

PREY

by Isa Mari De Leon

10*-Page Comic Script

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PAGE ONE – FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide, narrow, over black.

1. SNAKE: I fell in love with our world.

PANEL TWO

In a forest, morningtime. THE SNAKE slithers upon grass, sunlight dappling over its scales.

PANEL THREE

The Snake happens upon a nest of eggs on a tree branch—heavenly, backlit by the sun.

PANEL FOUR

Close on The Snake’s face: serene, somehow sad.

PANEL FIVE

Wide again, narrow, black.

1. SNAKE: And destroyed it all.

PAGE TWO – ? PANELS

(Or try no panels--a collage of imagery, The Snake’s lifetime of destruction.)

PANEL ONE

The Snake, in the midst of crushing the tree branch where the nest laid; the wood splinters as The Snake rushes toward us, the viewers.

PANEL TWO

Its mouth opens.

PANEL THREE

Its mouth clamps around a bird egg.

PAGE THREE – FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

A butterfly lands on the Snake’s head.

1. SNAKE: I have lived a lifetime of hunger.

PANEL TWO

Close-up on its eyes, glimmering with the reflection of the butterfly.

1. SNAKE: Of ruin.

PANEL THREE

Close on the Snake still, butterfly wings crushed in its mouth.

1. SNAKE: Of regret.

PANEL FOUR

Wide, narrow. Over black or negative space, simulating the Snake's silhouette and overhanging leaves:

1. SNAKE: Which is why I ask, please...

PANEL FIVE

Top-down view; the Snake circles a small creature, unseen at this distance.

PAGE FOUR – FOUR PANELS

PANEL ONE

Closer on the creature—a small, injured BIRD—with part of The Snake's body obscuring it.

1. SNAKE: Let...

PANEL TWO

Closer still on the Bird, tense, blood on the wing:

1. SNAKE: ...me...

PANEL THREE

A full view of the bird, grounded on the forest floor:

1. SNAKE: ...devour...

PANEL FOUR

The snake's reflection shines in the bird's dark, terrified eyes.

1. SNAKE: ...you.

PAGE FIVE– FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

The Snake meets the Bird's eyes.

1. SNAKE: I wish to eat without pain. Without remorse.

PANEL TWO

The Snake's tongue flares out.

1. SNAKE: It would be a **mercy**.

PANEL THREE

The Snake looks to the Bird's injury...

PANEL FOUR

...and its vision goes red with hunger.

PANEL FIVE

Closer on the Snake, the Bird's reflection in its hungry eyes.

1. SNAKE: How were you hurt, little bird?

PAGE SIX – FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

The Bird curls in on itself, trying to hide in its feathers.

1. BIRD: I—I always have been. Hurt.

PANEL TWO

A memory: the Bird cracks out of its shell at birth.

1. BIRD: Born the smallest. The w-weakest.

PANEL THREE

Tall panel; we see through the eyes of the Bird, falling down the length of a tree.

1. BIRD: Dropped from the nest, out of **mercy...**

PANEL FOUR

The Bird lies on a bed of leaves, fallen, its eyes closed.

PANEL FIVE

Then its eyes open.

1. BIRD: But I survived.

PAGE SEVEN – FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Back to the Bird speaking to the Snake.

1. BIRD: I would like to live.

PANEL TWO

The Bird looks down, shyly.

1. BIRD: I have, up t-til now.

PANEL THREE

Wide, large. Use the same framing from Page 2 of the Snake's memories. Apply it here to the Bird, a collage: standing on a tree branch, flying, singing, caught in a net, its wing broken, etc.

1. BIRD: Not perfectly. Broken m-most of the time...

2. BIRD: But it's a miracle I m-made it this far.

PANEL FOUR

The Snake considers, raising its head, itself doused with red in hunger-vision...

PANEL FIVE

Then the red abates, and the Snake seems to be almost smiling.

1. SNAKE: I thought it a miracle to have found you.

PAGE EIGHT – * PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide: the Snake, in the midst of shedding its skin.

1. SNAKE: I am slowly starving, you see. I am dying.

PANEL TWO

The Snake slithers, circling around the Bird.

1. SNAKE: I have fasted,

PANEL THREE

The Snake lies in the grass, before the Bird, humbled.

1. SNAKE: in search of the perfect prey.

PANEL FOUR

Wide: the Snake's old skin lies empty on the forest floor.

1. SNAKE: But perhaps it is more miraculous to let you go.

PANEL FIVE

The Snake speaks to the Bird, eye to eye.

1. SNAKE: Go on, little bird. Live.

2. SNAKE: I will not give chase.

PAGE NINE - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

The Bird faces us, looking shocked.

PANEL TWO

Then it looks shyly happy.

PANEL THREE

1. BIRD: Th-thank you!

PANEL FOUR:

It turns, hobbling away down the clearing.

PANEL FIVE:

As it gets further, the Snake's hungered vision sets in—surreal, dark, intense. The Snake's thoughts litter the panel:

- DO NOT CHASE
- KILL IT
- EAT IT
- CONSUME CONSUME CONSUME
- LET IT BE
- GIVE IN TO INSTINCT

PANEL SIX:

The Bird is gone, but the hunger remains.

PAGE TEN - * PANELS

PANEL ONE

The Snake curls around itself in the clearing.

PANEL TWO

It sees its own body, its long tail. Its eyes seem sad.

PANEL THREE

It opens its mouth...

PANEL FOUR

And begins to devour itself.

PAGE ELEVEN - * PANELS

PANEL ONE

The Snake's hunger abates as its mouth is wrapped around itself; the intense coloration fades.

1. SNAKE
(THOUGHTS): Without pain. Without remorse.

PANEL TWO

The hunger-vision is entirely gone; the coloration returns to normal

PANEL THREE

The ouroboric snake lies dead in the middle of the clearing. All is peaceful.