origin, given these vectors?

Officer William's walkie screams to life.

WALKIE

Officer Williams, report to the Commanders office.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to walkie)

Copy that.

(to computer)

Computer store file to my tablet only.

INT. CORU SECURITY STATION. COMMANDER'S OFFICE. DAY.

The commander sits behind his desk as Officer Williams enters.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

You wanted to see me, sir?

COMMANDER

Yes, please sit.

Officer Williams sits down.

COMMANDER

(continuing)

Your time is up, Williams. With Oscar Prainte murdered last night we have the executive breathing down on us. Hard. Totem was seen fleeing the seen by one of our patrolmen. I need all your information.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

I can send over the file at once...

COMMANDER

(interrupting)

Be sure that you do. But give me the run down.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Very well. After analyzing the footage from the station break in along with footage form subsequence events, I was able to determine that the vigilante known as Totem was not one individual but many. Both men and women.

COMMANDER

Explain that.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

In many of the events, arms could be seen coming out of the smoke the Totem deploys to take out background targets. Comparing footage, the computer could discern at least six different hands. There may be more. It is only the illusion of one person, likely for psychological reasons

COMMANDER

Continue.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

I monitored wave traffic and found some communications that coincide with the members of 'Totem' having a central communication hub. Whoever they are, they are organized.

COMMANDER

And who do you conclude they are.

Officer Williams fidgets in his chair.

COMMANDER

Damn it, Williams. Just tell me what you suspect.

Officer Williams bites his lip nervously.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

I suspect a rival gang. I think this is less about capturing criminals than it is about wiping out the competition.

The Commander leans back in his chair.

COMMANDER

Interesting. Any idea which one?

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Well. When looking at the data, the 'Nose Hellions' are the only gang that has yet to be hit by the Totem. That is not conclusive pr...

The Command holds his hand up.

COMMANDER

(interrupting)

Thank you. I know it isn't conclusive, but it is good enough. Prainte needs answers, and this is an answer. I think your theory here is valid. Good work.

Officer Williams sits in silence.

COMMANDER

You can go.

Officer Williams rises to leave.

COMMANDER

Oh, before you go. Can you think of any beef the 'Nose Hellions' would have with Oscar Prainte? And why would they take his clothes?

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

I do not know.

INT. CORU SECURITY STATION. RESEARCH ROOM. DAY

Officer Williams slides into his chair at the research station.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(to computer)

Bring up file on my tablet: 'Totem Vector A'

The map that was previously displayed is now back on the screen.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

In that region, are there any properties owned by the Prainte family?

Three yellow dots are illuminated.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Hmm...ok...area any of these properties currently vacant.

Two dots disappear. Only one remains.

Flashing on the screen below the dot are two words: 'Davinci's Bakery'

Officer Williams leans back in his chair.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Gotcha!

EXT. NOSE HELLION GANG HQ. DAY.

A squad of CORU police cars and armored SUVs sit outside the gang hideout.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

True to his motives, the Commander acted quickly.

SECURITY SERVICES SQUAD LEADER

(into a bullhorn)

Nose Hellions. Surrender and face conviction!

30 or 40 security service patrolmen line the perimeter of the compound with energy rifles held high and shields to guard them.

NOSE HELLION GANG MEMBER

(from inside the compound, yelling)

With blood, pigs!

The Nose Hellions burst out of the compound shooting.

Energy rifles flare to life as the patrolmen fire on the gang members.

Several shots are fired from the more primitive shotguns and rifles of the gang, but in seconds, the entire gang is wiped out.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

They killed them down to the man. Though no evidence of the Totem was found.

INT. LEE FLETCHERS APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

Lee watches the wave while Imogene makes herself dinner in the adjoining kitchen.

WAVE REPORTER

Security services stormed the Nose Hellion compound this afternoon on a tip that the vigilante known as the 'Totem' was a member. No news on whether 'Totem' was apprehended.

Lee turns the wave off and stands up, packing a backpack with his Totem outfit.

LEE FLETCHER

(to Imogene)

I have to go.

Imogene comes around the corner.

IMOGENE FLETCHER

Why do you still do it? I mean your goal was to rescue me.

LEE FLETCHER

Well, I think about others like us. Other wives I can prevent being killed and other daughters I can prevent being taken. Besides, I have the skill to help...and once you have the that, you have a duty to help. How could I honorably stop?

Imogene nods.

IMOGENE FLETCHER

I understand. Go to work then. I will mind the store.

Lee moves to hug Imogene but hesitates to see if she will pull away.

She doesn't. He comes forward and hugs her completely.

LEE FLETCHER

Thank you.

INT. DAVINCI'S BAKERY. MAIN ROOM. NIGHT

The five remaining members of Totem sit around the main area: Yellow Jacket, Bear, Recluse, Sharp Shin, and Lynx.

TOTEM (LYNX)

...and he just shot him. I tried to get him to safety, but it was too late. Coyote shot him in the frikkin neck.

TOTEM (BEAR)

Are you sure he meant to? I mean, I know he acts a little crazy but...

TOTEM (LYNX)

(interrupting)

Afterwards he was on the walkie and he said 'I couldn't help myself'

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

He was getting worse. Remember what happened with those muggers the other week?

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

It is worse than any of you know. After Lynx left, he left another message on the walkie...it's best if I just play it.

Recluse taps a few buttons on her tablet

COYOTE

(on tablets speaker)

...So real, the pain...I couldn't help it...I don't know which of you will be next...but I know I won't stop...hunt me if you can.

Recluse taps a button and the recording stops.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

Ok, that was creepy. How did we not see him slipping into this?

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

None of us had seen it coming, perhaps because violence was what we were dealing in anyway. Maybe it was inevitable. Can you create a hero without creating its counterpart: The monster? That is what coyote had become.

A door at the end of the room opens in a cloud of dust. Emerging from the door is Officer Williams.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

It sounds like you have a real issue here. A rogue agent.

Everyone reaches for their batons.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(holding up his hands)

Relax, I am not armed.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Why are you here?

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

I tracked you here. I want to join.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

Join? Why? How do we know this isn't a trap?

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Look, if it was trap I would have just arrested you. I knew where you met. I knew Oscar Prainte was leading you. I could have given you up, but instead I told my commander that Totem was the 'Nose Hellion' gang. You know what happened there. No need to thank me.

The room is silent.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

(continuing)

I want to join for the same reason I joined the security services. I want to make things better. It turned out that they didn't...but I still do.

TOTEM (SHARP SHIN)

This breaks our rules. We aren't to know anyone's identity. If we do not know who each other are, we cannot rat each other out.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

That is my risk to take, I suppose. Besides, knowing a man inside the security services is not a bad thing.

Sharp Shin nods.

TOTEM (LYNX)

This is awkward. Should we vote on it?

TOTEM (BEAR)

Why vote? I think he knows too much to keep him away.

TOTEM (LYNX)

It just makes it fair.

Everyone nods.

TOTEM (LYNX)

All in favour?

Five hands shoot up.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Well that was easy.

TOTEM (SHARP SHIN)

What do we call you man? We all have animal call signs. I am Sharp-Shin..like the Hawk. That's Lynx, Yellow Jacket, Bear, and Recluse.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Hmm. How about 'Wapiti' – the Elk.

Lynx tosses Officer Williams a bundle, which he catches with a thud.

TOTEM (LYNX)

This was Ospreys. Put it on. It makes us uncomfortable Looking at a security services officer.

Officer Williams dons the cloak over his uniform.

TOTEM (WAPITI)

It sounds like you have a problem here. 'Coyote', I take it was a member of this team, but has gone crazy and wants to kill everyone. Is that right?

TOTEM (BEAR)

Yup.

TOTEM (WAPITI)

And I take it he knows your meeting places, communication methods, and patrol routes...this place included?

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

(looking over her shoulder)

Oh. Crap.

TOTEM (WAPITI)

I will take that as a yes. I suggest that we need to change these immediately.

Sharp shin stands up.

TOTEM (SHARP SHIN)

No wait! He said he didn't know which one of us is next. I have a plan...

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Sharp shin always had a superb mind for strategy. We were mesmerized by what he put forward.

EXT. ALLEYWAY. NIGHT

Lynx waits on a low fire escape a floor above the alleyway as four gang members force a young man into the alleyway. He is wearing the totem cloak as it rains around him.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

We had agreed to not go out that night, but I could not resist. I was too restless and doing some good would right my spirit.

YOUNG MAN

Please, just take my money, what more do you want?

GANG MEMBER #1

What sort of citizens would we be if we didn't also teach you a lesson. These are bad areas of town to walk alone.

The other gang members laugh.

GANG MEMBER #1

It may be a painful lesson I am afraid, but well worth your money.

As they pass underneath, Lynx launches himself off the fire escape landing firmly on one of the attackers.

TOTEM (LYNX)

I give you this one opportunity to flee.

They hesitate.

GANG MEMBER #1

Nah, we can take him.

Gang Member #1 rushes Lynx, fakes a punch while throwing a side kick towards Lynx's chest.

Lynx dodges and counters with a quick back fist to the face. Gang Member #1 goes down screaming and holding his nose.

Gang Member #2 comes from the side with a knife thrust.

The Young Man flees down the street.

Lynx traps the knife hand as it comes in; twisting it until Gang Member #2 drops the knife. Then he applies more pressure, breaking the wrist.

Before he can respond, Gang Member #3 hits him in the side with a crowbar.

Lynx goes down holding his side.

Gang Member #1 gets up.

GANG MEMBER #1

Now, you fucker, you are going to pay for this.

He reaches back under his jacket and pulls out a gun, pointing it at Lynx.

Before he can pull the trigger, an arrow flies through his neck.

GANG MEMBER #3

What the hell?

Gang Member #3 turns towards the direction the arrow was shot from and takes an arrow in the eye.

Lynx breathes heavily lying on the ground.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Sometimes the best lesson is to learn you are human after all.

Yellow Jacket, in full totem cloak, walks up to Lynx and offers him a hand. He takes it and gets up, coughing.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

It's a good thing I was near. I think we both had the same idea.

Lynx nods.

TOTEM (LYNX)

(holding his side)

Thanks. You saved me there.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

Hey, it's not always the damsels that are in distress. Let me help you.

Yellow Jacket puts his arm over her shoulders and helps him under the fire escape where the rain is blocked.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

You were reckless...

TOTEM (LYNX)

I know, I just needed to work through this

There is a silence between them before they ease together and kiss. The kiss lasts a fair ways before Lynx pulls back.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Shit, I am sorry. I don't know what...I mean....weren't you with Osprey?

Yellow Jacket bites her lip lightly.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

I...I loved him...but he always kept his distance. I can't believe he is gone...I feel so...so empty.

TOTEM (LYNX)

I know. I was there when he got shot. I feel like I have this pit of darkness within me....of anger and disbelief.

Yellow Jacket peels off her mask. Her blond hair cascades down around her shoulders, rain dripping off of it.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

I just can't be alone right now.

Lynx spins to look away.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Yellow Jacket! I should not see your face.

She grabs his shoulder and spins him around.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

Fuck. We already broke some rules tonight. This is just one more. Besides, a 'lack of humanity' is what overcame Coyote. I don't want to end up the same.

Lynx nods. He slowly takes off his mask and hood.

They look at each others faces for the first time.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I realized in that moment how absurd it was that I had known her this long and had never known how beautiful her eyes were.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Ok.

Lynx embraces her and they kiss once more. It is quicker, but more intimate.

INT. LEE FLETCHERS APARTMENT. LEE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Lee and Yellow Jacket lay naked and asleep under one of the Totem cloaks.

Their masks and other gear lay strewn about the room.

INT. FLETCHERS CONVENIENCE STORE, DAY.

A customer leaves as Lee closes the till.

Imogene sweeps up nearby.

IMOGENE FLETCHER

I'm not stupid, you know. You didn't need to have your whore sneak out this morning.

LEE FLETCHER

She's not a....fuck! Why does this have to be so hard?

IMOGENE FLETCHER

She is from your team then? What about mom? Can you forget her so quickly?

(pointing emphatically)

She died...right....there!

LEE FLETCHER

(yelling)

Don't you think I know that? It kills me a little every time I look there. And I have to look there every day.

(more softly)

I don't have a relationship with this woman. Shit. I don't even know if I like her. I just got caught up in it...with the death...and that helped.

Imogene is silent. Tears welling in her eyes.

LEE FLETCHER

I am sorry...

A single tear runs down her cheek.

IMOGENE FLETCHER

It's ok. It's just difficult to wrap my head around. Are you out tonight?

LEE FLETCHER

I have to. The killer is out there, and he will target both of us eventually. He needs to be stopped.

Imogene sweeps, turning her face away.

LEE FLETCHER

I will be careful though, my little lynx.

As Lee calls her this, tears stream down Imogene's face.

INT. CORU SECURITY STATION. COMMANDER'S OFFICE, DAY.

The commander is beet red from yelling at Officer Williams who is on the other side of the desk.

COMMANDER

Do you know how foolish I looked!!? There was not one shred of evidence that the Totem was part of the Nose Hellions.

Officer Williams remains silent.

COMMANDER

Well? What the fuck do you have to say for yourself?

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Like I told you, it was only a theory.

COMMANDER

No shit, retard! It was the worst theory ever conceived. And now it's on my head.

The commander pulls out a tablet and starts typing in it.

COMMANDER

I am taking your value down two levels. See how you like that, fuck head.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS

Sir! That is not fair, I...

The Commander pulls his pistol and slams it on the desk.

COMMANDER

You shut your gravy hole before I devalue you further. Any more and no one will care if I use this. It's desk work for you from now on.

Officer Williams gets up abruptly, knocking his chair over and storms out of the room.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING. NIGHT.

Recluse sits in a large chair in front of a dusty table in the middle of an open warehouse. She frantically plays song snippets and types into her array of tablets.

From the shadows at the back of the warehouse, Coyote emerges.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Sharp Shin's plan was simple. Coyote was likely to attack who he perceived was our weakest link. Recluse made a fair amount of sense as a target as well as she was the glue that kept us together.

Coyote creeps ever closer to Recluse. He draws a large knife out of a sheath silently.

Recluse stops typing. Her head cannot be seen, just the back of her Totem cloak.

Coyote creeps closer and closer to the silent recluse.

He reaches his knife around the front of her cloak.

COYOTE

My, oh my....

Recluse appears behind him. She had slipped out of her cloak and left it on the chair. She is now without cloak, but has the upper hand. She has a metal thimble on her finger tip with a needle on it. She presses this to Coyote's neck.

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

Said the spider to the fly.

Coyote stiffens.

COYOTE

Recluse, you think I cannot take you right now?

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

Oh, I know you think you can. You think me an invalid. I want you to try. Try it, laughing boy.

Coyote tries to spin. Recluse scratches him on the neck and pulls out an energy pistol.

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

Didn't expect that? Huh?

Coyote grabs his neck in surprise and runs away.

Recluse fires at him as he runs for his life.

Coyote scrambles up and dives out an upper window.

Recluse shudders with adrenaline and re-holsters the pistol.

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

(to herself)

Coward.

Sharp shin descends from the rafters above.

TOTEM (SHARP SHIN)

(motioning to his bow)

I had you covered the whole time, but shit, I don't think I needed to. That was awesome.

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

Sugar, you have no idea the depth of my surprises.

Sharp Shin looks at his wrist walkie.

TOTEM (SHARP SHIN)

Oh. Time to call the fuzz.

Recluse nods, pulling out an apple from her cloak (still on the chair). She takes a bite as she sits down;.

She types a few keystrokes into her tablet.

TABLE

(form Phone Call)

CORU Security Services. How may we assist?

TOTEM (RECLUSE)

I want to report a robbery...

Sharp Shin smiles.

EXT. BUILDING ROOF. NIGHT

Coyote crawls along the roof of the building towards Bear who is acting as a lookout, bow in hand.

TOTEM (BEAR)

(into wrist walkie)

No sign.

Coyote creeps closer still.

Bear fidgets.

The wrist-walkie screams to life with sound.

TOTEM (BEAR)

(to himself)

Aw damn.

He spins around and sees coyote.

Coyote springs. Bear has no time to use the bow. It gets thrown in the struggle.

Coyote slams his knife down. Bear deflects it and it hits the roof beside him.

Bear wraps his arm around Coyotes neck and bucks, rolling over on top of him.

Coyote grabs the knife as he rolls and slashes Bear on the shoulder.

TOTEM (BEAR)

Ow!!!

Bear lets go of Coyote and springs back.

TOTEM (COYOTE)

A little scratch for an old friend, eh Bearsy?

Bear holds his shoulder, bleeding like mad.

TOTEM (BEAR)

Bring it.

Coyote charges forward. An arrow whistles through the air and pierces his leg.

Coyote yelps in pain and stops.

He turns, seeing Yellow Jacket on the move, bow held high.

Coyote looks back to Bear and then to Yellow Jacket. He bolts to the left and jumps off the building.

Yellow Jacket hurries up to Bear.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

You ok, man?

TOTEM (BEAR)

No. That crazy bastard cut me. How did we miss his approach? We overlooked something in the plan...

Yellow Jacket pulls out a vial and dumps it on the blood splatter to erase the evidence.

Yellow Jacket points to the building across the way where Coyote is making his way up the fire escape.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

Either way, he is in the shoot.

Yellow Jacket raises her wrist and whistles into it.

EXT. FIRE ESCAPE. NIGHT

Coyote stops on a fire escape landing, out of breath.

He sits down and snaps the arrow in his leg. He then pulls out the arrow in one quick motion.

He looks carefully at the arrow, holding it in front of himself as the blood drips off of it.

COYOTE

Bitch.

He tosses the arrow and continues up the fire escape.

EXT. ALLEYWAY. NIGHT

CORU Security Services pull up in the alleyway, sirens blaring.

Wapiti stands in the middle of the alleyway, listening to a whistle on his walkie.

As the officers exit their patrol cars, he takes off in a run towards the fire escape.

PATROL OFFICER

Freeze!!

Wapiti spins as a bolt from the energy pistol strikes him in the chest and deflects off a pectoral shield.

TOTEM (WAPITI)

(to himself)

Shit. Whatever happened to the warning shot.

He stumbles back, spins, and jumps to the fire escape.

PATROL OFFICER

Fuck.

(into wrist walkie)

All units, suspect heading up Walkin's building fire escape north.

Cover all sides.

EXT. WALKINS BUILDING. ROOF. NIGHT.

Coyote comes over the fire escape, limping. He has his knife drawn, looking around wildly.

He pauses, panting wildly.

Out of the blue, a baton strikes his wrist. The knife goes flying over the edge of the building.

EXT. ALLEYWAY, NIGHT.

The knife streaks down and sticks into the lid of a dumpster.

EXT. WALKINS BUILDING. ROOF. NIGHT.

In the corner of the roof, Lynx rises. His inverted (black) cloak was mostly covering him, making him invisible.

As he rises, he spins the cloak around to its mottled form.

Coyote rubs his neck where Recluse scratched him.

COYOTE

You? Well, I don't need the knife for you anyway.

Lynx holds up his hands.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Think about this Coyote. We don't have to do this the hard way. You are sick. We can handle this quietly.

COYOTE

But I so like the hard way.

Coyote steps forward, raises his leg as if to kick. As Lynx dodges forward to avoid the kick, Coyote drives a hook into his head.

Lynx drops.

Coyote moves in to kick Lynx on the ground. Lynx quickly spins on the ground, knocking Coyote's legs out from under him with a kick.

They are both up in a flash.

EXT. ALLEYWAY. NIGHT

The Commander mills about with his officers.

He looks to the roof and sees two figures fighting.

COMMANDER

It looks like he is fighting someone.

EXT. WALKINS BUILDING. ROOF, NIGHT

Lynx hits Coyote with a cross. He stumbles back.

As Lynx swivels to kick Coyote in the ribs, Coyote comes in lightning quick and drops his leg into Lynx's stable (non kicking) leg. Lynx falls down, his kick nullified.

Coyote brings his elbow down quickly on Lynx's leg.

Lynx cries out in pain. He tries to get away, stumbling backwards, but falls. His head and torso protrude past the edge of the roof.

COYOTE

Thought you could beat me, eh? How do you want it? A quick fall from the roof perhaps?

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I could say he got a lucky shot in. I could say I was having an off day. But the reality was that Coyote was a better martial artist than I was. Lucky for me I had more up my sleeve.

EXT. ALLEYWAY. NIGHT

The commander see's Lynx's torso protrude past the edge of the building.

A Patrolman has his weapon trained on Lynx.

COMMANDER

Take the shot.

EXT. BUILDING ROOF. NIGHT.

Yellow Jacket is tending to Bears wound as she sees a bolt come up from the alleyway to hit Lynx on the roof.

She drops the bandages.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

(screaming)

LEE!!!

She runs to the edge of the building and dives off.

She flies through the air and barely catches the fire escape on the other side.

She grunts as she hits, then pulls herself up and heads up the stairs.

EXT. WALKINS BUILDING ROOF. NIGHT.

Lynx stands up. His shoulder is smoking where he was hit by the energy pistol.

COYOTE

Oooh! Ouch.

(motioning for Lee to come closer)

Come closer, Lynx, I will make it quick.

From the right, Wapiti jumps onto the roof wearing Ospreys cloak. He runs and plows into Coyote, showing him to the ground.

Coyote stumbles to a standing position

COYOTE

(noticing the Osprey badge on the cloak)

You? I killed you...how can this....

Before he finishes, an arrow pierces his throat from the back. Coyote drops.

Behind him is Yellow Jacket holding her bow.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

(to Lynx)

Are you ok?

Lynx nods and stands up, holding his smoking shoulder.

Lynx, Wapiti, and Yellow Jacket look at the body of Coyote.

TOTEM (WAPITI)

Well, this complicates things. I was supposed to shoot him with my energy pistol...to make it official. It shouldn't be an arrow wound.

TOTEM (YELLOW JACKET)

Well, whatever we do, we have to do it fast. Security Services is likely on its way.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Shoot him again...in the same spot.

Wapiti pulls out his pistol.

TOTEM (WAPITI)

Brilliant.

He fires.

He then strips off his cloak and hands it to Lynx. Underneath his cloak, he is wearing his security services patrolman outfit.

Lynx quickly bundles up the cloak.

TOTEM (LYNX)

(to Wapiti)

You got this?

Wapiti Nods.

TOTEM (LYNX)

(to Yellow Jacket)

Let's go.

Lynx and Yellow Jacket disappear over the edge.

EXT. ALLEYWAY. NIGHT

The Commander stands at the bottom with several patrolmen.

His wrist-walkie springs to life.

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS O.S.

(From Wrist-Walkie)

I got him.

The Commander raises the walkie to his mouth.

COMMANDER

Williams? Is that you?

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS O.S.

(From Wrist-Walkie)

Affirmative.

COMMANDER

You took down the Totem? That was you on the roof?

PATROL OFFICER WILLIAMS O.S.

(From Wrist-Walkie)

I figured it was the only way to redeem myself, sir.

EXT. WALKINS BUILDING ROOF. NIGHT.

Security Services patrolmen examine the roof top and the body of Totem while the Commander talks to Officer Williams.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Not many questions were asked. And Williams got his value back and was promoted as well. Regardless of how much the Commander disliked him, how else could he treat a hero?

INT. DAVINCI'S BAKERY, MAIN ROOM, NIGHT

The six remaining members of Totem sit around the abandoned bakery talking.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

We agreed to keep it quiet for a while. Security Services had caught who they thought was Totem, so we may as well let them think that.

INT. LIQUOR STORE. NIGHT

Armed gang members point weapons at the clerk of the Liquor store and various patrons as they rob the place.

A smoke pellet flies through the window, with Lynx in a mottled cloak diving afterwards.

Lynx springs up and punches the first gang member as arrows take down the others.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

After a good half a year, we started up again. The police continued to be baffled as to how we managed to elude them every time.

After a few more hits, the first gang member hits the floor to join his companions.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

(continuing)

After another threat, we agreed to split up. Those of us originals still alive moved away. I remained in Calgary.

EXT. CITY PARK. DAY.

A young woman sits on a park bench, crying to herself. She holds her head in her hands.

She looks down at a strange rock. Upon the rock is scrawled 'Do you want things to stay they same?'

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

I heard reports of figures appearing in Toronto, Saskatoon, Halifax, and Nelson. Some were called 'Totem'. Some were new names like 'Hemlock' and 'Myotis'. It didn't matter. We were all the Totem.

The girl picks up the rock and smiles to herself.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

It didn't matter that the world had not changed. It matters that we few stood up to corruption and evil. It matters as we seemingly insignificant pebbles started the avalanche. Change is always slow to form. It starts with an idea and ends with action.

EXT. OUTSIDE A WAREHOUSE, DAY

HEADING: 'Back in the Present'

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

Of course, none of this seems to help me in my current predicament.

The Gang Member sits on top of Lynx with the blade to his throat.

GANG MEMBER

(panting, grinning)

Ya, I got you fucker....you gonna bleed slow like.

A knife travels quickly through the air towards the gang member and impales him in the head.

He falls over slowly, with words still caught in his breath.

Lynx pants quietly on the ground.

Another figure walks towards Lynx coming into his field of view. The figure is silhouetted against the sun in the background.

As the figure approaches, the silhouette morphs into a figure wearing the Totem cloak reversed.

TOTEM (SPARROW)

It looked like you needed a bit of help, Dad.

She holds out her right hand and he grips it with his own, pulling himself up. He is careful with his broken left arm as he rises.

TOTEM (LYNX)

Thank you, Sparrow. And it's 'Lynx', not 'Dad'

TOTEM (SPARROW)

(saluting)

Right you are, sir.

Sparrow pulls her knife out of the Gang Members skull and wipes it on his clothes.

TOTEM (LYNX) V.O.

The big things may not have changed yet, but Sparrow was my daily reminder that little things can change for the better. Little things change all the time.

FADE OUT.