

SECOND CHANCES

by
John Lim

Revision 2

Short Film

Name: John Lim
Email: John@avimedia.net
Phone: 909.762.8138

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 conjures up a line he wants to write down. He searches for a pen, but has trouble locating one. He finally finds one, and begins to write on his arm. In the corner of his eye, 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.

NOEL

Baker City?
Where is Baker City?

LIZ

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

NOEL

Baker City...

LIZ

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

Silence

NOEL

Sorry...

LIZ

(sarcastic)
I forgive you...
So where are you going?

NOEL

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

LIZ

What do you mean, you don't know?
You don't know where you're going?
Or you don't know WHERE you're
going?

NOEL

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

LIZ

Uh Huh...
And where have you gone in those
two weeks?

NOEL

Hmm... A bunch of places I guess.

NOEL(CONT'D)

I've just been driving all this
time,
sleeping in my car, eating whatever
I can find for cheap.

An awkward silence breaks

LIZ

(Chuckles)

I didn't even get your name.

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 fidgets in her seat. She looks out the window in search for a restroom, as Noel watches the road. Every so often, Noel glances at Liz while she is not even paying attention. He drifts off the lane and hits the reflector bumps. Liz becomes more irritated. Suddenly, the car runs over a pothole, which makes Liz tell Noel to stop the car.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Stop the car! Please!

Noel pulls over to the side of the road, and Liz jumps out of the car out to the bushes. Noel watches Liz run.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Don't look!

Liz relieves herself, and walks back towards the car.

NOEL

I'm sorry, you should've just told
me.

LIZ

Well I'll do that next time.

They both get in the car, and drive off.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Hey do you have any CD's or
anything?

LIZ(CONT'D)

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 being inappropriate.

LIZ (CONT'D)

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 choke up.

NOEL

(Softly)

It's not really a sad song.

LIZ

I know I know...

Just brought back some memories...

NOEL

Heartbreak?

LIZ

Something like that...

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, I don't mind...

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

NOEL
Hey I don't judge people...
People who do that are way too
insecure themselves.

LIZ
I think everyone is at least a
little insecure.

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?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NOEL

Well like you said, we're all at least a little insecure.

Both smile at each other

LIZ

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

NOEL

Well... 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

Now I get what's on your arm. So what have you written so far?

NOEL

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

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

You gotta be kidding me. A writer is someone who expresses themselves, They may not have a voice, but they still say something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NOEL

Well I don't have the voice or the expression, that why I haven't written anything yet...

LIZ

Touché

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. We worked 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. Just never happened.

NOEL

I'm sorry...

LIZ

(Wipes her eye)

It's okay, I'll forgive you...

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 (CONT'D)

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

Liz contacts her aunt in Santa Monica. She inform her aunt that she will arrive soon. She walks slowly back to the car. Noel Finishes pumping gas, and notices Liz's sad face.

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 gesture.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

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 (CONT'D)

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?

I mean we came this far, you know?

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 (CONT'D)

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?

LIZ

Okay...

11) Ext. Beach

It's night time. Noel and Liz walk on the pier with flashing lights from all sides. Carnivals and people are walking around.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

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 eating corn dogs.

LIZ (CONT'D)
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
Well I didn't have anywhere else to go, I figured I could take someone to where they wanted to go.

LIZ
I think what you're doing is exciting

You're doing something at least

You have to take risks, or something great may just pass you by and you may never know it.

NOEL
I'm just trying to find something for me to start over new. 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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

NOEL

Is that why you're coming down
here?

To start again, from Tommy?

LIZ

Well I guess I should tell you now.
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 so sorry

LIZ

It's okay, I'll forgive you...
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 falls asleep into Noel's arms.

12) Ext. BEACH PARKING LOT

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

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

Liz's aunt opens the door to find her hugging Noel. Liz 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 stomps on the brakes and turns the car around.

Noel knocks on the door.

NOEL

Can i speak to Liz?

AUNT

Liz

Liz is at the top steps, she walks down to Noel. She looks
up at him. Curious

NOEL

I need to tell you something.

The End.