

Derrick Geist ©

Chupacabra

Story by Jim Caswell

Audioplay by Jim Caswell and Doug Zeitlin

Episode Summary

Geist is sent to Mexico to help an old friend of Heinrich's whose farm is plagued by monster activities; but things aren't always as they appear and romance gets in the way of getting answers.

Starring

Derrick Geist

Ryan Gilbert

Lindsey Capparelli

April Sadowski

Ajit Singh

Doug Zeitlin

and Featuring

Heinrich Geist

Steve Cain

Jose Ramirez

Rick Steele

Luis Ramirez Jr.

Eli Marti

Gabby Ramirez

Louise Francis

Señor Diaz

James C. Taylor

Señora Salvador

Joan Hallaron

Señor Alacran

Justin Bills

Guard

Pete Nottit

PROLOGUE

SCENE 1 – *ENTER INT.: Windsor Prestige Suite – Hotel Ritz – Paris*

SOUND: Hotel room background noise.

GEIST

‘Wrath on Man?’

LINDSEY

What’s that supposed to mean?

AJIT (British accent)

There could be any number of meanings. It could represent a specific person, an attitude toward humanity, the attitude *of* humanity.... who knows?

LINDSEY

Come on. I’m all in favor of grabbing at whatever lead you can get, but a clue that’s too vague to figure out isn’t much of a clue at all.

GEIST

It’s a clue we didn’t have five minutes ago. Dad must have believed someone could figure it out, or he wouldn’t have left it.

LINDSEY

OK, if it means something, then what does it mean?

GEIST

I don’t know. Maybe he wanted us to go to Egypt.

LINDSEY

Egypt? Because it’s in Sanskrit?

GEIST

Lindsey. Would you please use your camera to take a few pictures of the image? We shouldn’t take what’s left of the table with us, but it would be good to have the picture to refer back to if needed.

SOUND: Camera gets passed.

LINDSEY

But it may not even have anything to do with their disappearance. Your dad may have colored that thing during one of his other visits here.

AJIT

Mister Derrick is correct. I don't believe Mister Reginald would have used a piece of furniture valued at one hundred thousand dollars as a pad of scratch paper. This message, as it were, is of importance. Just because it doesn't make sense to us now doesn't mean it won't make sense in the future.

LINDSEY (surrendering)

Fine. I guess I can throw a few frames of digital memory at it.

SOUND: Camera snaps a picture.

AJIT

I don't know if going to Egypt is our best course of action at this time, sir.

SOUND: Camera snaps two more shots.

GEIST

Well, I don't know what else he could mean by it. I mean, Sanskrit isn't exactly a global form of communication.

SOUND: Camera snaps two more shots.

AJIT

True, but it is just as likely that he used it because of its limited usage as using it as a locator.

LINDSEY

Used the usage for the what-now?

GEIST

We're not going to know that for sure until we investigate it, and I say we go to Egypt and see what we can find.

AJIT (Hindu accent)

As you command, Mister Derrick.

GEIST (irritated)

Don't do...

SOUND: Specialized cell phone ring tone.

GEIST (irritated)

Now what?

SOUND: Flip phone opens.

GEIST (irritated)
Hello.

HEINRICH
Derrick? That you?

GEIST (apologetic)
Yeah, Grandpa, it's me.

HEINRICH
Everything OK, my boy?

GEIST
Yeah, Gramps. Sorry. Things are just a little...

HEINRICH
I understand. It's frustrating when there's nothing to find.

GEIST
That's not.... I'll explain it to you later. What's up?

HEINRICH
I just got a phone call from a friend of mine. He has something that I need you to look into.

GEIST
Why didn't he use the network?

HEINRICH
It's not that type of call, or, it is, but he's... it's a more personal situation than a typical network call. I owe him a lot.

GEIST
What's the situation?

HEINRICH
He thinks his ranch is being plagued by a chupacabra infestation again.

GEIST (questioningly)
Chupacabra? Again?

LINDSEY (repeating questioningly to Geist's question)
Chupacabra?

HEINRICH

It's a supernatural creature whose portal usually opens in the borders of Mexico. It's like a lizard-based Bigfoot.

AJIT

It's a supernatural creature whose portal usually opens in the borders of Mexico. It's like a lizard-based Bigfoot.

LINDSEY

You've got to be kidding.

GEIST

I don't know...

HEINRICH

Jose is an old friend, and if they're really back, he's going to need your help.

GEIST

I understand, Grandpa, but we had a deal. We agreed that the whole demon-hunter thing wouldn't interfere with me searching for my parents.

HEINRICH

I thought we agreed that this 'demon-hunter thing' was bigger than just us.

GEIST

I know it's big, but I can't just ...

HEINRICH

It needs to be handled. If need be, I'll have Jeremy charter a jet and have him fly me down there; I'll take care of it myself. It's just that it's been decades since I had to fight a herd of demon-spawn...

GEIST (relenting)

That won't be necessary, Grandpa. We'll go and check it out. Where is this guy located?

LINDSEY (surprised)

We're going?

HEINRICH

Along the Mexican seaboard. I've sent the coordinates to your GPS system.

AJIT (Hindu accent)

Master Heinrich can be very persuasive when he wants to be.

GEIST

Send me what you have on these chalupa's too while you're at it.

HENRICH

AJIT

Chupacabras.

Chupacabras.

GEIST

Yeah. Those. I probably won't get a chance to read it until we land, but it would be nice to get some idea of what to expect before we're face to face with it. Or whatever it has that passes for a face.

HEINRICH

I will, my boy. Take care of yourself down there. Those buggers are meaner than they look, and they don't look too friendly.

GEIST

We will, Grandpa. Goodbye.

SOUND: Cell phone closes. Cue intro music.

ACT I

SCENE 1 – ENTER EXT.: *Ranch House Entrance – Sinaloa, Mexico*

SOUND: Sports car drives up dirt driveway and stops. Engine stops. Doors open.

LINDSEY

Wow.

AJIT (Hindu accent)

Different than what you became used to at the Ritz then?

SOUND: Front door opens.

LINDSEY

No, I meant wow in a good way. This place is nice; a lot better than I was expecting when I was told we were coming to a Mexican ranch.

SOUND: Footfalls coming down steps.

JOSE

It's not truly a ranch, señorita; we're landowners who farm. Ranchers focus mainly on cattle. Only ten percent of our land is dedicated to raising animals.

LINDSEY

I stand corrected.

SOUND: First set of footfalls stop. Two more sets begin.

JOSE

And my manners are terrible today. My apologies. Welcome to my home. I'm Jose Ramirez.

GEIST

And we're...

SOUND: Pair of footfalls reach bottom.

JOSE

Derrick Geist and his friends. Your grandfather, my old friend, called and informed me you were coming. These are my great-grandchildren, Luis Jr. and Gabriela. They are down for the summer.

LUIS

Poppa says we can learn much from Patrón.

JOSE

Luis is going off to college in the fall, and Gabby just finished a semester in Spain through an international exchange program.

AJIT

It is good to see Mister Heinrich's friend and his family doing so well.

JOSE

Ajit! So good to see you, mi amigo. Heinrich didn't mention that you were now helping his grandson.

AJIT

The master believed I would be of more use in the field than serving him tea at Hastings Hill.

JOSE

I can believe that.

GABBY

This is the fabled Ajit, Patrón?

GEIST

Fabled?

AJIT

The truth, like beauty, rests in the eye of the beholder.

LUIS

And who is the lovely señorita, Señor Geist?

GEIST

This is Lindsey Capparelli. She's my....

LINDSEY

Traveling companion. *Just* traveling companion.

JOSE

Well then, Derrick. Would you and your companions like to come in? We've taken the liberty of inviting the area farmers over tonight, so we can throw you a welcome fiesta.

GEIST

That's very nice of you, Señor Ramirez, but I'd much rather....

JOSE

We can begin looking for the chupacabras tomorrow, Señor, once you have recuperated from your long flight and have experienced some true Mexican hospitality.

LINDSEY

About that. I was doing some research on the way here and I'm a bit confused as to what this is all about.

JOSE

How so?

LINDSEY

Well, what I found on the internet said that the chupacabra is a mythical creature like a Bigfoot or Yeti.

JOSE

Si.

LINDSEY

But you claim they're real.

JOSE

Very much so.

LINDSEY

You've encountered them before?

JOSE

Si. The last time was over three decades ago, when they attacked several local ranches.

LINDSEY

Again, that goes against what I read. According to the internet, the first supposed sightings weren't until the 1990's, unless you want to count the reported attacks in Moca in 1975.

JOSE

While I've heard of portals opening in Puerto Rico as well, El Vampiro de Moca was not a chupacabra.

GEIST

There's a difference?

JOSE

Si. The fables surrounding these creatures are based on rumors and legends of when the chupacabra's were actually here, but are not true chupacabra sightings themselves.

LINDSEY

That's what I'm talking about. The next thing you're going to tell me is that Bigfoot's real too.

JOSE

To my knowledge, its not. But with all the variations on the sasquatch myth that are floating around out there, it wouldn't surprise me if some portal somewhere opens on a dimension filled with large ape-like creatures.

LINDSEY

So you're saying that every mythical creature is based on extra-dimensional creatures? I don't know if I can believe that.

AJIT

Not all myths are real, but neither are all creatures figments of the imagination.

LINDSEY

So how do you know which ones are real and which ones are fictional?

AJIT

The ones that you see with your own eyes are real.

JOSE

Which we'll attempt to do.... after you get some rest. Trust me; you don't want to encounter these things at less than one hundred percent.

GEIST

If you insist.

JOSE

Luis, please help them with their bags.

SOUND: Truck pops open.

LUIS

Si, Patrón. I'm more than happy to aide the señorita.

SOUND: LUIS grunts while picking up luggage.

GABBY

Follow me, Ajit. I'll show you where your room is.

JOSE

If only I could get them to take such exuberance in all their chores.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO EXT.: Ranch House Yard

SOUND: Mariachi music intermingles with crowd noise. Insects heard faintly in background.

JOSE

Señor Geist, over here. There are some people I'd like you to meet.

SOUND: Walking through grass.

GEIST

Señor Ramirez. I appreciate all this, but don't you think this is a bit extravagant? You didn't have to go through all this for us.

JOSE

I'll explain everything in a few moments, Señor. But first, allow me to introduce my neighbors. This is Señor Diaz, who owns the land to the south of us.

DIAZ

Buenos tardes.

GEIST

Good evening.

JOSE

Señora Salvador to our east.

SALVADOR

Hola.

GEIST

My pleasure.

JOSE

And my neighbor to the north, Señor Alacran.

ALACRAN

Please, call me Juan.

GEIST

Usually that's my line.

ALACRAN (confused)

You usually tell people to call you Juan?

GEIST (humored)

No. Usually I'm the one insisting to be called by my first name.
You can all call me Derrick.

ALACRAN

Very good, Derrick. We're glad you could come. Any help you can give us is taking care of this pest problem will be greatly appreciated.

GEIST

Pests? I take it you don't believe in the chupacabra?

JOSE (interrupting)

Now if you'll excuse us, gentlemen and lady, I have a few other people for our guest of honor to meet.

SALVADOR

Thank you for coming, Señor Geist.

DIAZ

We will see you around, si?

GEIST

Si.

ALACRAN

Gracias, Derrick.

GEIST

De nada.

SOUND: Footfalls move away. Patio chairs are pulled out and sat in.

GEIST

They don't believe in the chupacabra?

JOSE

Some believe, some don't. We're trying to dissuade them from it though.

GEIST

Why?

AJIT (Hindu accent)

Sometimes it is better to live in ignorance than to suffer with knowledge.

GEIST

Ajit! You really need to learn not to sneak up on people.

AJIT

One person's walking is another man's sneaking. We must someday train you to pay closer attention to everything that happens around you.

JOSE

Around here, the adventures your grandfather and I had against the chupacabras are things of legend. Few believe them, which is better for all of us. If people knew that such creatures actually existed and have returned, the panic would be uncontrollable.

GEIST

What have you told them, then?

JOSE

That feral dogs are in the area, terrorizing the animals.

GEIST

And who am I, then?

JOSE

You are well known, Señor Geist, even down here.

GEIST

So what is a millionaire playboy doing to help, then?

JOSE

Bailing out an old family friend by throwing lots of pesos at the problem.

GEIST

Gotcha.

AJIT

Your property has come along nicely, Señor.

JOSE

Thank you, old friend. Things have been steadily improving since the government turned over land rights to the farmers. Once people were able to claim ownership of the land they worked, the quality of life improved.

GEIST

I'm impressed that all of you are able to cooperate so well with each other. Some people would have made land grabs when the property became available.

JOSE

Oh, I wish I could say everyone was as cooperative as we appear. When the land first became available, the landowners who were better off than their neighbors approached those that couldn't afford to buy their own land. Some, like myself, and those you've met tonight, offered fair prices for the land. Others were not as giving.

GEIST

So your property wasn't this large before?

JOSE

I only bought property from one of my neighbors. Anything more would have been more than I could handle.

GEIST

Those that bought more, are they being fair to the others, or are they behaving more like land barons?

SOUND: Footsteps approach.

JOSE

There are outspoken people on both sides of the morality line.

LINDSEY

Derrick. What are you doing?

GEIST

Sitting and talking with our host.

LINDSEY

Well, that's obvious. What I meant was why aren't you out here dancing and enjoying the food?

SOUND: Footsteps approach.

GEIST

If you really knew me, and not just what the press makes of me, you'd know that there's a lot more to me than just partying.

LINDSEY

And all those grand openings and parties we found you at, they were just part of your cover?

LUIS

Senorita, come dance with me.

LINDSEY

Well, Geist?

GEIST

Go have fun, you two. I'm fine right where I am.

LINDSEY

Never would have imagined you to be the fuddy-duddy. Ajit yes, but not you.

AJIT

Ajit is more than capable of the shaking of the tail feathers, thank you very much.

LINDSEY

That phrase went out before my dad's generation.

SOUND: A stirring of cattle can be heard in the distance.

LUIS (laughing)

It makes me wonder which of them is more the old man.

LINDSEY

At the moment, I think your grandfather is younger.

SOUND: Cattle get louder.

GEIST

What's that noise?

JOSE

It sounds like something's spooking the cattle.

LUIS

Probably a coyote or something.

SOUND: A wood fence breaks in the distance. Cattle grow louder and begin stampeding.

JOSE

They've broken through the fence! Everyone, after them! We must stop them before they reach the fields! Va mañosa!

SOUND: Many people running. Mariachi music stops.

AJIT (running)

A coyote wouldn't have caused this.

GEIST (running)

Not to this degree, no.

LINDSEY (running)

What do you think it is, then?

GEIST (running)

Look, over there. Near the pen. Do you see what I see?

LINDSEY (running)

I can't make it out. It looks like...

AJIT (running)

A man-sized lizard.

GEIST (running)

We'll worry about that later. Right now, we need to stop the cattle from destroying the crops. Let's go!

SOUND: Transition music.

ACT II

SCENE 1 – ENTER EXT.: *Ramirez Cattle Pen – Sinaloa, Mexico*

SOUND: Cattle moving around. Three footfalls approach.

LINDSEY

I still don't understand why we didn't come out here last night.

GEIST

'Cause the cattle were spooked enough *without* having the three of us stomping around with flashlights. I wanted to give them a chance to settle down again.

LINDSEY

Meanwhile, they tromp whatever physical evidence *may* have been here.

GEIST

Whatever physical evidence *may* have been inside the pen. There's still whatever is outside. That... whatever it was had to have walked out here, unless you think it teleported or flew into the pen.

AJIT (British accent)

Not flew, but teleportation is not an impossibility. Or, more specifically, a portal opening.

GEIST

Do you really think they have that much control over where the portals open?

LINDSEY

I still have trouble with the fact that we readily accept the concept of portals opening from parallel dimensions.

AJIT

No, I don't believe they have control over the portals, but neither am I willing to dismiss the possibility.

GEIST

After seeing the troll, you can still question?

LINDSEY

I've seen *a* troll. One troll does not a multiverse make.

GEIST

So, you're saying you don't believe?

LINDSEY

I'm just saying that not everything we encounter is supernatural.

GEIST (questioning)

And the giant lizard we saw last night...

LINDSEY

Was a green outline in darkness from where I stood.

AJIT

I speak from experience when I say that there is more out there than one troll. I have...

GABBY (far away in the distance)

There you all are!

SOUND: Cattle make a bit more noise from being startled. Two sets of footsteps approach.

LUIS (from a distance)

The three of you got an early start this morning. Gabby and I didn't see you for breakfast.

GEIST

We wanted to get out here to see if we could find any sign of the creature.

GABBY (closer)

Well, you can't hunt for chupacabras on an empty stomach.

LUIS (closer)

That's why Gabby and I brought breakfast to you. We thought we could make a picnic out of it.

LINDSEY

That's very nice of you, but...

SOUND: Footfalls stop.

GABBY

No buts. We insist. *<beat>* Ajit, I made yours myself. I hope you like huevos rancheros.

AJIT (Hindu accent)

I am very sure that whatever you have prepared will be delicious.

GEIST

We really shouldn't. We've already lost so much time.

LUIS

But Señor Derrick. The creature is not going anywhere. The least you can do is give us the chance to get to know our new friends a little better.

GEIST

Better? If you get to know her any better, you'll be...

LINDSEY

Geist!

GEIST (irritated)

Fine. You know what, go ahead and enjoy your picnic. I'm going to go see what I can find out so we can get back on task. There seems to be a trail over here that even I can follow. I'm going to see where it leads.

SOUND: Footfalls move away through thick grass.

AJIT

Mister Derrick. You shouldn't...

GABBY

Oh, he's just pouting, Ajit. Let him go and stay here with me.

AJIT

My duty is to him.

GABBY

Your duty is also to yourself, Ajit, and what's in your best interest as well.

LUIS

Come on, Lindsey. There's a lovely clearing over here. We can leave Gabby and Ajit to talk in private.

LINDSEY

I don't know...

LUIS

You can't let all this food go to waste. Gabby and I worked so hard on making it just right.

LINDSEY

Ajit?

AJIT

Eat and settle matters. We will catch up with Mister Geist in a little bit.

LINDSEY

Are you sure?

AJIT

Settle things. I will find the mister when the time is right.

SOUND: Two sets of footfalls move away.

GABBY

Do me a favor would you Ajit? Spread this blanket out so we have someplace nice to sit.

AJIT

We need to talk, Gabriella.

GABBY

I agree. But there's no point in talking on an empty stomach, and there's no point in sitting on dew-filled grass.

AJIT

Dew bothers you, but the smell of the cow pasture does not?

GABBY

We can move if you'd like. There's a beautiful stream just over that hill. We could sit next to it, if you'd rather.

AJIT

No. What I have to say can be said here as well as anywhere.

GABBY

Good. Now spread out that blanket so I can set out breakfast.

AJIT

As you command.

SOUND: A blanket snaps open.

GABBY

I pre-wrapped the huevos in tortillas. I hope you don't mind.

AJIT

Come and sit down, Gabby.

GABBY

I'll be right there. Don't be so impatient, though I appreciate your desire for my cooking.

AJIT

Come and sit.

GABBY

I'm almost done.

AJIT

Come. Sit.

SOUND: Silence – two beats.

GABBY

You're lucky you're so cute, Ajit. I don't normally let people talk to me in such ways.

AJIT

I am not cute. I am.... distinguished.

GABBY

Whatever you want to call it, I think you're adorable.

AJIT

This must stop, Gabby. You don't know what is at stake here. You don't know who I am.

GABBY

I know all about you, Ajit. Patrón has spoken about you a lot. I know *everything*.

AJIT

Even your great-grandfather does not know everything.

GABBY

But don't you see? It doesn't matter. Despite everything that I know, you still captivate me.

AJIT

Probably because of, not in spite of.

GABBY

Whatever. The point is you don't have to hide anything from me.

AJIT

I hide everything, but that isn't the point. You're too young.

GABBY (laughing)

Too young? You're saying I'm too young for you?

AJIT

No. I'm saying that you are too young for what you are asking.

GABBY

I don't understand.

AJIT

Someday I will be looking for a new mate to bear me new children. And when that day comes, I will keep you in mind. But today is not that day, and you have much living to do until then.

GABBY (irritated)

Keep me in mind? You want me to be satisfied with 'keep me in mind?'

AJIT

A promise for a potential future is better than an outright rejection. As you grow older, you will realize this.

GABBY (dejected)

So you won't even take the time now to have some fun and get to know each other?

AJIT

You claim to know all there is about Ajit, and when a monster is on the loose, I don't have time for fun. Another thing you will learn, as you get older.

GABBY

So, that's it then?

AJIT

I am afraid so. Thank you for the attention, though. It is appreciated.

SOUND: Footfalls leave.

GABBY

Could have fooled me. You may be older, but that doesn't make you wise. We're not done with this conversation. Not by a long shot.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO EXT.: *A grove of trees near the pen.*

SOUND: Wind gently rustling leaves in the trees. Two sets of footfalls stop.

LUIS

Didn't I tell you this place was beautiful?

LINDSEY

Yes, yes you did.

LUIS

But not nearly as beautiful as you.

LINDSEY (under her breath)

Give me a break.

LUIS

I brought us an assortment of fruit, along with fresh mango juice.

LINDSEY

I'll pass on the juice.

LUIS (slightly dejected)

But it's fresh. I just made it this morning.

LINDSEY

Sorry. I'm allergic.

LUIS (more dejected)

Oh. I'm sorry. I didn't know. If you'd like, I can...

LINDSEY

Don't worry about it. There's no way you could have known.

LUIS

We still have the fruit though. Would you like a fresh strawberry?

LINDSEY

Keep your stem on. We need to talk.

LUIS (worried)

Oh?

LINDSEY

Listen, Luis. You're a great kid, but...

LUIS (slightly defensive)

I'm not a kid.

LINDSEY

You're not a child, but you need to understand that *this* isn't going to work out. You're really sweet and a great dancer, but I'm not looking to start a romance here.

LUIS (dejected and a little hurt)

It is because of *him*, isn't it.

LINDSEY

Him? Him who? <beat> Geist? No way. There's nothing going on there.

LUIS

Then what is it?

LINDSEY

Honestly? It's the age difference between us.

LUIS

Don't be silly. You're what, twenty-five, twenty-six?

LINDSEY (coolly)

Twenty-three.

LUIS (backpedaling)

Oh. Ummm. Even so, that means that there's only a five year difference between us. What is five years?

LINDSEY

Five years can make all the difference in the world, or none at all, depending on the people involved. But between the two of us, it's too much. You're just getting ready to enter college, figuring out where your life will lead. I'm bouncing all over the globe.

LUIS (angry)

I'm not a child. I can decide whom to fall in love with.

LINDSEY

But you're not able to see beyond the here and now. That's something you still need to learn. I'm here, now, but I won't be in a couple of days. Like I said, you're sweet, and I've had a really great time, but...

LUIS (heartbroken)

But it's only a couple of laughs and nothing more. I get it.

SOUND: Footfalls approach.

LINDSEY

Don't take it too hard. It's not like we've known each other for years or anything. We just met yesterday.

LUIS (hurt)

Fine. Ajit's coming. The two of you should get moving so you can finish what you came here for.

LINDSEY

Don't.... For what it's worth, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to...

AJIT

Are you ready?

LUIS

Just go.

LINDSEY

Yeah. I think I did enough damage here. Let's go.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 3 – CUT TO EXT.: *Boarder between the Ramirez and Alacran Ranches.*

SOUND: Footfalls through tall grass. A light breeze blowing.

GEIST

You don't see that every day. Nice open grasslands interrupted by a chain-link fence. Especially with tracks leading directly to a side gate in said fence.

SOUND: A second set of footfalls approaching from a distance.

GUARD (from a distance)

Yo notacaria que yo entu lugar, Señor.

GEIST

I wasn't exactly planning on it, though now you've got me intrigued.

GUARD (a bit closer)

Intrigued or not, I still wouldn't touch that. You're about trespass.

GEIST

Señor Alacran, correct?

GUARD (closer)

Who is asking?

GIEST

I'm a houseguest of Señor Ramirez.

GUARD

It would be wise to stay on his land then.

GEIST

Do all of the farms in the area surround themselves with ten foot fences and armed guards?

GUARD

I can't speak for the other rancheros, Señor. But you really shouldn't touch the fence.

GEIST

You wouldn't shoot me just for leaning, would you?

GUARD

No, but the electric shock from it might make you wish I had. I figured, as a houseguest of Señor Ramirez, you deserved a warning.

GEIST

Appreciated. But you're not willing to tell me why the Señor feels the need to isolate himself so much from his neighbor?

GUARD

There has been an 'infestation.' Señor Alacran hopes to protect his crop.

GEIST

If by "infestation" you mean the chupacabras, it seems like a lot of work for something that's only started a few weeks ago. Anything less, and it's a good deal of overkill.

GUARD

I think its time for you to get back to your host, Señor.

GEIST

Maybe you're right. I've just got one more question. What's Señor Alacran growing? I can't quite make out what kind of plant that is.

GUARD

That's up to the Señor, Señor. I'm not paid to inspect his crops.

SOUND: Transition music.

ACT III

SCENE 1 – *ENTER INT.: Ramirez Ranch House Kitchen – Sinaloa, Mexico*

SOUND: Screen door opens and closes.

LINDSEY

Here you are! We've been looking everywhere for you.

AJIT (Hindu accent)

More precisely, we've followed your trail to the edge of the property and back.

GEIST

So you saw the fence?

AJIT

Affirmative.

GEIST

And did you meet the guard?

AJIT

No. We did not get close enough to draw his attention.

LINDSEY

We took the hint from the electrified fence that they didn't want visitors.

GEIST

Do you know what his crop is?

JOSE

Maze. Why?

LINDSEY

That wasn't corn out there.

GEIST

Did you two get a closer look than I did?

LINDSEY

We told you, we didn't...

GEIST

I also know that you usually carry a camera with a zoom lens and Ajit has eyes that can practically see through everything but lead.

AJIT

It wasn't corn. It was too green and too short for this time of year.

JOSE

You're right. That it doesn't sound like corn, but what does it have to do with the chupacabra?

GEIST

How many sightings have there been of the creature so far?

JOSE

We've seen its prints several times over the past few weeks. That's why I contracted your grandfather.

GEIST

But last night was the first time it's actually been seen.

JOSE

Si.

AJIT

And the people in the area know of your past with the creatures?

JOSE

My encounters are known by some, but to the majority, they are considered local myth and rumor.

LINDSEY (catching on)

But if someone's believed enough of the rumors, they might consider chupacabras as something others will believe as well. Maybe enough to scare off the locals?

GEIST

And he would have gotten away with it too, if it wasn't for those darn

AJIT

Facts.

GEIST

Exactly.

JOSE

But why would anyone want to try to scare the farmers away?

GEIST

To force land to become available for purchase, so he can spread out his fields.

LINDSEY

Not to mention to gain more power and influence.

JOSE

You keep saying “he.” You think Alacran is responsible for all of this?

GEIST

Unless you can think of someone else who’s hiding behind electric fences and stands to profit from the situation.

LINDSEY

We need to contact the DEA.

GEIST

We’re not in America. It’s not their jurisdiction.

LINDSEY

So? Like that stops them.

AJIT

I think you have seen too many movies.

GEIST

Or read too many tabloids.

LINDSEY

Or maybe the two of you haven’t seen and read enough.

JOSE

Either way, if there are chupacabras involved...

LINDSEY

I think what we’re leading to here is that there probably aren’t.

JOSE

But *if* there are, *we* need to take care of them, not have these things get out to the whole world.

GEIST

Here's what we'll do. The three of us will go over there tonight and see what we can find. If there's evidence that Alacran has been faking the chupacabra encounters, then we'll know it's safe to bring in the authorities. If not, we'll track down the creature or creatures before turning him in.

JOSE

I want to go with you.

AJIT

That would not be wise.

JOSE

Because I'm an old man?

GEIST

No, Señor. Because, if Alacran's as dangerous as I think he is, this community would be at a tremendous loss if a stray bullet caught you. You're more important as a leader than as a soldier.

JOSE

You're that sure he's guilty of something?

GEIST

It's about the only thing I am sure of on this case.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO EXT.: *Boarder between the Ramirez and Alacran Ranches.*

SOUND: Footfalls through tall grass. A light breeze blowing. Coyote baying in the distance.

GEIST

So, are the two of you ready to talk about what happened this morning yet?

LINDSEY

I really don't think that this is exactly the best time to start that conversation.

GEIST

I just figured I'd give you a chance to get things off your chest before we get started.

LINDSEY

You don't need to worry about my chest. It's doing just fine without your attention.

GEIST

It was the attention that Junior was paying that made me notice.

LINDSEY (teasing)

Jealous?

GEIST (joking)

You wish.

AJIT

They are both young. They have not learned that happiness must sometimes be sacrificed on the alter of the future.

GEIST

Geez Ajit, that's a pretty morbid outlook. I hope you both know that I'd never try to hold you back from finding happiness. It's just...

LINDSEY

It wasn't like I wanted a long-term relationship in the best of circumstances.

AJIT

I have promised to be at service to the house of Geist, but I make my own decisions on how to accomplish that.

GEIST

So we're good? No regrets?

LINDSEY

Only that we had to take the time out to talk about this. Can we get moving?

GEIST

OK. <beat> Any suggestions as to how to proceed?

AJIT

I see the power lever to the fence on the other side. If you give me a boost, I can clear the fence and open the gate from the other side.

GEIST

A boost? You can't touch the fence.

AJIT

I do not intend to.

GEIST

OK, I'll trust ya.

AJIT (under breath)

It is about time.

GEIST

Lindsey, I still think it would be better if you waited here.

LINDSEY

Like I told you at the farm, at the car, and half way here, that's not gonna happen.

GEIST

And you don't want a weapon.

LINDSEY

I'm not a big fan of things that cause bodily harm. I'll take the pictures of the crop so we have proof, but that's all I plan to shoot.

GEIST

Well, if the bullets start flying, find cover, and find it fast.

LINDSEY

Sure, that'll be a breeze in the wide-open expanse of farmland.

GEIST

Just be careful. We ready?

AJIT

Yes.

LINDSEY

Yep.

GEIST

Then let's go.

SOUND: Movement toward the fence.

GEIST

OK, Ajit. I'm set.

SOUND: Running.

GEIST

Ali...

SOUND: Jumping.

GEIST (lifting)
...Oop.

LINDSEY
Look at him go. I didn't realize he was that acrobatic.

GEIST
And he was a lot lighter than I expected. If I didn't know any better, I'd swear he could have cleared it without the lift.

LINDSEY
It was as if he was flying.

SOUND: Silence for one beat.

GEIST Nah. LINDSEY Nah.

SOUND: Fence powers down and the gate opens.

AJIT (Spanish accent)
Señor's casa, su casa.

GUARD (from a distance)
Prada! Stop!

GEIST
Let's go.

SOUND: Running.

GUARD (from a distance)
Disparelos!

SOUND: Shots begin firing.

GEIST (running)
Quick! Into the fields!

LINDSEY (running)
No, head for the barn!

SOUND: Running. More shots fired. Two yelps of pain.

LINDSEY (running)

Careful where you're shooting at!

GEIST (running)

I am! I'm shooting at limbs, not chests or heads.

LINDSEY (running)

Really?

AJIT (panting – Hindu accent)

In here. Quick.

GEIST (running)

Close the doors.

SOUND: Barn doors close as running stops. Three bullets hit barn, then shots stop.

AJIT (recovering)

That will not hold them for very long.

LINDSEY (panting)

I'm beginning to think we should have put a little more thought into this plan.

GEIST (panting)

Ya think? Are you giving second thoughts to carrying a gun too?

LINDSEY (panting)

A little, yeah. But only if I knew how to use it.

SOUND: Footsteps cross room.

GEIST (panting)

If we get through this, I'll give you lessons.

SOUND: Stall door opens.

LINDSEY (recovering)

What do we do now?

AJIT

Come over here. You should see this.

SOUND: Two sets of footsteps across the room.

LINDSEY

Are those what I think it they are?

GEIST

They look like opium pods. That's what he's hiding.

LINDSEY

I was thinking he was growing marijuana plants. I wasn't expecting *this*.

AJIT

Actually, I was referring to this, inside the stall.

LINDSEY

It looks like a Godzilla costume.

GEIST

I think we've found our chupacabra.

ALACRAN (from outside)

You! In the barn! Surrender now or we'll burn you out!

LINDSEY

I doubt it, as you have a fortune in opium in here!

ALACRAN (from outside)

It's unfortunate that you've found it, Seniorita Capparelli. It seems American society is going to be short uno playboy after tonight.

SOUND: Trucks begin approaching from a distance.

LINDSEY (nervous)

Yeah, well, you've got a couple of guys out there with permanent limps who'll tell you that won't be as easy as it sounds.

SOUND: Trucks get closer.

ALACRAN (from outside)

He may have taken down two of my men, but there's still...

SOUND: Trucks screech to a stop and a door opens.

JOSE (from outside)

Leave those kids alone, Alacran! Drop your weapons and surrender!

GEIST

Jose?

JOSE (from outside)

You're the ones who are outnumbered now, and the policía are on their way. Your operation is officially out of business!

AJIT

It appears as though Señor Ramirez chose to disobey your suggestion.

GEIST

Yeah, and I'll have to remember to thank him for it.

SOUND: Transition music.

EPILOGUE

SCENE 1 – *ENTER INT.: Ramirez Ranch House – Sinaloa, Mexico*

SOUND: Kitchen noises of food being prepared.

JOSE

So he was using the legend of the chupacabra to try to scare us off so he could buy our land and expand his opium fields.

AJIT

And if he had been successful, he could have become one of the most powerful drug lords in the country.

GEIST

But he didn't count on Señor Ramirez having previous experience in dealing with the creatures and being willing to put up a fight.

LINDSEY

I'm just glad you didn't listen to Mr. "take charge" here and stay behind.

GEIST

So say we all.

JOSE

No, Derrick was right. The day of me charging the front lines are over, but that doesn't mean I can't be a leader of the community and deal with the situation with the help of my neighbors.

AJIT (under his breath)

It still looked like he was charging the front line, not that I'll complain.

GEIST

As much as I appreciate the save, though, we really should get going.

JOSE

Nonsense. You must stay at least one more night so we can celebrate our success.

LINDSEY

You pretty much find any reason to throw a party, don't you?

JOSE

Si, though I'm afraid my great-grandchildren have decided to pass on the celebration.

LINDSEY

Can't say I'm surprised.

AJIT

I'm not surprised.

GEIST

Which is another reason....

SOUND: Stylized phone ring. Phone is answered.

GEIST

Hi Grandpa. What's up?

HEINRICH

How are things going, my boy?

GEIST

We found out what's really going on here, and we're talking about heading out in the morning.

HEINRICH

So it wasn't a resurgence of chupacabras?

GEIST

No. Just a major drug dealer trying to do a land grab.

HEINRICH

Oh. That happens too. So where are you off to now?

GEIST

Probably Egypt. We found a hieroglyph in Paris that we're going to follow up on.

HEINRICH

A hieroglyph? That's new.

GEIST

It was written in invisible ink, but we got a picture of it in ultraviolet.

HEINRICH

Really? So perhaps it was helpful having Ms. Capparelli with you?

GEIST

Don't push it, Grandpa.

HEINRICH

Could you send us a copy of it? I'd like to take a look at it.

GEIST

Sure thing, Grandpa, but I need to get moving. Jose wants to feed us again.

HEINRICH

He does that. Give him my regards, Derrick, and I'll talk to you soon.

GEIST

OK, Grandpa. Goodbye.

CUT: Ending music and credits.

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