

RAGE

Strong emotions can become a storm.

Written by

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EXT. INDOOR GARDEN - DAY

Two yellow butterflies on a lilac flower, standing completely still. Behind, a green garden, the lawn, the rows of plants cut with precision.

Yelling of a grown man can be heard in the distance.

We can't understand the words, but because of the tone and volume, we can feel the violence, the anger, the rage.

The shadow of a child appears on the plants, on the lilac flower the little one's hand stretches out to reach.

And grabs one of the butterflies, presses it hard into the palm of his hand, tearing it apart.

The other butterfly moves abruptly, takes flight, flapping its wings to the--

SKY

The butterfly travels through the air, gets caught in a whirlwind of dry leaves, the wind lifts the butterfly, which struggles to escape the turbulence.

The leaves rise higher and higher into the clouds.

A flash of lightning pierces the clouds, thunder follows soon after. The first drop of rain falls from the heights, others follow.

The rain comes down and we follow it through the gray sky and back to the ground.

To the

CITY STREET

Where a red Jeep is overturned on the asphalt, pieces of glass, metal and plastic scattered around. Smoke still billowing from the hood.

Near the rear window, a book lying on the floor, getting wet in the rain. The title of the book---

"IN THE TIME OF BUTTERFLIES."

CUT TO:

INT. MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Sergio (37) sitting in silence at the center of the frame, with a group of people sitting in a circle around him and talking.

EX SOLDIER

I still see them in the night...
The things we did.

EX SOLDIER II

Not this again.

MODERATOR

Let him finish.

We slowly approach Sergio, his eyes on the floor, people continue talking.

EX SOLDIER II

We already know what he's gonna
say. Look, it was us or them, okay?

MODERATOR

Please...

EX SOLDIER

No, it's fine. Listen, I used to
think like that. Us or them... war,
right?

EX SOLDIER II

Exactly!

EX SOLDIER

No man, you're wrong. This thing...
this anger... I feel like I've had
it all my life.

We reach a close-up of Sergio, he has not blinked once.

CUT TO:

INT. SERGIO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The time on the table clock is 6:00 a.m. Sergio, dressed in uniform, keeps things scattered on the bed, puts them inside his bag.

VIVIANA

I don't want you to go.

Lying on the bed, VIVIANA (34), dressed in a black top and panties.

SERGIO
C'mon Vivi.

 VIVIANA
What can I do to make you stay?

Viviana moves her body in a sensual way.

 SERGIO
Oh, you know what you can do.

 VIVIANA
Come here, soldier.

Sergio leaves the things and approaches Viviana, kissing her tenderly.

 SERGIO
I'm gonna be fine, promise.

 VIVIANA
I'm not gonna wait for you forever,
you know?

 SERGIO
What does that mean?

Sergio moves away from Viviana.

 VIVIANA
Nothing, I just don't know how long
is gonna take...

 SERGIO
Great Vivi, that's all I need right
now.

Sergio returns to the bag and puts the last of his things in it, tossing them in.

He looks in before closing, stops. He takes out a book from inside the bag.

 SERGIO
And this?

 VIVIANA
It's my favorite.

 SERGIO
So?

 VIVIANA
So I'm giving it to you, dick.

Sergio smiles, puts the book back in the bag, closes it.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR INTERIOR - DAY

Sergio chews a piece of the hamburger he holds in his hands, wipes his mouth with his napkin. Then he puts the hamburger on the seat and picks up a notebook.

In the notebook are written phone numbers, some are crossed out. Sergio dials the phone number and waits for the call to connect.

Someone answers the call.

UNKNOWN

Yes?

SERGIO

Hello, is this William Taylor?

WILLIAM

Yes, who am I talking to?

SERGIO

I'm detective Garcia from the FBI.

WILLIAM

FBI? Did something happened?

SERGIO

That depends sir, were you in Austin, Texas in 1984?

WILLIAM

Austin... That was a long time ago.

SERGIO

So you were?

WILLIAM

Excuse me, do you have any kind of identification?

Sergio does not respond.

WILLIAM

Hello?

Sergio cuts the call, scratches his chin with his hand. Then he leaves the phone on the seat, starts the car's engine and drives off.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE THE VILLA IN THE DESERT - EVENING

A group of five military operatives observe the village from a distance. One of them pulls out a map, covered in plastic, and unfolds it. Another operative shines a flashlight on the map.

OPERATIVE I
(pointing on map)
Okay, we have confirmation that the target is in the third house on the right.

Operative I closes the map and secures it.

OPERATIVE I
We go in, we go fast, ready?

Operative I looks up, finds Sergio smiling, he is the soldier with the flashlight, he turns it off.

The military operatives scatter around the village, they all walk to converge at the pointed house.

Sergio and two other operatives are the first to arrive.

SERGIO
(over radio)
I' m in position.

OPERATIVE I
Confirmed, engage target.

Sergio turns off the radio, looks at the two operatives next to him, nods to them. The operatives point toward the door. Sergio takes a couple of steps back.

BAM!

Sergio kicks the door hard, breaking it.

The three enter the interior of the---

HOUSE

Where they find a family of five sleeping on the floor.

The father of the family is the first to get up, the rest immediately move behind him, leaning against the wall.

FATHER
Lays ladayna 'aslihatun!

OPERATIVE II

Shut up!

Operative II hits the father in the head with the rifle, knocks him down. The rest of the family scream out frightened Arabic words.

SERGIO

Are you Dalal al Mujrabi?

The father writhes on the floor in pain.

SERGIO

Are you...

To the operatives.

SERGIO

Get him off the floor.

OPERATIVE III

(joking)

I think you killed him.

The two operatives bend down to pick up the father from the ground, lifting him forcefully.

SERGIO

Sir, are you Dalal al Mujrabi?

The father spits on Sergio's face.

SERGIO

Ohh, is that so.

Suddenly!

Operative I and Operative IV arrive at the entrance of the house.

OPERATIVE I

Listen, guys. We got the wrong house.

SERGIO

No shit.

As Sergio looks up, Operative II and IV are gunned down from outside.

SERGIO

Go! Go!

Operative II and III let go of the father and run to the door of the house, they start shooting outside.

OPERATIVE III

There's too many of them!

The father falls to the ground again, Sergio throws himself on top of him.

SERGIO

You wanna fuck with me!

Sergio starts to beat the father savagely, again and again he hits him with his fists, hard, blood spraying on the floor.

OPERATIVE II

What'da fuck are you doing! We have to...

Operative II falls dead on the floor from a shoot wound

AMIN (17), the son of the Father, throws himself against Sergio, tries to stop him. Sergio takes him off easily, pushing him against the wall.

Sergio stands up, chest broadening, looks menacingly at Amin.

A series of bullets pierce the chest of Operative III.

A group of Arab rebels enter the house---

SERGIO

You see this?

Sergio points at the U.S. flag on his uniform. The arabs take Sergio by the arms and push him towards the exit.

SERGIO

Any time you want, bitch!

Sergio keeps looking at Amin as he is dragged out.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE WILLIAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Sergio's car stops on the front sidewalk. Sergio looks toward the house while lighting a cigarette.

Suddenly, a red Jeep pulls up outside William's house, after a few moments, the Jeep moves to the next house and parks.

Suddenly, from the backyard of the house, Amy (17) moves stealthily towards the street, as she passes the window, she looks inside before continuing to move.

Intrigued, Sergio stares.

Farther away from the house, Amy runs to the red Jeep and climbs in, to the sound of youthful shouts and laughter.

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE HIDEOUT OF THE REBELS - DAY

On the floor, two Arab girls go through Sergio's uniform and belongings, among the clothes they find a book "In the time of butterflies".

An Arab rebel approaches them.

ARAB REBEL
Khudh hadhih al'ashya' 'iilaa
alkharij.

The girls pick up the clothes and things from the floor and together they carry everything out of the cave.

The rebellious Arab walks inside, where he finds Sergio, unconscious, naked and tied hand and foot to the chair, illuminated by two spotlights.

Three other rebels hang a green curtain in the background. Another rebel readies the video camera, positioning it on the tripod.

Sergio looks badly beaten.

The Arab rebel covers his face with a hood, stands next to Sergio, the camera turns on.

ARAB REBEL
'uqadim lakum hadha alkhinzir
aljahil , laqad ja' 'iilaa 'ardina
, waghtasab nisayina , waqatl
'iikhwanuna ...

(I present to you this
ignorant pig, he has
come to our land, he has
raped our women, he has
killed our brothers....)

Sergio opens his eyes slowly, notices the lights around him.

ARAB REBEL

yaqul 'iinah muharir , lakinah
yatasaraf mithl alshaytan ,
wayudamir kula shay' fi tariqihi.

(He says he is a
liberator, but he
behaves like a demon,
destroying everything in
his path.)

When Sergio regains consciousness he moves effusively,
trying to get loose without success.

ARAB REBEL

Naqul , la 'akthara. daeawna
nuaqifuhum maratan wahidatan
wa'iilaa al'abad.

(We say, no more. Let's
stop them once and for
all!)

As the Arab rebel finishes saying these words, a loud
explosion is heard from outside the cavern.

The Arabs stand still, all facing the cave entrance. Sergio
is the only one who continues to move, still trying to free
himself from his restraints.

Bang!

A smoke bomb explodes behind the camera, the place fills
with smoke.

The Arabs try to react, but are quickly shot down by a hail
of bullets.

Blood and pieces of flesh jump out and splatter the curtain
behind, filled with bullet holes the rebel Arab falls on the
camera.

Sergio remains still in his chair, trembling at the din of
gunfire. The shooting stops

CUT TO:

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - DAY

The door of the house bursts open because of the kick,
Sergio enters the living room, where he finds William
sitting on the couch watching TV.

WILLIAM

Hey! what the fuck are you...

William stops when he sees Sergio's face, he recognizes him.

WILLIAM
You are...

SERGIO
Oh, so you remember me, father.

WILLIAM
Sergio...

SERGIO
We have something to talk about you
and I.

William steps back.

WILLIAM
Wait, what are you going to do? My
daughter is in her room.

SERGIO
Oh, is here now.

WILLIAM
What do you mean?

SERGIO
Things haven't change that much
with you I see.

WILLIAM
Sergio... I...

Before William can finish speaking, Sergio throws a fist at him, knocking him down on the couch.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY SHOPPING STREET - DAY

Amy walks down the sidewalk with her two friends, laughing as they look at the new clothing displays.

They stop next to a street vendor who has put things for sale on a blanket on the floor.

Amy stops when she sees a book among the things the street vendor has on display.

AMY
Hey, I know this book.

AMY'S FRIEND

A book? C'mon Amy, we are gonna be late.

AMY

Just a minute, please?

Amy bends down to pick up the book from the sheet.

AMY

How much?

Amy looks up at the salesman, it's Amin.

AMIN

Good book, really nice. ten dollars

AMY

Okay, let me see.

Amy reaches inside her small purse, pulls out the money and hands it to Amin with a smile. Amin receives the money and smiles back.

AMY'S FRIEND

Amy! C'mon!

Amy's friends call out to her from inside the red Jeep.

AMY

I'm going, I'm going.

Amy looks at the book one more time, a raindrop falls on the cover.

CUT TO:

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - DAY

William sitting on the couch, bleeding from the mouth.
Sergio standing in front of him.

SERGIO

Remember now, father?

WILLIAM

Listen Sergio...

SERGIO

No, no. Things are not like that anymore. I've heard you many times, nothing good came out of it.

WILLIAM
I don't know what you remember...

SERGIO
The beatings? The torment? You mean that, right?

WILLIAM
No Sergio, I was just trying to...

SERGIO
To what? Please, I wanna hear this.

William doesn't respond.

SERGIO
Get up.

WILLIAM
Sergio...

SERGIO
Get up!

William gets up from the couch, Sergio pushes him back to the couch.

SERGIO
Get up.

William lowers his head, stares at the floor.

SERGIO
Get up old man! Now!

William gets up again.

SERGIO
Hit me.

WILLIAM
What?

SERGIO
Hit me!

WILLIAM
No sergio...

SERGIO
Hit me! Now!

William keeps his head down, however, at the last moment he feints to raise his fist.

Sergio moves quickly and grabs him by the neck, stopping him.

He raises his fist to hit him.

Stops.

They both stare at each other, eyes enraged, breathing agitated.

 SERGIO
 I'm better than you.

 WILLIAM
 What?

 SERGIO
 I'm better than you.

Sergio lets go of William's collar, walks towards the exit in silence, and leaves, walks---

OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

Where he lifts his head to receive the raindrops on his face, relaxing.

Sergio smiles at the sky, walks to the car, gets in and drives away.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The rain intensifies on the windshield of the car.

Sergio's car stops in front of other vehicles stopped on the street, ahead he can see a group of people, talking between the cars.

Sergio gets out of the car, closes the door and walks towards the people, ahead of them.

In the middle of the street, upside down, is the red Jeep.

Sergio can see the bodies of the victims, three women. He can see Amy's body partially on the ground, crushed from the waist up by the heavy body of the Jeep.

People mutter words that cannot be understood.

Sergio approaches the Jeep and finds the book on the asphalt, soaking in the rain.

FADE TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE VIVIANA'S HOUSE - DAY

The book, bruised because of the water, is in Viviana's hands, standing at the entrance of her house.

She looks serious.

VIVIANA
How long have you been back?

SERGIO
Two years.

VIVIANA
Two years, huh?

SERGIO
Yeah, sorry, I had to deal with
some stuff.

Viviana looks away, she bites her lips, not hiding the hurt.

VIVIANA
I was waiting.

SERGIO
Hey, you said you weren't gonna...

Viviana looks pissed.

SERGIO
Sorry, sorry, just joking.

VIVIANA
You read it?

SERGIO
Vivi, we have a lot to talk about
that book.

Vivi nods, she sighs.

VIVIANA
Okay, I can do that.

SERGIO
It's the only thing I'm asking.

Viviana looks at Sergio's eyes.

She smiles.

Suddenly

A loud explosion is heard.

Sergio looks to the end of the street, towards the center of the city.

Between the buildings in the distance, he can see a column of smoke rising into the sky.

VIVIANA

What happened?

A fire truck speeds down the street, blasting the sound with its horn.

People come out of their homes to look toward the explosion.

A friend of Viviana's runs by at the end of the street.

FRIEND OF VIVIANA

Did you hear? there was a terrorist
attack downtown!

More sirens and alarms go off, Sergio keeps his eyes fixed on the smoke.

FADE OUT.