

Second Chance
by
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First Draft

Genre
Short Length

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Second Chances

1) EXT. DESERTED HIGHWAY.

It's almost noon in December. The sun is shining bright through the blue sky. Liz (23) is walking down the Interstate 5 in northern California. She is carrying two duffel bags of her belongings. Cars pass her by without hesitation to stop. Liz still reaches her right arm out, and points her thumb in the air. As drivers ignore her, she becomes frustrated.

2) INT/EXT. CAR PASSING BY ON THE HIGHWAY

Noel (25) is driving down the Interstate 5 from Sacramento. As he is on long stretch of highway, he notices a young woman trailing down the highway alone with two duffel bags. As he notices her, for a moment, he loses concentration, as he passes by her. Liz, already frustrated, gives Noel the finger. Noel regains focus, and pulls over to the side of the road. Liz sighs in relief, and runs towards the car.

Liz walks towards the passenger side window.

LIZ

You know that you should never pick
up hitch-hikers...

Noel is lost for words

LIZ (CONT'D)

(cracks a smile)

Thanks...

3) INT. DRIVING DOWN THE HIGHWAY

NOEL

So where are you going?

LIZ

Well I'm going down to Santa Monica
to live with my aunt.

NOEL

Oh...

Where were you living before?

LIZ

I... ummm...

I'm leaving my home from Baker
City.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NOEL
Where is Baker City?

LIZ
It's up in Oregon, near the borders
of Idaho...

NOEL
I... umm... uhhh...

LIZ
Forget it...
I'm trying to forget about it...

Silence

NOEL
Sorry.

LIZ
Nothing to be sorry about...
So where are you going?

NOEL
I... really don't know...

LIZ
What do you mean, you don't know?
Like emotionally?

NOEL
No no... well... I guess that too...
I've been kinda driving for almost
two weeks now.

LIZ
Where have you gone in those two
weeks?

NOEL
Hmm... A bunch of places I guess.
I've just been driving all this
time...
sleeping in my car... eating whatever
I can find for cheap...

An awkward silence breaks

LIZ
Oh shit, I didn't even get your
name.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NOEL
I'm Noel, and what's yours?

LIZ
It's Elizabeth, but you can call me
Liz.

4) INT. DRIVING IN THE CAR

Noel and Liz have been on the road for a couple hours, and there is an awkward silence between them. Liz looks out the passenger side window watching all the scenery, as Noel watches the road. Every so often, Noel glances at Liz while she is not even paying attention.

LIZ
Hey do you have any CD's or
anything?
If we're gonna be mute the whole
time, we could at least enjoy some
tunes.

NOEL
Oh yeah, uhhh... check the back seat,
there's a wallet of CDs there.
You can pick whatever you want. I
don't know if you listen to
anything I do...

LIZ
Well, we'll just have to see about
that...

Liz reaches into the back seat. Noel takes a glance at Liz's chest as she is occupied looking for the CD wallet. Noel turns his head away, for feeling like a creep.

LIZ
Ah... Found it! Now let's see what
you got...

Liz flips through the pages of CDs. She pauses on one page which has the "Best of Van Morrison". She pulls out the CD and inserts it into the Dash player. She scrolls through the tracks to play "Sweet Thing". She begins to cry uncontrollably.

NOEL
(Softly)
Hey...It's not really a sad song...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIZ
I know I know...
Just brought back some memories...

NOEL
Heartbreak?

LIZ
Something like that...

NOEL
I'm sorry...

LIZ
It's ok, it's not your fault.

5) INT. STILL DRIVING

A few hours have passed. Noel notices a sign advertising a diner up ahead.

NOEL
Hey are you hungry?

LIZ
I'm starving...

NOEL
There's a diner up ahead, we can
stop there for a bite.

LIZ
(nods her head)

6) INT. DINER

Noel and Liz are served the special of the day. Liz paws at her meal, and begins to stuff her face.

LIZ
(Embarrassed)
Sorry, I just haven't eaten all
day...

NOEL
(Shrugs his shoulder)
It's cool... That's why we're here...

LIZ
You don't think it's disgusting
that a girl stuffs her face like
me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NOEL

Hey I don't judge people...
People who do that are way too self
conscious.

LIZ

I think everyone is at least a
little self-conscious.

NOEL

Well yeah, but people always
compare themselves to people that
are in movies, or TV, or magazines...
it's almost a fetish. They forget
who they are, and end up miserable
for not being the people they can
never be...

LIZ

(Sarcastically)

That's a nice way to look at
society.
By the way, how is that not judging
people?

NOEL

Well like you said, we're all at
least a little self-conscious.

Both smile at each other

LIZ

So explain to me why you've been
driving around for two weeks?

NOEL

I was living in an apartment, while
working in a local bookstore
getting paid minimum wage. I
couldn't afford living, so I got
whatever I had left or needed, and
took off before I had to pay rent.
I've been driving around looking
for inspiration to write a novel.

LIZ

So what have you written so far?

NOEL

Nothing really...
I just wrote a few poems, coz I
couldn't get any ideas really.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LIZ
Can I hear some?

NOEL
Ummm...
I'm not really comfortable reading
them to anyone just yet...

LIZ
Oh c'mon...
I promise that I won't laugh...
I'm sure it's good...

NOEL
I'd rather not...

LIZ
Ok... whatever then...

7) INT. BACK ON THE HIGHWAY

Noel and Liz resume driving down the highway. They are
halfway to their destination.

NOEL
So what's with the heartbreak?

LIZ
I was in love... Just felt so right.
His name was Tommy. I met him at
the day care center for orphaned
kids. We were both volunteers that
had plans to get married and build
our own center for helping kids. I
lost everything...

NOEL
I'm sorry...

LIZ
(Wipes her eye)
It's okay, it's not your fault...

8) INT/EXT PULLING UP TO THE GAS STATION

The car is low on fuel, so Noel searches for the nearest gas
station. He pulls into an almost abandoned, but functioning
gas station. He begins to pump gas

LIZ
I'll be right back, I'm just gonna
use the phone...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Liz contacts her aunt in Santa Monica. She inform her aunt that she will arrive soon. As she hangs up, Liz begins to cry again. She walks slowly to the car. Noel Finishes pumping gas, and notices Liz's tears trickling down her cheeks.

NOEL

Was that your boyfriend you called?

Liz nods her head no. Noel reaches into the back seat to get a tissue for Liz. Liz appreciates Noel's care.

9) INT. LOS ANGELES

It's almost sun set. Noel and Liz are in the vicinity of Los Angeles. Noel and Liz have been silent since their stop at the gas station. Noel tries to break the ice again.

NOEL

Hey, have you ever been to the beach?

LIZ

Once, when I was a kid, but I guess I'll be seeing it more often now.

NOEL

How about if I take you to the beach?
We can get some dinner or something...

LIZ

(Sudden pause)
okay...

10) EXT. BEACH

The sun is setting. Noel and Liz arrive at the beach as they stare into the glittering ocean.

LIZ

Wow, it's so beautiful.
Just so different, now that I'm a little older...

Liz closes her eyes as the wind breezes through her hair.

NOEL

Wanna walk with me to the pier?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIZ

Okay...

11) EXT. BEACH

It's night time. Noel and Liz walk around the beach and have dinner at a local restaurant. They enjoy the time with each other.

11) EXT. PARKING LOT AT THE BEACH

Night. Noel and Liz are sitting on the hood of the car listening to the waves crashing and watch the bright moon above.

LIZ

Don't you have like a girlfriend or anything?

NOEL

(Mumbling)

ummm...

LIZ

Sorry... I didn't mean to pry into... I mean... shit...

NOEL

No it's cool, I'm just not that good at meeting people.

LIZ

Well you didn't seem so bad to me since you picked me up.

NOEL

I figured that women only see me as "just a friend".
They are not really interested in guys like me...
Besides, I don't think anyone will fall for a guy with no money or home.

LIZ

I think what you're doing is exciting...
You're doing something at least...
You have to take risks, or that someone may just pass you by...
And you may never know it...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NOEL

I'm just trying to find what I
really want to do.
Kinda looking for my second chance,
if there is one.

LIZ

I think we all get second chances...
we just have to realize it when it
comes around.

NOEL

Is that why you're coming down
here? To start again... from... Tommy?

LIZ

Well I guess I haven't told you the
whole story... Tommy proposed to me
last year.

(flashback) V.O.

He took me out to dinner and proposed to me that night. We
decided to walk downtown after dinner. The night was
perfect... We were crossing the street when a drunk driver
didn't see the light turn. Tommy pushed me out of the way,
but he was killed instantly... He was everything to me, and it
was taken away from me in a heartbeat. I died that day with
him.

Liz tears up uncontrollably

NOEL

I'm sorry... I'm so sorry...

LIZ

It's okay, it's not your fault...
After almost a year,
My mom told me that I should move
on, and start again...
My aunt called to tell me that she
has an extra room in California.

Liz finds comfort into Noel's arms as she spasms in pain and
tears.

12) EXT. BEACH PARKING LOT

Morning rises. Noel wakes up with Liz in his arms the same
from last night. Noel wakes Liz.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NOEL
I think I should take to your
aunt's house now.

LIZ
(Nods to agree)

13) EXT. AUNT'S HOUSE

Noel pulls up to the driveway. He takes out Liz's duffel bags and walks her to the front steps. Noel looks down at Liz, but cannot find any words to say. Liz closes her eyes and begins to embrace Noel.

LIZ
(Still hugging Noel)
I hope you'll find what you're
looking for.

She lets go of Noel, and Noel walks back to his car.

14) INT. AUNT'S HOUSE

She walks through the front door with her aunt waiting. She walks up the stairs to find her empty room. She drops her bags and begins to look out the window.

15) INT. DRIVING

Meanwhile, Noel is back on the road. He reminisces about the time he has spent with Liz. He realizes that he's fallen for Liz.

He stomps on the brakes and turns the car around.

The End.