

START

A CLOSED DOOR

A distorted image of SOMEONE KNOCKING rolls across the fish-eye lens of the PEEP HOLE. KNOCK-KNOCK-KNOCK. We are --

INT. MINNEAPOLIS MOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Will wraps a robe around himself as he shuffles to the door wiping the fresh sleep out of his eyes. He opens the door REVEALING Hannibal Lecter standing outside holding two cups, a thermos and a small thermal food storage bag.

HANNIBAL

Good morning, Will. May I come in?

Will stares at him, blinking away the last images of the Feathered Deer haunting his half-asleep mind.

WILL GRAHAM

Where's Crawford?

HANNIBAL

Deposed in court. The adventure will be yours and mine today.

(then)

May I come in?

CLOSE ON SMALL TABLE

A beautifully presented breakfast for two served on tupperware containers on top of place settings. Freshly brewed coffee is poured into the two cups Hannibal carried.

POP WIDE as Hannibal peels lids off the tupperware dishes.

HANNIBAL (CONT'D)

I'm very careful about what I put into my body. Which means I end up preparing most meals myself. A little protein scramble to start the day. Some eggs, some sausage.

Hannibal watches Will take a bite of his breakfast scramble.

WILL GRAHAM

It's delicious. Thank you.

HANNIBAL

My pleasure.

He is genuinely amused and successfully hides it.

HANNIBAL (CONT'D)

I would apologize for my analytical ambush but I know I will soon be apologizing again and you'll tire of that eventually so I have to consider using apologies sparingly.

WILL GRAHAM

Just keep it professional.

HANNIBAL

Or we could socialize like adults, god forbid we become friendly.

WILL GRAHAM

I don't find you that interesting.

HANNIBAL

You will.

("changing the subject")

Agent Crawford tells me you have a knack for the monsters.

WILL GRAHAM

That's a superstition.

HANNIBAL

It's no secret he has an agenda for you. This morning's last minute deposition reeked of convenience.

WILL GRAHAM

("sure did")

You have all day to gain my trust.

HANNIBAL

I called your good friend Dr. Bloom about you. She wouldn't gossip, not a word. She's very protective of you. Smitten, I would say. She asked me to keep an eye on you.

Will studies Hannibal, then decides to keep it to business.

WILL GRAHAM

I think we're going to catch him. The original Shrike.

HANNIBAL

The devil is in the details. What didn't your Copy Cat do to the girl in the field? What gave it away?

WILL GRAHAM

Everything. It's like he had to show me a negative so I could see the positive. That crime scene was practically gift-wrapped.

HANNIBAL

The mathematics of human behavior. All those ugly variables. Some bad math with this shrike fellow. Are you reconstructing his fantasies? What kind of problems does he have?

WILL GRAHAM

He has a few.

Almost with a wink:

HANNIBAL

Ever have any problems, Will?

WILL GRAHAM

No.

HANNIBAL

Of course you don't. You and I are just alike. Problem free. Nothing about us to feel horrible about.

(then)

I think Uncle Jack sees you as a fragile little tea-cup, the finest china used for only special guests.

WILL GRAHAM

How do you see me?

HANNIBAL

The mongoose I want under the house when the snakes slither by.

(then)

Finish your breakfast.

END

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

Will Graham and Hannibal Lecter step out of their rental car and cross toward a CAMPER TRAILER OFFICE.

INT. CAMPER TRAILER OFFICE - DAY

A flustered, mildly suspicious secretary named DIXIE stares at Will and Hannibal trying to understand their visit.