

MILE O

FADE IN:

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

A dusty two-lane road.

A YOUNG WOMAN (20s) stumbles down the shoulder. Her makeup's smudged, her outfit dirty.

She blinks into the darkness, swaying a little.

Then, headlights appear in the distance.

She sticks her thumb out with the desperation of a drowning woman reaching for a lifeline.

The car slows.

INT./EXT. CAR

DAVID (30s) leans over the passenger seat, looking through the window.

DAVID

You okay?

She squints at him like she's not sure he's real.

YOUNG WOMAN

Pfft...once I threw up in a cab and  
lost my shoes so, yeah,  
tonight's...a win?

DAVID

Want a ride?

YOUNG WOMAN

God, yes, before I start talking to  
raccoons again.

She fumbles the door a moment, then climbs in.

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)

You're officially my hero slash  
kidnapper. I'm cool with either at  
this point.

David starts driving.

INT. CAR (MOVING)

The road stretches out ahead, lonely and long.

DAVID  
You sure you're okay?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Physically, I've got one contact lens, my feet hurt, and I might've peed a little when that owl flew at me. Emotionally...we'll circle back.

DAVID  
Long night?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Started strong. Cute outfit, free drinks. Then my dick of a ride bailed on me and I made the smart choice to walk down Hell Highway.

DAVID  
From a party? Out here?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Bonfire, bad decisions, the works.

She flinches.

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)  
Then, ugh. Everything went so fast.

DAVID  
What's the last thing you remember?

She turns to the side window, stares into the night.

YOUNG WOMAN  
The way the light looked...from the car...

She goes quiet, pensive.

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)  
I think I died. Didn't I?

DAVID  
You didn't survive that night.

She looks down, frowns, then lets out a small, shaky laugh.

YOUNG WOMAN  
I really thought I'd wake up with a  
hangover.

She studies him.

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)  
You seem too normal to be Death.

DAVID  
I'm not...Death. I'm...me.

He reaches into his shirt pocket and pulls out a faded photo  
of her, same clothes, same face.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
I was there that night. It wasn't  
just that I tried to help...I hit  
you. It was me. I was tired. I  
shouldn't have been driving. One  
second, I looked down at my phone,  
just for a moment.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Well, that's one way to leave a  
party. And you... remembered me.

DAVID  
I never forgot.

They sit in silence for a moment.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Weird, I thought I'd be more  
pissed.

DAVID  
Why aren't you?

She shrugs.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Maybe I used it all up already.  
Maybe I was just tired of being  
mad. Tired of waiting.

DAVID  
Waiting for what?

YOUNG WOMAN  
Someone to...see me...I dunno.  
Something.

Then, she leans back, resting her head against the window.

DAVID  
You still with me?

YOUNG WOMAN  
I think so. But...it's different...

David glances at the passenger seat...

She's gone.

He chokes back a breath.

EXT. ROAD

David passes a mile marker: Mile 0.

FADE OUT: