

EXT. LANE'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - SLIDE - JUST BEFORE SUNSET

GENO, 12 years old, lays on the slide and looks at the Texas sky.

CLOSEUP - GENO'S HANDS

swirl dreamily, backed by clouds. He SINGS happily:

GENO  
No, you can't get friendly with a  
crocodile.

CUT TO:

WIDE ANGLE ON GENO, PLAYSET, TRAILER PARK AND SKY

INT. ARTWORKS OFFICE - FRONT DESK - JUST BEFORE SUNSET

LANE, late 30s, uniquely beautiful but worn down, collects her belongings before leaving the office.

COWORKER  
Have a good weekend.

INT. ARTWORKS OFFICE - ELEVATOR - SAME TIME

Lane stares unseeing at the wall. The elevator PINGS and she steps out.

EXT. LANE'S BACKYARD - SUNSET

Geno opens the gate and walks away from the house.

INT. BUS - SUNSET

Lane leans her head on the window, grateful for the relative silence of other commuters.

CLOSEUP - LANE'S HANDS AND PURSE, BOUNCING

EXT. HIGHWAY - SUNSET

Geno walks beside the busy highway, eyes to the sky. Cars WHOOSH by. One HONKS.

CLOSEUP - GENO'S FACE

with faint blue and red flashing lights. He is agitated.

Geno sees Lane. He HITS the front seat, the window and his own face repeatedly.

LANE

I'm so sorry about this, Denny.  
(moves to open the door for  
Geno)

OFFICER ROY

(blocking her way, kindly but  
firmly)  
Ma'am. This is the third time this  
month.

LANE

I know, Denny. Gloria's the only  
one who will watch him --

OFFICER ROY

And I think we can both agree that  
she can't handle him when Gene gets  
- when he can't control himself.

LANE

What? No no, she's asleep on my  
couch right now.

OFFICER ROY

I know you're in a tough spot here,  
Lane.

LANE

And I appreciate you looking out  
for us.

OFFICER ROY

But I'm required by law to report  
this to child services.

LANE

Child - he ran away because he's  
autistic and doesn't know any  
better, not because I'm abusing  
him! Denny...

OFFICER ROY

I know. It's the law. And it's  
there for a reason.

Gloria appears at the front door, distraught. Officer Roy opens the back door and Geno tumbles out, avoiding eye contact. Gloria comes to meet them and tries to stop Geno from hitting himself as the two walk back to the house.