

THE ROAD

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. EMPTY OFFICE PARKING LOT

Open on an empty office parking lot. Only one car is parked. Cars driving in the distance. A man is walking to his car carrying a brief case. Daniel is 25, short brown hair, slightly overweight. He has a depressed demeanor in his walk. Montage of him walking to and from his office building day in and day out. Each day his clothes change to emphasize the progression of time. One day during the montage, Daniel arrives to a piece of paper on his windshield some unknown figure had placed there. On the piece of paper lie the words "The world is beautiful. Remember to smile." Daniel crinkles the paper and throws it into the wind without a care. Daniel takes off his bag, enters his car and without starting the engine he slouches and has a moment of pity on himself.

CUT TO:

SUBTITLE: THE ROAD

Daniel is driving his car. Montage of him driving his car through different places in his city, at different times of day. Daniel is always working and always has a place to be. It all feels so empty to him. At dusk, Daniel is driving down a road when suddenly a mysterious man is walking down the road in his path. Daniel slows his car to a stop in front of the man. The man approaches Daniel's passenger window, and Daniel activates his flood lights, and lowers the window half-way.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Hey.

DANIEL

Hey- uh... What are you doing?

The mysterious man looks around then back to Daniel.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Waiting.

DANIEL

Okay. Uh...

Daniel looks at the man and thinks for a beat.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I just got off work and I'm heading home. I'm about 20 minutes that way.

Daniel nods his head in a forward direction and waits a beat. The mysterious man is locking his gaze with Daniels'.

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
Do you want a ride?

The mysterious man looks around one more time. He looks all round him as if he is looking and waiting for something specifically. Daniel opens his mouth trying to say something, but suddenly the mysterious man, without another word, gets into the car and rolls up the window. Daniel looks around uncomfortably. He looks towards the mysterious man.

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
Put your seatbelt on.

The mysterious man sighs but does what is told of him. Montage as the sun sets into the night, of the mysterious man making himself at home in Daniel's car. He plays with the window, rolling it up and down. He turns on the passenger lights and opens the car compartments as if he's a child in a grown man's body. Daniel looks at the man with confusion but doesn't say anything and continues to drive. When Daniel drives by a park...

MYSTERIOUS MAN  
Hey. Stop here. Stop here man. Stop here.

The mysterious man gets out of the car.

MYSTERIOUS MAN (CONT'D)  
Come with me.

He closes the door. Daniel looks confused, sighs, and unbuckles his seatbelt to follow the man. They walk towards the edge of the park. The city is in the distance. They both stare at the glowing lights.

MYSTERIOUS MAN (CONT'D)  
The world is beautiful, man.  
Remember to smile.

Daniel looks at the man remembering the note he found on his car earlier that week. The man walks into the park towards the lights in the distance and he disappears into the darkness. Daniel sighs. A beat. He smiles.