

Caged

By

J. E. Clarke

Copyright
2015
Janetgoodman@yahoo.com

FADE IN ON:

INT. LOBBY - DAY

An empty room with plastic chairs. A sign reads: NY CACC. Dog and Cat "Adopt Me" posters everywhere.

A cacophony of sounds bounce off stone walls. STRANGE HOWLS from the next room. SCREAMS of chaos outside.

Melanie (20s) clutches her smart phone in a death grip. A pretty college type. Her "Volunteer" shirt hangs down to mid thigh.

She stares out a window at city streets. PANICKED PEDESTRIANS race by. A SOBBING MAN sinks to his knees. A BIKE RIDER swerves, missing the man by inches.

Her call goes to voice mail.

RECORDING

You've reached the William's residence.

Melanie hangs up. Dials again. She looks up at a TV screen. A GRIM REPORTER announces the news.

REPORTER

We repeat, impact is imminent. Civilians are urged to stay off the streets.

The Lobby shakes. BARKS drown out the reporter's words. The cell phone connects. A FEMALE VOICE on the other end.

MELANIE

Mom!

MRS. WILLIAMS

Melanie? My God. Where've you been? We've been calling your apartment for hours!

MELANIE

I told you, use my cell phone... It's a three hour difference. And I'm not home.

MRS. WILLIAMS

Baby, where are you?

MELANIE

At the shelter.

MRS. WILLIAMS

Is anyone with you?

MELANIE

No. Everyone... left.

MRS. WILLIAMS

How about Brad?

MELANIE

He's at work.

MRS. WILLIAMS

Sweetie, your dad and I love you so much.
Whatever happens, stay on the line...

Mrs. William's voice rises. The connection goes dead.

MELANIE

...Mom?

Melanie stares at the phone. Back at the insanity in the street. WHIMPERS rise from the next room. Melanie turns towards the noise, and walks through double doors.

INT. CAGE ROOM

Mutts of every shape and size. Canines watch Melanie walk down the aisle. She doles out treats to each one - pushing biscuits through the bars. One dog WHINES as she passes by.

MELANIE

Trust me. You don't want to go out there.

She reaches a cage along the back wall. Inside: a small brindle Pitbull - and eleven MEWLING newborn pups.

Melanie unlocks the cage door. Steps inside.

The Pitbull struggles into sitting position. She gazes up at the human and wags her tail. Melanie forces a smile.

MELANIE

I'm sorry. I gave out the last one.

She slides down the wall, between the animals.

The Pitt licks her face. Melanie ruffles her ears. Lifts a black and white puppy into her lap.

She kisses the puppy's head, and stares at her phone. Watches the final minutes to count-down.

FINAL FADE OUT: