

INT. HOUSE - HARRY'S ROOM - EVENING

HARRY, 25, stands at his window looking out as he drinks hot tea. Birds CHIRP outside. Harry watches and looks up to see a HAWK fly above. The Hawk then swoops down towards the smaller birds whom in a panic evade its attacks.

Harry walks across his room and picks up a birthday card that has the number "24" on it. LIZ, 25, knocks on his door. Harry jumps.

LIZ (O.S.)

Harry?

Harry walks and answers the door.

HARRY

Wha's up, Liz. Who let you in?

LIZ

Your dad. It's time to celebrate.

Harry's face cringes.

HARRY

You know I can't, well...leave...
(scratches the back of his
head)

LIZ

Don't worry it isn't far, it's just
outside. We've all come here to
celebrate you!

He looks suspicious.

HARRY

We've all?

LIZ

Yup. Your closest and best-est
friends.

(make a glamorous pose)
I am even making a guest
appearance, so you don't want to
miss it.

Harry can't help but smile. Liz looks down at his card.

LIZ (CONT'D)

What's that?

HARRY
Oh, it's my 24th birthday card.
From um, from my mom.

Liz breaks from her pose and her face softens.

LIZ
Oh. I'm sorry.

HARRY
(nervously jumps in)
Uh, don't worry about it. Give me 5
minutes.

Liz gives two thumbs up!

LIZ
(Smiles)
COOL!

She spins leaves. Harry closes the door, then his eyes, and he takes a deep breath.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN

Harry walks into the kitchen with a hint of a smile. His DAD, 50, is there cleaning the dishes.

DAD
Your friends are here.

His small smile fades away. Harry stops and looks at him. His dad turns around.

HARRY
Yeah, I guess they came for my
birthday.

DAD
Why here?

HARRY
(sarcastic)
Not sure. Maybe to celebrate me?

DAD
Don't get smart.

HARRY
(wounded)
Sorry dad.

Dad nods.

DAD
I mean't why don't you go out?

HARRY
I'm, I-I don't know.

DAD
Still afraid?

Harry nods.

DAD (CONT'D)
I wasn't able to get you anything.

HARRY
That's okay.

Harry starts to back away.

DAD
Maybe if you could go out we can go
somewhere-

HARRY
(shakes his head)
No, that's fine. I'll see ya later,
Dad.

His dad sighs as he slides open the glass door onto the...

EXT. PATIO - CONTINUOUS

EVERYONE
SURPRISE!!!

Three people, with party hats on, stand outside around a cake
with the numbers "25" stuck on it.

Harry looks in pain. In the background birds jump around on
the ground.

HARRY
Oh man, thanks guys. You know I
could see you through this glass

He points at the glass door. They start patting his back.

LIZ
(light hearted)
Obviously it wasn't actually
surprise. It's called having fun,
Harry.

HARRY
(nervous laughs)
Oh, right. Forgot about that.

Awkward silence.

FRIEND 1
(clears throat)
Happy birthday, Harry!

FRIEND 2
Quarter of a century now!

FRIEND 3
One more year and you'll be off
your parents' health care.

HARRY
Yeah, that's something my dad keeps
reminding me of.

Liz starts lighting the "2" and the "5" on the cake.

LIZ
We know it's been hard for you to
get out of your house this past
year so we brought the party to
you.

Harry smiles.

HARRY
I appreciate that, Liz. It's good
to see all of you. I mean it. If I
could get out more I would see you
all more; I promise.

Liz steps back.

LIZ
Make a wish.

HARRY
Liz...

LIZ
Come on!
(She leans in and whispers
loudly)
This is one of those opportunities
to have FUN.

Harry sighs, leans over, and blows out the candles.

LIZ (CONT'D)
What did you wish for?

HARRY
Wow, Liz. Are you trying to have my
wish not come true?

Others start to laugh.

LIZ
What! No I-

HARRY
(laughs)
Liz, I'm just messing-

One of the birds flies into the window. The group gasps. Mid air the bird recuperates, does a barrel roll, and flies straight into Harry's forehead.

Harry grabs his face. Stumbles forward and smashes his head through the glass door.

CONTINUOUS

Pitch black. Harry slowly opens his eyes to see his friends around him. They start "shooing" him with their hands. They all look furious.

Harry has become a light grey House Sparrow. He hops back.

HARRY
Wh-what?

The glass shards appear huge around him. He turns his head to sees his body on the ground next to him, and it seems gigantic.

HARRY (CONT'D)
Wha-

LIZ
Fly away! Get!

Harry lifts his arms to see they are wings.

HARRY
Oh. My. GOD!

His friends step closer and start swatting at him. He backs up and then, in a frenzy, flies away.

HARRY (CONT'D)
No. No. No. No.

As he flies he starts to wobble and make mistakes.

HARRY (CONT'D)
NO! NO! NO! NOOO!

He crashes into the nearby...

POND - CONTINUOUS

He flutters his wings in the water until he makes it to the edge. He rests on his side exhausted.

FEATHERS lands next to him. She is also a House Sparrow that boasts dark brown feathers.

FEATHERS
Hi. What's wrong with you?

HARRY
(frazzled)
W-What's wrong with m-me?

FEATHERS
Yeah. You. Are you okay?

She hops closer to him. He gets up and starts to pace and swing his wings around as his speaks.

HARRY
No, I'm not "OKAY" I was just
enjoying my birthday when a freak
bird slammed into my glass door and
then straight into my face and now
I'm a-

He pauses and looks at her. She looks back at him curiously waiting for his next words.

HARRY (CONT'D)
Oh why am I'm talking to a bird.

FEATHERS
(looks around)
You talking to me?

HARRY
Well, I was.

FEATHERS

Oh, I was just confused on account
of the face you're making; it seems
like you're losing it.

HARRY

Look. I'm a human...I mean I was
just a human maybe three minutes
ago.

Feathers laughs(tweeting rapidly).

FEATHERS

Oh okay. You've already lost it.

He looks insulted.

HARRY

(Points his feather arm at
her)

I-I-mean it!

FEATHERS

Well either you're a human who
thinks they're a bird or a bird who
thinks they were a human. Either
way you sound coo-coo to me.

Harry collapses onto his back. Feathers tilts her head.

Pause. She hops towards him.

FEATHERS (CONT'D)

Want to fly with me bird-human?

Harry gets up using his feather arms.

HARRY

My name's Harry and why would you
want to fly with someone who is
"coo-coo"?

She starts hopping around him.

FEATHERS

I like making new friends, and
besides we're all a little coo-coo!
Some more than others...
(shrugs)

Harry's eyes narrow.

HARRY

Well, I don't know how to fly.
That's how I got to where I am now.

FEATHERS

You don't know how to fly?! It's so
natural! I bet it'll come to you in
the moment. Come on!

Feathers jumps and glides up to a nearby tree branch. In the
distance she shouts back to Harry. Her voice sounds even
tinier due to the distance.

FEATHERS (CONT'D)

Go for it!

Harry looks at his wings.

FEATHERS (CONT'D)

Might as well embrace being a bird
while you can bird-man or man-bird!

She tweet laughs.

HARRY

I-I'm scared of heights!

FEATHERS

What!

HARRY

I'm scared of heights!

FEATHERS

What!

HARRY

I'M SCARED OF HEIGHTS!

FEATHERS

What!

HARRY

I'M- you know what never mind.

He puffs up his chest and starts running. Then flapping. Then
he shoots off and starts gliding.

HARRY (CONT'D)

OH WHOA! I'm flying...ACTUALLY
FLYING!

Harry does a somersault.

HARRY (CONT'D)
Too fast! TOO FAST!

He hits the ground. Hard. Feathers lands right next to him tweet-laughing.

FEATHERS
That was good but you started doubting yourself. You gotta lean into it and just go! Trust your wings, my friend.

HARRY
(getting up)
How can I not doubt myself -- I don't know what I'm doing. I probably look like an amateur.

FEATHERS
Confidence isn't about knowing how to do it but believing that you can and not worrying about how you look.

HARRY
I think that makes sense...

FEATHERS
Well, dah-doy it does!

Harry looks at Feathers. Then up to the tree top. He starts to rustle his feathers, then takes off. He spins around the tree and then lands, not so gracefully, onto the...

TREE BRANCH - CONTINUOUS

HARRY
YEAH! OH YEAH!
(glances down)
I am very high up. Very, VERY high up.

Harry closes his eyes. Feathers lands next to Harry.

FEATHERS
Good going -- now that's confidence.

HARRY
Not feeling very confident right now.

FEATHERS

Confidence is also trusting that
you're going to be okay, Harry.

Peeks out of one eye, then opens both.

HARRY

(sighs)

Thanks for all the support with
being a bird.

FEATHERS

Birds of a feather gotta stick
together. My mom came up with that
one.

Harry takes a deep breath, and relaxes.

HARRY

As...fun as this is. I want to wake
up now. I don't want to be a bird
anymore.

Pause. Feathers looks around as if waiting for something to
happen.

HARRY (CONT'D)

I guess wishing it to be different
isn't changing things so for now I
might as well accept it: I'm a
bird. I. Am. A. Bird.

(He turns toward her)

Hey, I'm Harry.

He holds up one wing as if to shake.

FEATHERS

My names Feathers.

HARRY

(his wing goes limp)

You are joking.

FEATHERS

Nope. That's my name.

HARRY

What's your mom's name? Beaky?

FEATHERS

Don't ruffle my feathers, her name
is Tweetsie.

HARRY

Of course it is. You're named after what you're covered in.

FEATHERS

You're named yourself after something humans are covered in.

HARRY

What? No I didn't my name is Harry...oh wow. I guess you got a good point

Harry hears some voices and looks around.

FEATHERS

Hey, did you know sometimes we use hair to build our nests?

Harry hops and points with the tip of his wing towards his human body with his friends surrounding it.

HARRY

That's me! I was celebrating with my friends and then a bird smacked me on -- well, you know the story. There I am!

FEATHERS

Hm, it would explain your weirdness.

HARRY

Can you help me?

FEATHERS

Since this is the most interesting thing to ever happen to me; I'll help you out.

HARRY

Really? Thank you so much! Where do we start?

Feathers shrugs.

FEATHERS

I have no idea.

HARRY

Oh.

She hops up and down.

FEATHERS

I have an idea. I have an idea.

HARRY

OH!

FEATHERS

It's going to sound crazy!

HARRY

Crazy has been my whole day!

FEATHERS

You need to fly back into your body!

HARRY

That's genius! Okay!

Harry stretches out and fluffs up. He dives off the branch and heads towards his friends and his human body.

EXT. PATIO - SAME TIME

Harry's three friends surround his body. Liz is kneeling beside him with her hands on his stomach. They all look extremely worried and panicked.

LIZ

He is still breathing.

FRIEND 1

The ambulance is coming, right?

FRIEND 3

(holding their head)

Any minute.

Harry(the bird) rams into his human body and then he flops to the side.

Everyone starts screaming in chaos.

LIZ

ANOTHER BIRD? GET OUT OF HERE!

Bird Harry jumps on his feed and shakes off.

HARRY

Tweet-tweet-tweet-tweet.

LIZ

GET OFF HIM!

Liz swats at bird Harry. He flies off, tweeting.

EXT. TREE BRANCH - CONTINUOUS

Harry lands next to Feathers, panting from exhaustion.

HARRY
That...did not...
(Deep breath)
work.

FEATHERS
Well, at least we know you're still
good at flying into things. Let's
keep thinking. You became a bird,
you must have the power to go back
too. Right? So now-
(head snaps upward)
HAWK!

Harry looks up to see the Hawk diving down towards them. They both hop off the branch which breaks from the Hawk's talons.

Feathers swoops into a...

BUSH - CONTINUOUS

Followed by Harry. They both sit there shaking and silently watch the hawk circle above through the dense foliage.

HARRY
There are birds that hunt other B-
BIRDS?

FEATHERS
(panting)
Some birds yes.

HARRY
I'm going to die a bird. I'm going
to throw up.

FEATHERS
No thank you, I'm not in the mood
to eat.

HARRY
What? No, gross. What do we do now?

FEATHERS
Wait here until he leaves.

Harry looks at his limp human body through the shrubbery.

Emergency crews have arrived. They are moving his body. He then looks up at the Hawk.

HARRY

I can't wait here. I need to go
back to my friends and...family.

Harry darts out of the bushes.

FEATHERS

Harry!

Harry flies towards his body and is intercepted by the Hawk, which he narrowly avoids. With another swift swoop, like a jet plane, the Hawk spins around and clips Harry who crashes back into the...

EXT. POND - CONTINUOUS

Harry birdie (like doggie) paddles his wings out of the pond exhausted. He rolls over and screams as he dodges the Hawk's sharp talons.

The Hawk picks up its legs and slowly creeps towards Harry.

HARRY

Wait!

HAWK

(pauses and narrows his
eyes)

No.

(then continues)

HARRY

What do you mean "no"?!

The Hawk opens his mouth.

Feathers swoops in. She starts pecking at the Hawk's face.

FEATHERS

FLY!

HARRY

You got it!

Harry gets up to run and as he flies away he sees the Hawk clamp his beak down on Feathers who tweets in agony. Harry's eyes fill with determination as he flies upward and then turns around into a downward dive.

The Hawk approaches Feathers' motionless body. He picks her up in his talons and just as he prepares his wings for flight Harry rams himself beak first into the Hawk's wing. There is a burst of feathers around them.

The Hawk lets out a scream. Feathers rolls out of his talons and away. Harry jumps in front of her and the Hawk.

HAWK

You? You did this?

HARRY

Yeah! Didn't you hear? I'm great at flying into things!

The Hawk charges. Harry flies right into the Hawk's face multiple times until the Hawk is backed up into the pond and is fighting to swim.

HAWK

Enough! Enough!

Harry flies back to Feathers and faces the Hawk. The Hawk makes its way out of the pond and flies away with a hurt wing.

Harry turns around then gently pushes Feathers with his beak.

HARRY

You okay?

Feathers opens her eyes.

FEATHERS

(sighs)

I think every single feather hurts.

Harry chuckles. She rolls over and hops up on her two feet.

FEATHERS (CONT'D)

That was impressive flying for your first day. How did you know that you could fend off the Hawk?

HARRY

I didn't. I think I just felt confident I could do it...

FEATHERS

You weren't afraid?

HARRY

No...I made helping you more important than my fear.

FEATHERS
That's pretty cool.

HARRY
(nodding)
Yeah...it is.

Harry smiles. His smile fades and he spins around to see his body gone.

FEATHERS
They took your human body?

HARRY
Seems they did.

FEATHERS
Now what?

He looks around and then upward. Harry then flies up to the...

APARTMENT ROOF - EVENING

Feathers plops right next to him. The sun is setting.

FEATHERS
Hey! I'm still recovering; you
can't just take off like that.

HARRY
Huh? Oh sorry. My body is gone...I
think the ambulance came.

INT. AMBULANCE - SAMETIME

Dad and two emergency responders sit in the van. Harry's body starts to twitch.

DAD
H-his hand is twitching.

One of the responders grabs the hand. Harry's body sits up and his eyes open.

DAD (CONT'D)
Harry? Are you okay?

Harry hops up onto his feet and starts hopping around the ambulance and he starts pecking and "bawking" as they struggle to contain him.

One of the responders inject him with something and Harry falls back unconscious. Everyone is panting.

DAD (CONT'D)
What on earth was that?!

EXT. APARTMENT ROOF - SAMETIME

HARRY
I think going to be a bird
forever... What am I going to do?
Go to bird school for birds? Eat
SEEDS? WORMSS!!!

FEATHERS
(shrugs)
It's not that bad.

Pause

HARRY
(He looks at the sunset)
Maybe it isn't so bad.

Feathers hops closer.

FEATHERS
We can live the bird life and be
bird friends.

HARRY
Less to worry about as a bird. The
freedom is kind of overwhelming.

FEATHERS
You'll get used to it. I mean look
at that view.

He opens his eyes wider as he takes in the beauty of the sunset for a moment.

HARRY
Thanks for teaching me to be
confident.

FEATHERS
(shrugs and smiles)
You already knew how. I just helped
you bring it out.

Pause.

HARRY
(yawns)
Is there really a bird school?

FEATHERS
Yeah.

The sun disappears off the horizon. Harry gets tired and slowly shuts his eyes.

FEATHERS (CONT'D)
You just passed.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - NIGHT

Harry opens his eyes. He is in a hospital bed. His dad is sitting next to him.

DAD
You're awake! Let me get the doctors.

He sits up.

HARRY
I'm fine.

DAD
Um, earlier you were fine. Let me go-

HARRY
Dad, please. Listen to me.

Dad stops and faces Harry.

HARRY (CONT'D)
I'm tired of being afraid. I'm tired of suffering. I want to be here and experience freedom.

DAD
Of course you're-

HARRY
-and I need your support. No more passive aggression. I want us to be honest with each other please. I miss hanging out. I miss mom. I miss you and you're still here.

Dad sits down next to Harry.

DAD
(somber smile)
I acknowledge I've been difficult.
Thank you for pointing it out.
You're a brilliant guy and I want
the best for you. I am here to
support you in any way you need.

Harry smiles.

HARRY
Okay. First let's get out of here
and go have some fun.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - DUSK

Dad and Harry exit the hospital. Liz is sitting outside on a bench, she sees Harry and hops up.

HARRY
I'll be there in a minute, Dad.

Dad walks away. Liz runs up to Harry.

LIZ
We're really far from your house
right now -- are you okay?

He smiles and slowly nods.

HARRY
That's okay.

LIZ
(eyes narrow)
Did they give you something to
chill you out?

HARRY
(shakes his head smiling)
Nope.

LIZ
Really?

HARRY
You're a really good friend, Liz.
Can you come bowling with my dad
and I? Tell the others to come too.

She smiles and embraces him.

LIZ
(starts to tear up)
Yeah...Yeah of course.

They let go of each other and she wipes her eyes.

LIZ (CONT'D)
What did that bird do to you?

HARRY
Reminded me that I can be confident
anytime, even when I have no idea
what I'm doing.

LIZ
(baffled)
A bird did that?

HARRY
(chuckles)
Yeah, a bird did that.

They start to walk off together.

LIZ
Happy Bird day.

Harry laughs. His laugh dissipates as he hears some tweeting and he looks up to see a bird hopping on a light post that oddly enough resembles Feathers. He smiles and catches up to Liz.