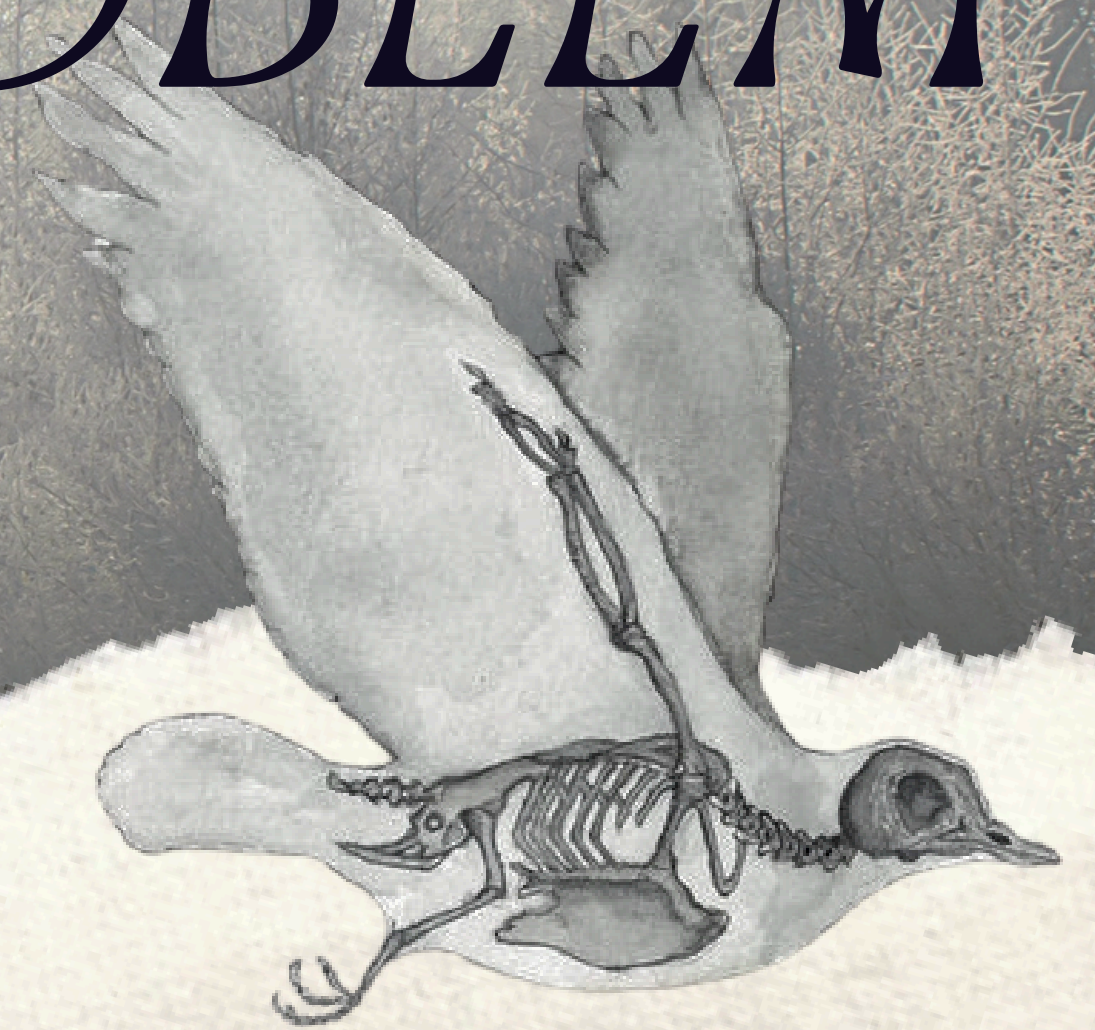


THE BYRD PROBLEM

By
Jennifer Renner



THE WHAT

The lives of two sisters are upended when they help an elderly woman dispose of husband she murdered.

Genre: Dark Comedy




THE WHAT ELSE

A simple job of getting rid of one deceased little old man becomes more complicated due to:

- Guilt
- Family Tension
- Paranoia
- A Broken Freezer
- An Inflatable Raft
- Rigor Mortis



Two finches with brown, white, and black plumage are perched on a vertical strip of torn white paper that runs down the left side of the image. The background behind them is a dark, cracked, brownish-grey surface.

FOR WHOM

Target Audience: 18 - 32

Important elements: difficult family relationships,
unprocessed childhood trauma, fear in the present political
and economic climate

A large, dark, textured sphere, possibly representing a planet or moon, is positioned in the lower right quadrant. The background is a blue sky with scattered white clouds and a thin crescent moon in the upper right corner.

THE WHERE

Suburb north of Nashville, TN

February 2024



THE WHO



Abigail Cooper



Violet Cooper

24, quirkily survivalist. Works odd jobs to pay the bills. Stocks her bunker and practices archery in her free time. Lives with her best friend.

29, assistant ME finishing a residency. Type A. Loves a quality cup of coffee and crushing her morning run. Lives with her boyfriend of three years.

Salena

24, reiki master and tarot reader, Abigail's best friend since middle school. Believes everything happens for a reason



WHO ELSE

Mrs. Byrd

81, kind-hearted, woman who cares for her husband, children, and grandchildren. Loves baking, gardening, and arson

Max

32, drug sales rep, Violet's boyfriend. Goofy, a little annoying, but there when it counts

Grandma

78, tough southern woman. Former high school principal, loves her grandkids fiercely



THE WHY

Abigail tells Violet that Mr. Byrd lost his life by suicide and Mrs. Byrd didn't want her children to know. However, what Mrs. Byrd *actually* told Abigail was she killed Mr. Byrd as assisted suicide to end his suffering. BUT... that isn't the truth either.

THE WHY ELSE

Abigail firmly believes society has run its course and there will be anarchy in a matter of years. She helps Mrs.

Byrd with her dead husband because, among other reasons, she feels this will be the norm within a decade.



Violet's relationship with Abigail is strained to say the least, but she is still the big sister. She can't help but swoop in when she sees her baby sister in need.

THE SCREENWRITER

My sister is a forensic anthropologist, so we've had more than one conversation about how a body decays. On the surface, that's what this screenplay is about: poor dead Mr. Byrd.

More importantly, though, is the bond between two sisters. I'm fortunate to be best friends with my sister now, but that wasn't always the case. Still, no matter how far apart we were, physically or emotionally, we both knew we could count on each other to answer the phone in the middle of the night.

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