

FLYING HIGH

by

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**Cast:**

Clara ..... Female, 40-55. A falcon.

Carlos ..... Male, 40-55. A falcon.

**Time:**

The present.

**Place:**

The roof the City Hall of a major California city.

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(Lights up on the roof of City Hall, at dusk. Clara is standing; Carlos is kneeling next to her, holding her hand)

Clara, will you marry me?

CARLOS

Oh, Carlos. Oh my God.

CLARA

We've known each other for only few months, I know, but I've never had feelings for anyone like you before.

CARLOS

Carlos...

CLARA

I love you, Clara. I love so much I just can't stand it.

CARLOS

I'd love to marry you.

CLARA

Thank you!

CARLOS

But...

CLARA

But? But what?

CARLOS

There are some things you need to know about me.

CLARA

I know everything I need to.

CARLOS

No, you don't.

CLARA

Whatever it is, I'm fine with it.

CARLOS

Don't say that yet.

CLARA

Really. I am. CARLOS

Carlos, I... CLARA

I moved too fast, didn't I? CARLOS

No. CLARA

You're still in mourning. CARLOS

No. Well...yes. A little. CLARA

I know I can never replace Jose. I would never try to. CARLOS

But that's not it. CLARA

And your children...they're all great. Wait a minute...is that it? CARLOS

What? CLARA

Are you afraid of upsetting your children? CARLOS

No. They'd love you. But even if they objected, I wouldn't care. I kicked them out of the nest a long time ago. This is my life, not theirs. CLARA

So what is it? CARLOS

What do you think of my view? CLARA  
(Indicates view of the city)

CARLOS  
I love it. It's spectacular.

CLARA  
Thank you.

CARLOS  
Your home is beautiful. The location is great.

CLARA  
Yes, I love it too.

CARLOS  
I hope that I can move in before too long.

CLARA  
Why, Mr. Carlos Falcon. Are you courting me just for my apartment?

CARLOS  
Oh, I'm afraid I am.

CLARA  
I thought so.

CARLOS  
It's only because I live under a bridge, you see.

CLARA  
Stop it. Your place is very nice.

CARLOS  
It's under a bridge.

CLARA  
It's adjacent to a bridge. That's completely different. And it is very nice.

CARLOS  
Thank you.

(Beat)  
I didn't know you could get an apartment on top of City Hall.

CLARA  
I have connections.

CARLOS  
Really? How intriguing.

CLARA  
However.

CARLOS  
However?

CLARA  
That brings us back to the thing I have to tell you. You see...how can I put this?  
There is a price to be paid. For this apartment.

CARLOS  
A price? What sort of price?

CLARA  
Living here involves a certain...choice of lifestyle.

CARLOS  
I don't understand.

CLARA  
(Points behind audience)  
Well...you see that large black circle? Up there?

CARLOS  
Yeah?

CLARA  
That's a...that's a camera.

CARLOS  
A camera?

CLARA  
A video camera.

CARLOS  
What...what do you...is it on?!

CLARA  
I don't know. I don't control it.

CARLOS  
You mean it could be on right now?!



I suppose. CLARA

Why is it there? CARLOS

It was there when I moved in. CLARA

Why? Who's watching? CARLOS

It's streamed onto the Internet. CLARA

You're joking. CARLOS

No. CLARA

Anyone could be looking at us right now? CARLOS

I'm told that I'm very popular. CLARA

You mean...all these guys on the Internet... CARLOS

Women, too. CLARA

This *is* California. (Beat)

So what sort of person watches you? CARLOS

The mayor, for one. CLARA

You're kidding. CARLOS

CLARA

I'm told he keeps a window open on his computer, so that he can check in on me between meetings.

CARLOS

Doesn't he have anything better to do? Like run the city?

CLARA

A hard working man like him deserves a break from time to time.

CARLOS

Oh, God.

CLARA

Actually...the whole city council watches.

CARLOS

Together?

CLARA

Together. At home. Alone, or with their spouses. Every which way.

CARLOS

Is that the deal?

CLARA

Huh?

CARLOS

To live here? On top of City Hall? Is that part of the deal?

CLARA

Yes. Yes, it is.

CARLOS

So, does anyone else watch?

CLARA

Other city workers. Members of the public. Here, and across the country. Maybe the world.

CARLOS

Good Lord.

CLARA

And...schoolchildren.

Schoolchildren. CARLOS

Yes. CLARA

Oh. I see. Very funny Clara. CARLOS

I'm serious. CLARA

Sure you are. You... CARLOS  
(Looks at Clara)

You are serious. CLARA

The schoolchildren all love me. CLARA

What sort of city is this? CARLOS

I'm told I'm very educational. CLARA

And Jose? He never had a problem with it? CARLOS

No. He liked the attention. CLARA

I don't know what to think. It's a lot to take in. CARLOS

I understand if you...if you want to leave. CLARA

Clara, I love you. But...why? CARLOS

I guess I like the attention, too. Plus, it is a great view.  
(Beat) CLARA

Of the city, I mean.

I don't know what to say.

CARLOS

(Beat)

So the city runs it?

CLARA

Oh, no no no. Not the city. The bird researchers at the University.

CARLOS

Wait a minute. You mean, Santa Cruz?! U.C. Santa Cruz?

CLARA

You've been there?

CARLOS

I was hatched there!

CLARA

You never told me that!

CARLOS

I was an orphan. They have this program—

CLARA

I've heard of it.

CARLOS

They pretended they were falcon parents, using puppets.

CLARA

I bet you weren't fooled.

CARLOS

No.

CLARA

You're clever. I like that about you.

CARLOS

Thank you.

CLARA

So...is it okay?

CARLOS  
Well, if the people at Santa Cruz are running it...

CLARA  
They've always seemed trustworthy.

CARLOS  
Yes. Yes they are. But...do schoolchildren really watch as well?

CLARA  
They think we're cute.

CARLOS  
Oh. Well, I guess I can live with that.

CLARA  
There's one other thing.

CARLOS  
Uh-oh.

CLARA  
No, it's good. You see, the camera can't see in the dark.

CARLOS  
It doesn't work at night?

CLARA  
Exactly.

CARLOS  
That's helpful.

CLARA  
Yes, it is. Isn't it.

CARLOS  
Absolutely.

(Beat)  
So. You haven't answered my question.

CLARA  
Your question?

CARLOS  
Clara, will you marry me?

Oh yes, Carlos. Definitely.

CLARA

(Lights down)

THE END

Based on the story of Carlos and Clara, two falcons that nested on the top of the San Jose City Hall in the spring of 2008.