

ON

written by

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1. EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - SUNRISE

An upper middle class home sits at the base of the cul de sac, circa year 2006. ELIZA (16) dressed in a Catholic school uniform sheds her crested sweater as she walks to reveal a "FLOWERS ARE MANIPULATION" t-shirt. She grabs a box, hidden in the bushes, filled with a toothbrush, diary, wad of cash and blue-plaid pj pants. She drops her sweater in it's place. With one last look at her home she walks away.

2. INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

ZOE (18) stacks a COSMO magazine and a dated 1993 photo of a priest paper clipped to strip of paper ripped from a *Catalogue of Priests* that reads: JOHN HAMMOND --- SICK LEAVE --- ALBURQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO in her bag. She applies lipstick in a mirror with rainbow stickers on it her eye catching in the light. Her mom's boyfriend, (50s) a robust man snores on a recliner. She slides the keys out of his pocket before giving him a kiss on the lips. She leaves without looking back.

3. EXT. TRAILER PARK - CONTINUOUS

Eliza kicks around a pebble while smoking. She adjusts her shirt in the side mirror and take a big bite of a uncrusted pb&j just as Zoe comes into view.

ELIZA

ZOE!

ZOE

I'm here. Keep your pants on.

ELIZA

(looks down at skirt)

What pants?

Zoe unlocks the boyfriend's car and throws their stuff in the back. She slides in. Eliza stands rooted to the spot.

ZOE

(punches open door)

C'mon gorgeous. Now or never.

Eliza slides in. Zoe sticks a pink Care Bear sticker on the window and tosses Eliza a map. She opens it. Alberquerque, New Mexico is circled. The music turns up and Zoe takes off quickly.

ZOE (CONT'D)

LET'S GO BABY

4. EXT. GAS STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Zoe pulls into the gas station and pops out of the car.

ELIZA

Who knew your mom's latest flavor
was cheap on gas.

ZOE

We did.

Zoe hands Eliza the pump.

ZOE (CONT'D)

Fill up. I'm gonna get snacks.
Specifics?

ELIZA

You know what I like.

5. INT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

MARTIN (40s) kind, stacks Mountain Dew cans in the shape of a Christmas tree. He looks up at Zoe when she enters and smiles in greeting. Zoe takes this to heart. She smiles brightly back and starts to move her hips more ferociously as she walks. Martin raises an eyebrow. She slips a snickers in her pocket and grabs a box of fruit roll ups, and Oreos. She stacks them all neatly in her bag. She grabs peanut butter and opens the lid, peeling back the seal. She licks her finger making eye contact with Martin.

6. EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Eliza equally concerned and annoyed watches Zoe flirt through the window. Her phone rings. She freezes. Caller ID: DAD.

VOICEMAIL:

DAD

Hi baby girl, I saw your note. What
are you thinking leaving like that?
I'm so worried about you. I know I
can be hard on you, but I'm here
for you. I'm always here for you so
just come home. I love you, okay?

5. INT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Zoe approaches into Martin's bubble a bit of peanut butter still on her lip. She stares only an inch away from him in his eyes.

ZOE
I'm just gonna take my leave now if
that's okay?

She begins to leave. Martin follows her outside.

MARTIN
Hey! You didn't pay for that.

Zoe's heart drops - not even the cashier at a dumpy gas station wants her. Martin glances at the tearful girl in front of him and then at ELIZA petrified on the phone. He makes his decision. He picks up a fallen apple - these poor girls.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
At least take some fruit - you
can't live on cheetos alone.

He hands Zoe an apple. She throws herself at him and he gently removes her and smiles sadly.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
You don't need to do that.

7. INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Zoe triumphantly slides into the car. Eliza, frozen from the voicemail, is mute.

ZOE
Y'all wouldn't believe how easy
that was. What can I say - he's in
love with me.

Eliza is still.

ZOE (CONT'D)
I've got fruit roll up, snickers,
oreos and peanut butter like the
PARENT TRAP-

ELIZA
What did you just say?

ZOE
(Oblivious)
I got peanut butter and oreos so we
can dip them like Lindsey Lohan in
PARENT TRAP

ELIZA
You didn't get chocolate chip.

ZOE
No, I got oreos like PARENT TRAP.

ELIZA
I thought you knew me. I didn't
realize I'd have to tell you. The
FUCK.

Eliza hits the dashboard in rage and opens the car door.

ZOE
Eliza. I'm sorry. I -

Eliza stomps into the gas station. Zoe watches through the window as she grabs a box of cookie and throws down cash. She slides into the passenger seat and slams the car door.

ELIZA
Let's go.

They drive off.

8. INT. CAR - LATER

They are both singing their heads off. All is forgotten. Zoe tries to eat a fruit roll up handless while Eliza cheers her on.

9. INT. CAR - LATER

Eliza drives and Zoe sits in the backseat taking a COSMO quiz the picture of her priest resting on the magazine.

ZOE
Do you like movie nights or a night
out.

ELIZA
Out.

ZOE
Beach dates or picnics?

ELIZA
This is boring. Come up here with
me.

ZOE
But I have space. Freedom.

She wiggles her toes in Eliza's face. Eliza jerks the car.

ELIZA

Zoe.

ZOE

Okay, sweet virgin mother of
Christ, I'm coming.

Zoe climbs up to the front seat. The picture falls from the
bawled up magazine on to the middle console. They both
freeze. Zoe snaps it up.

ELIZA

(sweetly)

Zoe? Who was that?

Zoe is obstinate.

ELIZA (CONT'D)

Is that who I think it is?

Eliza lunges for the photo. They struggle.

ZOE

Eliza stop. Stop it. Just at least
stop the damn car.

Eliza pulls over and snatches the photo.

ELIZA

It is him.

ZOE

Give it back.

Why the hell would you have this.
No don't answer -

ZOE (CONT'D)

I said give it back.

ELIZA

- I'll tell you why.

ZOE

GIVE IT BACK.

ELIZA

Because you're sick and you need
help

ZOE

He's my absolution!

ELIZA
He's a scumbag.

ZOE
Eliza.

Eliza rips the photo in half and throws it out the window.

ELIZA
Sorry bout it.

Zoe sits in absolute silence, then launches herself at Eliza in attack. She gets out of the car and picks up half the photo. The wind twists the other half just out of reach. She runs after it.

ELIZA (CONT'D)
(in the car)
Shit. Zoe.

She starts the car. And turns the car around to follow her.

ELIZA (CONT'D)
Zoe. Get back in the car.

Zoe walks obstinately forward - eyes straight ahead. The other half of the picture is long gone and she clutches what she has to her chest. She puts her thumb up as a car passes.

ZOE
Can you please move? It's hard to convince cars I need a ride if it looks like I already have one.

ELIZA
You do have one. Zoe get back in the car.

Zoe walks in silence

ZOE
You don't get to tell me how to do this.

ELIZA
I know.

ZOE
You don't get to control me like that.

ELIZA
 Alberquerque.
 (realizing)
 That's where he is.

ZOE
 I'm going to tell him why he
 shouldn't have left. That it was my
 fault. I didn't mean to get my
 period. It was an accident.

ELIZA
 You didn't do this.

ZOE
 I'm going to tell him that I don't
 want to go to hell.

ELIZA
 Please get in the car.

ZOE
 I need to be forgiven.

ELIZA
 Okay.

ZOE
 (mantra she's been taught)
 Only then can I experience love.

ELIZA
 Okay.

Zoe stops and looks at Eliza.

ZOE
 I need to be forgiven.

ELIZA
 (opens car door)
 Okay.

Zoe get back in the car. She fold the photo and tucks it in
 her bra. They sit still.

ZOE
 I need to pee.

10. EXT. FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Eliza and Zoe stand outside the pulled out car. Zoe has to
 pee. Eliza holds napkins from McDonalds.

ELIZA
This is stupid.

ZOE
A girls gotta go when a girls gotta
go.

ILIZA
What if someone sees?

ZOE
You'll block me.

ILIZA
It's an open field.

ZOE
Nobodies around.

ILIZA
Fine.

Zoe drops her pants and squats. A truck drives by and honks
at Zoe.

Disbelief. Typical. Zoe starts to giggle.

11. MCDONALDS DRIVE THROUGH - LATER

They sit in front of the speaker of the drive through
debating

MCDONLADS EMPLOYEE
Hi this is Chrissy, what can I get
for you today?

ZOE
(to Eliza)
What do you think? We wanna do
breakfast?

ELIZA
Ooo for dinner? Yes please.

ZOE
Eggs? Pancakes? French toast?

Eliza's expression imedietely darkens.

ELIZA
I hate french toast

ZOE

So pancakes?

ELIZA

You know my dad kicked me out of the house because I didn't eat all of it?

ZOE

Eggs?

ELIZA

No. French toast. He said I was insulting him and ungrateful and to "get the hell out". We have this treehouse swingset and there's a sandpit underneath it. I slept there - wake up in the morning and I'm scared to go inside. So I sneak through the window, get ready for school and attempt to sneak down the stairs. I fail. He greets me with this big smile. Says he loves me. I was back to being Daddy's favorite girl. But I knew it was conditional. You don't love failures. At the end of the day I left for him. An invisible daughter is the best kind.

MCDONLADS EMPLOYEE

I'm sorry I didn't catch that. What can I get you?

ZOE

We'll go with ice cream. Thank you.

They pull through the drive through and get the ice cream. Eliza is devastated. They start to drive.

ZOE (CONT'D)

You know, you're my favorite girl - completely visible.

They continue driving.

12. EXT. OVERLOOK - SUNSET

Eliza and Zoe sit on the hood of the car sharing an icecream cone.

ELIZA

I heard if you try smiling even when you don't feel like it you start to feel better. It starts to become real.

ZOE

If nothing else maybe it will give me dimples.

ELIZA

I thought running away would feel better.

Zoe takes a mouthy lick of the ice cream cone. She goes in for another and stops - who is she trying to seduce?

ZOE

Maybe it's the opposite of smiles. Maybe we just need to scream.

Eliza looks up and before able to register Zoe is screaming. Zoe stands up and pulls Eliza with her. She screams again.

ELIZA

What in the world-

ZOE

Just try it.

Zoe screams again and after hesitation Eliza joins. They scream together. Zoe stops. Eliza continues. It has become very real as Eliza releases all the pent up agony. Eliza sits and Zoe follows. They sit together exhausted. Zoe passes the icecream cone to Eliza. All of the talking, the trying to fix, the drama fades and they sit with each other. Not as friends or healers but as comrades of pain. They sit and they listen and they hold each other. That's enough. The sun sets. Another day is coming.