

# THE | BORDER

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**INT. NEWS DESK, TV STUDIO - DAY**

A NEWS ANCHOR, 40s, silver-haired, sits behind the desk.

NEWS ANCHOR

It's official! The War on Drugs is over.

**EXT. THE U.S. / MEXICO BORDER - DAY**

An aerial view of THE WALL: A massive thirty-story high, five-mile wide structure covering the length of the border.

It's smooth and featureless except for gold letters spelling out "Trump" which extend from Tuscan to San Antonio.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

One year after the the completion of The Great U.S. Border Wall, commonly referred to as "The Wall," drugs and violence are now a thing of the past.

**EXT. SOUTH SIDE, CHICAGO - DAY**

KIDS sell lemonade outside of a bullet-riddled stash house.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

This once drug and crime-infested South Chicago neighborhood is now almost gentrification-ready.

**EXT. ABANDONED LOT, KENTUCKY - DAY**

PATRONS buy and sample foods from various BBQ stalls. A Patron steps over a hypodermic needle lying on the ground.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

In Kentucky, this abandoned lot was a Haven for Heroin but now it's home to the best Barbecue in the state.

**EXT. LOCAL FARM, MONTANA - DAY**

A FARMER, 60s, inspects his chicken coop, speaks to camera.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.) (cont'd)

And this Farmer in Montana no longer has to worry about egg-stealing Meth addicts.

FARMER

I don't get why they only stole eggs. Whole chicken's gotta be worth more.

**EXT. THE WALL - DAY**

A CROWD OF SUPPORTERS at The Wall hold up signs, cheer.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Many have gathered at The Wall to  
celebrate its one-year anniversary.

Supporters give on-camera soundbites.

WALL SUPPORTER 1

This is the best thing to happen to  
this country since they canceled  
C.N.N.

WALL SUPPORTER 2

Suck it China! Our Wall makes yours  
look like a picket fence.

CROWD

Build it Up! Build it Up! Build it  
up!

**BACK TO NEWS DESK**

NEWS ANCHOR

We now go live to Walt Whitaker, the  
recently appointed United States Drug  
and Violence Czar.

**EXT. PRESS CONFERENCE - DAY**

WALT WHITAKER, 50s, balding, pudgy, and confident as hell,  
addresses the Press Core and other Observers.

WHITAKER

This Wall not only symbolizes the  
strength and smartness of our  
country, it is also proof, undeniable  
in a court of law, of the greatness  
we promised to make yet again.

**INT. BRIEFING ROOM, POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON**

CLOSE ON TV playing the News Report.

NEWS ANCHOR

We don't know what other changes The  
Wall may bring, but we do know this:  
Taco Tuesdays will never be the same.

The TV is shut off by:

CAPTAIN LEACH, 50s, who crosses and stands behind the lectern. He's tall and brooding, wearing a jacket covered in medals of accommodation.

CAPTAIN LEACH

I want to commend you all on a job well done last week.

Reveal the Bullpen is mostly empty seats with just a few scattered POLICE OFFICERS.

The back wall reads: BILLINGS, MT - POLICE DEPARTMENT.

CAPTAIN LEACH (cont'd)

Thompson, great work ticketing the Jaywalker that's been terrorizing Cherry Lane. Mathis and Elena...

OFFICER JOHN MATHIS, 40s, slightly overweight with a calm, almost care-free demeanor about him and...

OFFICER MARY ELENA, early 30s, focused yet bored, her brunette hair in a ponytail, are seated near each other.

CAPTAIN LEACH (cont'd)

I want you two stationed outside of Bob's Deli and Fresh Goods. He's got a loitering situation we need to get under control.

ELENA

Do you really think that's the best use of our resources, Captain?

CAPTAIN LEACH

Where there's one Loiterer there's bound to be copycats.

Elena rolls her eyes and looks at Mathis who just shrugs.

CAPTAIN LEACH (cont'd)

Stevens, I want you to follow up on the report of a Litterer down by Mill's Creek. The rest of you know your assignments. Dismissed.

The Captain exits and the Officers filter out into the

**BULLPEN**

Elena walks alongside Mathis as they go back to their desks which are connected in an L-shape.

ELENA

This is not how I thought I'd be spending my days when I became a cop.

MATHIS

I guess *Field of Dreams* had it wrong. If you build it, they won't come.

He laughs at his own joke. Elena just shakes her head.

MATHIS (cont'd)

Ah c'mon, cheer up. We won the war on drugs. That was the goal, right?

ELENA

You don't actually believe we've seen the last of the drug trade, do you?

MATHIS

You gotta face facts Elena. The Wall works. Trust me, it'll be a long time before anyone figures a way past it. But if they do, we'll be ready.

Elena looks around the almost empty precinct.

ELENA

Will we? More than half the force has been laid off. Not to mention the others who quit or put in for early retirement.

MATHIS

Sure, there have been some changes around here, but you gotta admit it's a pretty good trade-off for no more drugs and violence.

ELENA

I just can't shake the feeling we're missing something. Something big.