

KEEPERS  
"TIGER QUEEN"

Written by

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EXT. ZOO CAT COMPOUND - NOON

The hunched QUINCEY walks with a forced grin in front of a crowd of families, her wrinkled work clothes looking likely dirtied. She stops in front of the tiger cage and looks to the crowd.

QUINCEY

Here, we have the common Panthera  
tigris tigris, or as we usually  
call them, tigers.

(enthusiastic)

Also known as the royal tiger.

KIDS run to the glass and gaze at the tigers pacing within their contained environment.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)

This endangered apex is the largest  
of the cats, originating from  
mainland Asia...

(sigh)

Where it would thrive best instead  
of in a cage like this, where they  
cannot fully be the hunters they  
are, and be free.

BOY

(pointing)

Why isn't that one moving?

Quincey looks through the glass at a tiger, HELEN lying on its side in a corner.

QUINCEY

Yeah, she's seemed sick for a  
couple days. She probably misses  
its home, and we shouldn't even be  
having these animals in these  
cages.

Pale faced coworker LYLA steps from behind the crowd, tossing her black hair from her face as she steps towards Quincey.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)

The only reason the mayor chooses  
to--

LYLA

Hey everyone.

Lyra gives an enthusiastic stance to the crowd and wraps her arm around Quincey.

LYLA (CONT'D)  
I'm so sorry, but I must steal our  
amazing guide. Important zoo  
business.

Lyla looks at Quincey.

LYLA (CONT'D)  
Arin wants you.

QUINCEY  
Right.

LYLA  
Yes, thank goodness.

Quincey smiles at the crowd.

QUINCEY  
Please enjoy the rest of the zoo.

Quincey and Lyla scurry away from the crowd.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
AKA the death trap.

LYLA  
Yeah, we can't really spend company  
time on trying to convert customers  
to radical activists.

QUINCEY  
It's not radical.

LYLA  
Well, you have to stick to the  
basics.

Quincey and Lyla walk through the zoo as they head to the  
offices.

INT. SNAKE AUDITORIUM

QUINCEY  
It's probably important that people  
learn about this.

LYLA  
Yeah, but like, some people don't  
want to really hear that,  
especially when they're just hear  
to distract their kids.

QUINCEY  
What's Arin want?

LYLA  
Um, I didn't ask. Was too happy to  
rush over to see you instead of  
cleaning out the penguins pit.

QUINCEY  
I was going to do that.

LYLA  
Yeah, I know...just Arin is having  
everyone running around since we  
have someone coming.

Lyla smiles and nods to passing guests.

EXT. CHIMPANZEE EXHIBIT

LYLA  
So, I was thinking maybe  
tonight...I can come over cook for  
you.

Quincey sighs and immediately pushes a smile onto her face as  
she waves at a guest.

QUINCEY  
Remember, I said I wasn't ready for  
you to come over yet.

LYLA  
It's been six months though. You've  
only been to my place.

QUINCEY  
I like your place.

LYLA  
I know, but don't you think I  
should come over once.

QUINCEY  
I don't really like people staying  
over.

EXT. GOAT ENCLOSURE

Two young boys reach through the cage with pizza in their  
hand.

QUINCEY  
Hey, don't give them that!

Quincey shakes her head in disappointment.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
Can you believe that, and where are  
the parents-

LYLA  
Q.

Lyla jumps in front of Quincey, stopping her.

LYLA (CONT'D)  
(grinning)  
I'm coming over tonight, and I'm  
cooking for you.

Quincey stares at Lyla with a thinking face.

CUT TO:

INT. ZOO FRONT LOBBY

AGENTS are gathered at the entrance speaking with other  
employees. ARIN and the MAYOR stand outside the office.

Quincey and Lyla slow their pace, taking in this seemingly  
stressed social environment.

ARIN  
Yeah, I think it's been about ten  
years, so I figured maybe it's time  
I moved on you know.

The mayor nods, clearly hoping to escape the conversation.

ARIN (CONT'D)  
How old is your kid?

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Fifteen.

The mayor notices Lyla and Quincey eyeing everyone.

ARIN  
Is his dad still around much-

MAYOR HIGGINS  
(points)  
Them.

Lyla and Quincey stare dumbfoundedly at the mayor.

MAYOR HIGGINS (CONT'D)  
We haven't talked to them yet.

ARIN  
Oh, Q, finally. This, is the mayor.

QUINCEY  
I know who she is.

ARIN  
Yeah, she's here about the...  
missing panda.

Quincey and the mayor lock eyes.

LYLA  
Wow, didn't think it was that  
important.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Normally it wouldn't be.

The mayor walks to Quincey and Lyla.

MAYOR HIGGINS (CONT'D)  
But as you know, panda's are  
endangered, and technically, China  
owns the pandas.

QUINCEY  
People don't own animals.

Arin gives a confused look. The mayor remains straight faced.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Well China does. And well, we  
already had an issue renewing our  
contract with them, but now they  
would like to know what happened to  
their property.

ARIN  
They just want to interview all the  
employees.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
And guests that were present the  
day it went missing.

ARIN  
Yes, of course.

Arin looks at Lyla and Quincey.

ARIN (CONT'D)  
So, I'm going to take you each into  
my office and ask some-

MAYOR HIGGINS  
I will be doing the interrogation.

ARIN  
Uh, misses mayor.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Miss...Higgins.

ARIN  
(smirks)  
Oh. Miss.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
You too.

Arin's smile disappears.

ARIN  
I'm sorry.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
How do I know you didn't take the  
bear?

ARIN  
I would never.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
I'll be speaking with all three of  
you.

Quincey and Lyla look at one another.

MAYOR HIGGINS (CONT'D)  
Starting with you.

Mayor Higgins points at Quincey and walks into the office.

Quincey looks at Lyla then to Arin. Arin gestures her to  
hurry in. Quincey looks at the door.

INT. ARIN'S OFFICE - QUINCEY INTERROGATION

Quincey sits on a small folding chair facing the front of the  
desk. Mayor Higgins sits on the desk and gazes at Quincey.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Where you from Quincey...

QUINCEY  
Johnson.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Where are you from?

INTERCUT WITH LYLA INTERROGATION

LYLA  
Austin, but went to school here and  
stayed ever since.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
What'd you go for?

LYLA  
Well, I'm an arts scholar.

INTERCUT WITH ARIN INTERROGATION

ARIN  
Are we seriously doing this?

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Yes.

Mayor Higgins is holding a clipboard and penning onto the  
paper.

MAYOR HIGGINS (CONT'D)  
How long have you been here?

ARIN  
(wincing in thought)  
I don't know, maybe five, six  
years.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
How do you feel about China?

QUINCEY  
What?

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Where were you the night before the  
panda went missing?



LYLA

I was with Quincey. We went to the movies and got ice cream.

MAYOR HIGGINS

What'd you watch?

QUINCEY

Chinatown. It was a theater that plays oldies.

MAYOR HIGGINS

How much do you know about pandas?

ARIN

They're black and white, and eat veggies.

QUINCEY

You know pandas are still considered carnivores. They still contain the bacteria in their stomach to break down meat, so if they wanted, they could eat...flesh.

LYLA

After the movies, we went to the ice shop off Main, by the diner.

MAYOR HIGGINS

Were you two together the whole night?

QUINCEY

I dropped her off at her place around eleven. Went straight home after.

MAYOR HIGGINS

You didn't talk to anyone else when you got home?

ARIN

No. My roommate was sleep. I was there the following morning though, he and his girlfriend can attest.

LYLA

She texted me when she got home.

MAYOR HIGGINS

Do you know if she went anywhere afterwards.

QUINCEY

Not that I'm aware of. I just went back to my place.

MAYOR HIGGINS

You live alone?

QUINCEY

Yeah. My parents left me their house after they retired and moved to Florida.

MAYOR HIGGINS

Is there any motive for any of the workers to take the panda?

LYLA

(chuckles)

What? No. That sounds stupid.

MAYOR HIGGINS

Yet, it's gone.

ARIN

I have at least five people close up each night, so I'd have to look and see who was there.

MAYOR HIGGINS

How soon can you get me that list?

CUT TO:

INT. ZOO FRONT LOBBY

Quincey sits on a bench against the wall, across from the door to Arin's office. She stares through the glass door at the mayor grinning as Lyla sits on the uncomfortable folding chair.

ARIN

Hey, Quincey.

Arin is now standing over Quincey. Quincey looks up at Arin, her mouth slightly gaped open.

ARIN (CONT'D)

When we close up, get that sick tiger out, take it to Zaine.

Quincey looks back into the office then to Arin.

QUINCEY

Helen.

ARIN

Yeah. Why'd we name her that again?

QUINCEY

Wait that? I...I've been here all day.

ARIN

Yeah, but you know what you're doing.

Quincey looks around.

QUINCEY

I can't. Get Joshua to do it.

ARIN

Josh pulled his Achilles skateboarding?

QUINCEY

That doesn't sound real.

ARIN

Well, it is, and the tigers might see he's weak.

QUINCEY

He'll be fine.

ARIN

He left already, so.

Arin shrugs at Quincey.

ARIN (CONT'D)

Get the tranq, take the tigers down, you and Zaine get the tiger.

Arin walks away.

ARIN (CONT'D)

Don't get bit this time.

CUT TO:

INT. ZOO CAT COMPOUND - EVENING

ARIN (O.S.)

(over intercom)

It is now six o'clock, and the zoo is now closed. Please head to the exit, and have a wonderful rest of your day. We hope to see you again soon.

The tigers pace around their confined area.

Quincey slowly peaks from out a door hidden behind an artificial stone wall. The introverted veterinarian ZAINE, with their long blonde hair and pierced nose, is able to peak their head over Quincey's shoulder, gazing wide-eyed at the tigers.

ZAINE

(whispering)

Remember, be slow, just one hit per tiger. Shouldn't take more than a minute.

QUINCEY

I've done this before, Zaine.

ZAINE

(whispering)

Well, just gotta make sure I know I said it, in case something happens.

QUINCEY

Great safety brief.

Quincey slowly steps into the compound, tranquilizer in hand. She turns and notices Zaine standing still.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)

You coming?

ZAINE

(low voice)

I'll wait till you get them sleeping.

QUINCEY

Why are you whispering?

ZAINE

I don't want them to know we're here.

QUINCEY  
They're not dumb.

Quincey notices TIGER 3 getting close. She raises her free hand towards it.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
No, Petre, no.

Quincey and TIGER 3 eye each other for a moment.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
Go.

Tiger 3 growls at Quincey. Zaine is terrified.

Tiger 3 turns and walks away.

Quincey looks around at the other tigers then focuses on Helen.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
I'm coming baby.

Quincey looks at the other tigers again. Her shoulders relax. She slowly squats down and rests the tranquilizer on the floor.

ZAINE  
(whisper)  
What are you doing?

Zaine is wide-eyed.

QUINCEY  
I got this.

Quincey leaves the tranquilizer and walks towards Helen, looking at the other tigers.

Lyla walks by, she pulls the cable to the earpiece to her mouth and speaks into the mic.

LYLA  
(walkie to mouth)  
Hey, how's it going with the tiger?

Zaine pulls the mic to his cabled earpiece to his mouth, lips now chapped.

ZAINE  
Uh, it's going.

Lyla pauses, processing what she is seeing. She looks at Helen then at Quincey.

LYLA  
Quin, where's the tranq?

Lyla spots Zaine at the back of the compound, pointing at the tranquilizer on the floor.

Lyla's eyes widen.

LYLA (CONT'D)  
Q, what the fuck are you doing?

Quincey checks on the other tigers, all pacing and watching.

LYLA (CONT'D)  
Zaine, get Quincey.

ZAINE  
I don't know if that's ideal.

LYLA  
You're a vet.

ZAINE  
Yeah, but I usually treat them when there's just one...and they're sedated.

Quincey looks through the glass at Lyla.

QUINCEY  
Can you guys keep it down.

LYLA  
No, get the tranq. What are you doing?

QUINCEY  
They recognize me. We don't have to hurt 'em.

LYLA  
Quincey...

Quincey pulls his earpiece from his ear.

Lyla stares, mouth open.

Quincey takes a deep inhale.

Lyla runs off.

Quincey starts side-stepping to Helen. TIGER 2 shows up between them. Quincey stops.

Zaine grips the door.

ZAINE  
Q, maybe you should come back.

Quincey raises her arms.

QUINCEY  
Hey there...uh, Caesar. No worries.

The two lock eyes for a moment.

Tiger 2 growls and paces to the side.

Zaine sighs.

Quincey gets close enough to Helen and hurries to her side.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
Hey there, baby.

Helen gives a loud purr. Quincey rubs the tigers body.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
It's going to be okay.

Zaine smiles, relieved.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
Zaine, it's okay. Bring the cart over and let's get her on.

Zaine steps into the compound and pulls a cart.

Tiger 2 returns, growling at Quincey. Zaine freezes.

Quincey jumps to her feet and faces tiger 2.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
Caesar, no.

Zaine takes a single step backwards.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
Caesar, go sit down.

Quincey confidently steps towards tiger 2 and points across the compound.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
Get out of here-

Tiger 2 swings and catches Quincey's arm. Zaine is startled and falls back.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)

Shit.

Tiger 2 roars. Quincey takes a couple steps back, holding her arm and eyeing the tiger. Tiger 2 takes one step forward.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)

Caesar.

Tiger 2 roars again. A tranq dart hits Tiger 2's side. Then another. Tiger 2 turns and roars.

Arin is in the compound, tranquilizer aimed at tiger 2. Arin aims and shoots tiger 3 that was on the other side with tiger 4. Arin gives another shot to each tiger, including tiger 2.

Tiger 2 runs off to a corner. Quincey is stuck in place, taking shallow breaths, looking at Arin.

ARIN

Zaine.

Arin turns to Quincey.

ARIN (CONT'D)

Get the cart.

CUT TO:

INT. ARIN'S OFFICE

ARIN

I need you to get the fuck out of my zoo.

Arin paces behind his desk, frustrated, running his fingers through his hair. Quincey stands on the other side of the desk, feet planted, her head following Arin's movements.

QUINCEY

You can't fire me.

ARIN

Yes I can. You put yourself in danger, you didn't listen when people were telling you to get out.

QUINCEY

Lyla isn't my boss.



ARIN  
(pointing at Quincey)  
You know the rules.

QUINCEY  
I handled it.

ARIN  
You ain't handle shit.

QUINCEY  
I knew what I was doing.

ARIN  
If I hadn't showed up.

QUINCEY  
The tigers were just testing me.  
You just need-

ARIN  
You don't know what could've  
happened. If Lyla hadn't come.

QUINCEY  
(confused)  
Lyla told you?

Arin leans on his desk and looks down.

ARIN  
I have to let you go, Quincey.

Quincey notices blood sliding down to her hand. She puts her arm behind her back and grabs it from behind with the other.

ARIN (CONT'D)  
We are already under a microscope  
because of the fuckin' panda.

Arin stands upright and aggressively rubs his face.

ARIN (CONT'D)  
Ugh.

Arin and Quincey look at each other.

ARIN (CONT'D)  
Got anything to say for yourself?

QUINCEY  
You can't fire me.

ARIN  
(taken aback)  
Excuse me.

QUINCEY  
You needed me to get the tiger  
because Josh is hurt. Not many  
people know how to handle these  
animals.

ARIN  
So, someone can learn.

QUINCEY  
And you're already short staffed,  
and the mayor's looking for any  
reason to shut the zoo down.

ARIN  
No she's not.

QUINCEY  
If she finds out about this...

Quincey shakes her head and sucks at her teeth. Arin raises a  
finger and opens his mouth. Quincey stares, straight faced.  
Arin looks around for words.

ARIN  
You're off shift for the rest of  
the week.

QUINCEY  
What? No.

ARIN  
Yes. You fucked up, so take this as  
mercy.

Quincey gulps.

ARIN (CONT'D)  
You can go now.

Quincey looks at Arin for a second before walking out.

CUT TO:

INT. MAYOR HIGGINS CAR - NIGHT

Mayor Higgins is in the driver's seat, her teenage son,  
DRAYTON, sits in the passenger seat, phone in hand.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
So, what's the issue now?

SECRETARY DEJAH (O.S.)  
(over phone)  
Well, they want to be in charge of  
the investigation. They feel it is  
important for their peace of mind.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Not happening.

SECRETARY DEJAH (O.S.)  
(over phone)  
Totally agree, but what do I tell  
them?

DRAYTON  
Ma, can you turn that down.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Hold on, sweetie. Well, I'll talk  
to them tomorrow.

SECRETARY DEJAH (O.S.)  
(over phone)  
Well...they're here.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Here?

DRAYTON  
Mom, it's loud.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Hold on, Dray, I'm working.

SECRETARY DEJAH (O.S.)  
(over phone)  
Yes. They came to the office.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
You didn't tell them I wasn't  
there.

Drayton rolls his eyes, pulling the phone closer to his face.

SECRETARY DEJAH (O.S.)  
(over phone)  
Well, they were looking for you...

DRAYTON  
Does she have to be so loud?

SECRETARY DEJAH (O.S.)  
(over phone)  
They feel they need to have a plan  
to start tomorrow.

Mayor Higgins waves off her son.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
They can't wait till tomorrow?

SECRETARY DEJAH (O.S.)  
(over phone)  
Apparently not.

DRAYTON  
Literally sounds like she's in my  
ear.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Don't you see I'm working.

SECRETARY DEJAH (O.S.)  
(over phone)  
What do I say?

Drayton reaches to turn the volume down. Mayor Higgins slaps  
his hand.

DRAYTON  
It's loud.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Shut up Drayton!

Mayor Higgins grips the steering wheel with both hands.  
Drayton slouches and gets back to his phone.

Mayor Higgins looks out her window and takes deep breaths.

SECRETARY DEJAH (O.S.)  
(over phone)  
I'll tell them you'll answer  
tomorrow.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
No. I'll head back once I drop my  
son off. Tell them to wait. Maybe  
we can take them out to eat  
somewhere, mellow them out.

SECRETARY DEJAH (O.S.)  
(over phone)  
I did hear one of them talk about  
the new wing spot downtown.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
I gotta go. I'll call you back in  
twenty.

Mayor Higgins taps on the screen on the dash.

MAYOR HIGGINS (CONT'D)  
(looking at Drayton)  
I'm sorry, son.

Drayton shrugs and keeps tapping at his phone.

MAYOR HIGGINS (CONT'D)  
We can get some take out. You want  
that?

CUT TO:

INT. QUINCEY'S HOME, DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Quincey falls back on her chair, laughing. Lyla laughs and  
stands from her chair, lifting her plate from the table, food  
still resting on it.

QUINCEY  
"You're off shift for the rest of  
the week." Yeah right.  
(laughing)  
Like, he always goes through these  
like mood swings.

Lyla walks to Quincey.

LYLA  
Yeah. He try to fire you again?

Lyla picks up Quincey's plate.

QUINCEY  
You know it. Thank you.

Lyla walks out and into the kitchen.

INT. QUINCEY'S HOME, KITCHEN

Lyla walks to the sink and drops the plates into the sink and  
opens the faucet. Quincey walks in with cups in hand.

LYLA  
Then what? The whitest zoo in  
America? There's already not enough  
diversity there.

Quincey reaches and places the cups into the sink. Lyla bumps into Quincey's wounded arm. Quincey flinches.

LYLA (CONT'D)  
(concerned)  
Oh shit, I forgot about your arm.

Lyla grabs Quincey's arm and grips it firmly.

LYLA (CONT'D)  
You need to go to a hospital.

QUINCEY  
No, I said I'm fine.

LYLA  
No. Zaine probably didn't wrap it right.

QUINCEY  
They know what they're doing.

LYLA  
They're a vet, not a doctor.

QUINCEY  
Isn't a vet a doctor?

Lyla observes Quincey's arm.

LYLA  
No. And as stupid as Arin can be, he was right about one thing. You were just as stupid going in there without tranqing the tigers.

QUINCEY  
I was handling it.

Lyla aggressively swings Quincey's arm down.

LYLA  
No, you were being stupid.

QUINCEY  
Ow, watch it.

Quincey backs onto the kitchen counter.

LYLA  
You could've been killed. What were you thinking?

QUINCEY  
I...felt something.

LYLA  
What.

QUINCEY  
I...just...felt like...

Quincey looks at her wounded arm.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
(shrugs)  
I don't know. Connected with it.  
When Caesar came at me, it didn't  
feel like it was going to really  
attack after it hurt me. It just  
wanted to make sure-

LYLA  
You sound fucking delusional right  
now.

Quincey is taken aback.

LYLA (CONT'D)  
You really are trying to explain-  
Quincey kisses Lyla. She gives another kiss.

LYLA (CONT'D)  
Wha-

QUINCEY  
I'm sorry.

Quincey pulls Lyla to her and the two makeout. Quincey  
squeezes onto Lyla's body hard.

LYLA  
Let's go to your room.

Quincey smiles.

QUINCEY  
Okay.

Quincey leans in for a few more pecks.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
You can't stay the night though.

Lyla leans her head away.

LYLA  
You serious.

QUINCEY  
What?

Lyla shakes her head and pushes herself away from Quincey.

LYLA  
Wha-what, what the fuck Quin.

Lyla turns and walks into the dining room. Quincey follows.

INT. QUINCEY'S HOME, DINING ROOM

Lyla grabs her purse from a chair and grabs her keys from the table.

QUINCEY  
What are you doing?

Quincey follows Lyla across the dining room.

LYLA  
I'm leaving.

QUINCEY  
Why?

INT. QUINCEY'S HOME, FOYER

Lyla goes for the door. Quincey grabs her arm and turns her around.

QUINCEY  
Lyla, Lyla wait.

Lyla shows only annoyance.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
We can go up to my room.

Quincey smirks and nods.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
We can have sex...here. We can go up to my room.

Quincey gulps.

QUINCEY (CONT'D)  
You just can't stay here.



LYLA  
I can't keep doing this, Quin.

Quincey's face shows confusion.

LYLA (CONT'D)  
I'm leaving.

QUINCEY  
Wait, wait. What are you saying?

Lyla opens the door.

LYLA  
I have to go Quincey.

QUINCEY  
Wait, I want to talk about this.

Quincey grabs Lyla's arm again.

LYLA  
(stern)  
Let me go.

Lyla stares hard at Quincey. Quincey let's go.

QUINCEY  
I love you.

LYLA  
(shaking her head)  
We can talk about this another time.

Lyla exits the house. Quincey watching.

Quincey takes a deep breath in and looks down.

After a moment, Quincey closes the door and locks it. She turns and leans against the door, knocking her head against it.

Quincey looks forward towards the basement door.

CUT TO:

INT. BUFFALO WILD WINGS - NIGHT

Chinese SUITS walk around the restaurant, playing pool and at the slots. Mayor Higgins and her secretary, Dejah sit at a booth, across from the TRANSLATOR and the AMBASSADOR.

Dejah looks around at the ambassador's security, enjoying the game.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
So what's the deal.

TRANSLATOR  
Well, we are looking over the contract. Once we find the panda-

MAYOR HIGGINS  
You're not taking the panda.

TRANSLATOR  
We feel it would be best to return it to its home.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
A lot of city funding goes into the zoo, and as much as I don't care about the place, our people do.

TRANSLATOR  
We need the panda by the end of the week.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
We're doing what we can.

TRANSLATOR  
We may need to do more than just look into the employees.

Dejah squints at the translator. Mayor Higgins looks at the ambassador.

TRANSLATOR (CONT'D)  
Like some officials.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Why isn't he talking?

TRANSLATOR  
We are going to need to do the interrogations ourselves moving forward.

CUT TO:

INT. QUINCEY'S HOME, BASEMENT

Quincey opens the door and looks down the basement.

TRANSLATOR (O.S.)  
We want all the tapes.

Quincey turns on the light and slowly steps down the stairs.

TRANSLATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
We want a list of every person who  
has worked there.

Quincey walks around the stairs and to another door.

TRANSLATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
We want harder security at all  
roads leaving the city.

Quincey opens the door and reaches around for a flashlight.

Quincey turns on the flashlight and steps further into the  
dark room.

TRANSLATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
We want to take a visit to each  
employee's place of residence.

Quincey approaches a cage and flashes the flashlight towards  
it.

INT. BUFFALO WILD WINGS

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Uhm, I don't think that can happen.

TRANSLATOR  
It needs to. One way or another.

Mayor Higgins looks at Dejah, then back to the translator.

TRANSLATOR (CONT'D)  
It is very important we maintain a  
healthy relationship between the US  
and China. This incident has been  
quite an issue.

Mayor Higgins sighs and looks around as she thinks.

MAYOR HIGGINS  
Fine.

Mayor Higgins leans on the table.

MAYOR HIGGINS (CONT'D)  
But since you're here.

Mayor Higgins smirks villainously.

MAYOR HIGGINS (CONT'D)  
 Maybe you, and the people over in  
 China can help me.

Mayor Higgins looks at Dejah. Dejah smiles.

MAYOR HIGGINS (CONT'D)  
 I've been having plans...beyond  
 just being mayor. I'm sure you know  
 this position is not as respected  
 as one would hope.

TRANSLATOR  
 You wish for us to help on your  
 political aspirations?

INT. QUINCEY'S HOME, BASEMENT

Quincey slowly steps closer to the cage and makes eye contact  
 with the PANDA BEAR.

MAYOR HIGGINS (O.S.)  
 I just feel, we can help one  
 another. Campaign for senator is  
 expected to start soon.

The panda bear sits up and against the cage. Quincey smiles  
 at it.

MAYOR HIGGINS (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 I guarantee we'll find that bear,  
 and take care of whoever is  
 involved.

END.