

Roadtrip

By

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INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

A MOTHER leans against the kitchen island drinking coffee while her son, GRAY, 18, sits and SHOVELS eggs into his mouth.

MOTHER

I booked your flight home after you help Violet move into school. When you get back we need to pack your things...

GRAY

(interrupts his mother)  
Yes I know mom, we need to pack my things for school. We've been over this.

MOTHER

Are you going to tell her how you feel?

GRAY

Mom, what are you talking about? Violet is my friend, that's it.

MOTHER

Mmmmmk...whatever you say.

A car horn HONKS three times outside of the house. Gray quickly gets up, abandoning his breakfast and RUNS for the door. He GRABS a large backpacking bag and several dufflebags and HAULS them to the light blue Subaru parked outside.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The sun is barely beginning to peak above the horizon in the early morning dew. A girl with curly blond hair, 18, sits in the drivers seat, she gets out laughing at Gray's bags and helps him LOAD them into the trunk.

MOTHER

(worriedly)

Please be safe you two. Keep me updated on where you are and send photos.

VIOLET

(enthusiastically)

We will, don't worry Mrs.Cooper! Thanks for letting Gray do this trip with me.

Violet smiles and looks at Gray while he waves at his mother, unaware of Violet's gaze.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Gray is getting into the passenger seat as Violet BUCKLES her seat belt. She looks at Gray, smiling.

VIOLET

Ready?

Gray looks at Violet and GRINS.

GRAY

Ready!

EXT. CAR - DAY

The car drives away from the house and down the street, shrinking as it gets further and further away.

EXT. CAR - DAY

The car SPEEDS down the highway, surrounded by desert and canyons in the distance. The heat radiates on the road.

INT. CAR - DAY

An audio books draws to an end and Gray looks at Violet as though studying her.

GRAY

I'm most excited to camp at Zion, I was so bummed I missed out last summer.

VIOLET

It's gorgeous, I bought a pop up tent because I struggled assembling one last year.

GRAY

(laughing)

Mom bought one for me too, she didn't think I could figure it out.

VIOLET

(jovially)

I mean, mother's know best.

(CONTINUED)

Gray looks out the window at the passing scenery, shaking his head and trying to control a grin. Violet looks at him and smiles before focusing on the road again.

GRAY  
(embarassed)  
Shut up.

Gray reluctantly nods his head and continues looking out the window, zoning out.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

The car pulls into the gas station, Violet exits to go to the bathroom.

VIOLET  
I have to pee.

Gray remains in the car, DIGGING headphones out of his backpack. He begins to place the large red headphones over his ears.

Violet leaves her car door open and rushes towards the gas station, as she nears the entrance she turns back to yell at Gray.

VIOLET  
(continued)  
Get gas while I go inside!

Gray continues to look out the window, nodding his head to the music. Gray REMAINS in the car.

INT. CAR - DAY

Violet returns and hops in the driver's seat, newly energized.

VIOLET  
Ready?

Gray is startled out of his daze and quickly REMOVES his headphones and looks at Violet.

GRAY  
(groggily)  
Uh yeah.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

The car exits the gas station and accelerates down the highway.

INT. CAR - DAY

Violet and Gray are listening to music.

The car begins to SPUTTER and slowly comes to a halt. Gray looks fearful and Violet sees that the gas tank is empty, she is confused. They pull over and the car STOPS.

EXT. CONTINUOUS - DAY

Gray and Violet EXIT the car. Gray begins to panic and walk in circles next to the car.

GRAY  
(mumbling)  
Ah this is going terribly, why did  
I agree to do this?

VIOLET  
(frustrated)  
Gray you filled the tank up, right?

GRAY  
(confused)  
NO! I thought you were doing that!

VIOLET  
I told you to do it so I could go  
to the bathroom!

GRAY  
(sheepish)  
oh, my bad.

Violet walks around the car, holding up her phone searching for a signal. Gray SIGHS and sluggishly walks around.

VIOLET  
(strained)  
No signal.

GRAY  
Ugh, we're going to die out here.  
This is how every episode of  
Criminal Minds begins.

(CONTINUED)

VIOLET  
(laughing)  
We're not going to die.

GRAY  
(shocked)  
How are you laughing? This is terrifying! We're stranded in the desert, miles from the closest gas station.

VIOLET  
You're being so dramatic! But we do need to head towards the gas station.

They begin walking in the direction of the next exit. Gray drags his feet and kicks a rock, it doesn't move and he grabs his foot. Gray hops and holds his foot in pain.

VIOLET  
That's what you get for putting us in this mess.

GRAY  
(frustrated)  
I didn't put us in this mess! You did!

Violet STOPS walking and turns to look at Gray as he continues to walk.

VIOLET  
(scoffing)  
And how did I do that?

Gray TURNS around to look at Violet.

GRAY  
By insisting on going to school thousands of miles away from me.

VIOLET  
(angry)  
Away from you? My decisions don't revolve around you Gray.

GRAY  
Clearly!

VIOLET  
What does that mean?

GRAY

(exasperated)

Why are you going to an east coast school? Why not stay with your friends in California?

VIOLET

(thoughtfully)

Gray, I've told you this. I don't want to go to college with everyone from high school.

GRAY

(mumbling)

You can do that without having to go so far away?

Gray begins walking, sluggishly dragging his feet with his head down.

VIOLET

Come on, you were so happy for me when I got into W&L, don't be salty now. I'll be home for breaks.

Violet follows Gray.

Gray remains silent and continues walking along the road.

Violet jokingly elbows Gray and he pauses to look at her, emotions swirling in his eyes. Violet grows more serious as she STOPS walking and focuses on Gray.

Realization washes over her face and her mouth forms a small O.

Violet continues to walk as Gray catches up to her. Walking side by side, Violet reaches out and holds Gray's hand.

Gray looks at her, surprised, and she softly smiles back at him. Gray grins and interlocks their fingers as they continue.

FADE OUT.