

Rachael

By

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FADE IN

INT. MOVING CAR - DAY

JOEL ALFREDO RAMIREZ (late 40s, preppy) drives quietly.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Open fields on either side. Desolate, except for Joel's car and...

A FEMALE raises her light brown hand and sticks her thumb out.

INT. CAR

Joel spots her.

Getting closer, he sees her standing near a parked car with the hood up. She wears a t-shirt, jeans, and sneakers.

EXT. HIGHWAY

Joel parks his car near her.

EXT/INT. CAR

RACHAEL (20s), a light brown beauty, leans against the passenger window.

RACHAEL

Hi. My car broke down. Can you please give me a ride to the nearest gas station?

JOEL

Sure. Hop in.

She goes to her car, takes out a red backpack, and enters Joel's car.

INT. CAR

She puts her backpack in between her legs.

Looking her over, he notices Rachael's tattoo of a snake wrapping her arm.

(CONTINUED)

JOEL  
Nice tattoo.

RACHAEL  
Thanks.

EXT. HIGHWAY

He drives off.

INT. CAR

JOEL  
Name's Joel.

RACHAEL  
Rachael.

JOEL  
Where you coming from?

RACHAEL  
Sterling.

THOMAS  
Why so far?

RACHAEL  
I was heading to a Halloween party  
that a couple of my friends are  
having till my car broke down.

JOEL  
What you going has?

RACHAEL  
An angel.

JOEL  
Naughty or nice?

RACHAEL  
I was planning to be nice for a  
while and then...

She gives a naughty look.

JOEL  
Maybe you have a chance to still  
go. Don't those parties last all  
night? Where's the party?

(CONTINUED)

RACHAEL

King.

JOEL

You're lucky. That's where I'm going.

EXT. HIGHWAY

Joel's car passes from right to left.

INT. CAR

JOEL

Stephen's gas station is the best place. They'll have it fixed no time.

RACHAEL

You're from King?

JOEL

No, but I'm familiar with it. I travel and sell jewelry. Part of the job is to know where your going. Have you been to King?

RACHAEL

It'll be my first time.

JOEL

Well, it's a nice place. Usually quiet.

He grins at her. She returns the grin back.

JOEL

One advice of caution though, stay away from the Bachmann area.

RACHAEL

Why?

JOEL

It's dangerous. A lot of poor families live there. Not all but some of them are animals. Some of them chose that life while others do it for surviving. It's hard to tell which one is which.

(CONTINUED)

RACHAEL  
(grins)  
Thanks.

EXT. HIGHWAY

Joel's car passes in frame from left to right.

INT. CAR

RACHAEL  
What type of jewelry do you sell?

JOEL  
All kinds, necklaces, bracelets,  
watches.

RACHAEL  
Mind if I look?

JOEL  
It's in the trunk, but maybe a bit  
later?

Rachael nods and looks out her side window.

From the driver's side interior storage compartment, Joel takes out a small crowbar and sticks it underneath his thigh.

RACHAEL  
You're going to King for business?

JOEL  
Always. That's one of the bonuses  
of this job. The traveling. the  
downside is sustaining the  
traveling. Gas, everything is  
expensive.

RACHAEL  
Ain't that the truth. Where you've  
been?

JOEL  
King. Sterling. Easton Ellis.  
Highsmith. A lot of other places.

RACHAEL  
Your family must miss you.

(CONTINUED)

JOEL

The only family I have is this car.  
And she's happy traveling with me.  
Does your family know about your  
trip?

RACHAEL

No.

JOEL

No.

He grins as she CHUCKLES.

JOEL

Youth. You have to enjoy it while  
you have the energy. We're here.

EXT. HIGHWAY

They pass the "WELCOME TO KING" sign and enter an area  
covered with trees and bushes.

INT. CAR

Dark shade covers them.

RACHAEL

I was never going to make it  
walking.

JOEL

It's about two miles. You would  
have gotten a great workout.

RACHAEL

If I lived. Dehydration would have  
gotten me a mile back wherever that  
was.

Rachael looks out through her window.

RACHAEL

How far is it to the gas station?

JOEL

Another mile or so.

She feels her left jeans pocket, next her right pocket, and  
then her back pockets.

(CONTINUED)

She opens her bag and rummages inside.

RACHAEL  
Shit.

JOEL  
What?

RACHAEL  
I forgot my cellphone in the car,  
my dead cellphone anyway.

JOEL  
You can use mine. Let me pull over  
here.

EXT. HIGHWAY

Joel parks the car on the side.

INT. CAR

Joel removes his seat belt.

JOEL  
I gotta take a leak so...

Digs into his pants pocket.

JOEL  
while I'm doing that...

Takes out his cell.

JOEL  
you can make a call.

Passing it with his right hand, he lets it fall. His cell  
lands underneath Rachael's seat.

JOEL  
Sorry.

Rachael goes for it.

Joel's brings out the small crowbar and clunks her on the  
head.

He takes out a pair of handcuffs from driver's glove  
compartment and binds her hands behind her back.

He exits.

EXT. CAR

He goes to the trunk, opens it, takes out a duffel bag, and closes it.

Opening the passenger side door, he carries Rachael out.

EXT. SOMEWHERE IN THE WOODS - LATER

He puts her down and secures her to a tree.

Couple of feet away, he drops his duffel bag.

Opening it, he rummages through a variety of utensils before taking out a long bladed knife.

RACHAEL (O.S.)  
Is this part of your job too?

JOEL  
An important part.

She nods quietly and looks around. Behind her, she touches the keyhole and the handcuffs unlock.

Joel furrows his eyebrows.

She turns to him.

RACHAEL  
You have to do what you have to do.  
And I have to do what I have to do.

He walks over to her, bends down, and thrusts the knife at her belly.

She blocks it and punches him in the face.

He falls back, stunned.

Rachael stands up flinging the handcuffs away.

RACHAEL  
Get up.

He aims a kick at her shin but hits the tree.

RACHAEL (O.S.)  
C'mon.

Looking behind he sees her in fighting stance. She blocks his path to his bag.

(CONTINUED)

RACHAEL  
Come and get it.

He slowly gets up and charges at her. She easily sidesteps and trips him.

He falls flat on his face.

She gets on his back and rams his head to the ground once, causing Joel's head to rise a bit.

It's enough for Rachael to slip her arm around his neck and choke him.

Slowly, he passes out.

LATER

Rachael gives him smelling salts. He comes too.

He sees Rachael's grinning face.

Trying to move, he quickly finds out that he can't.

Looking at his wrists and ankles, he discovers that he's tied up, spreadeagled style.

Rachael is knelt next to his chest, grinning. Her backpack rests open behind her.

He looks at her. She looks at him. So much is being said between them. This communication stops unfortunately with...

RACHAEL  
I'm going to cut your balls off.

She turn and unbuckles his belt.

JOEL  
Help!

MOVING A FEW FEET AWAY

Joel and Rachael are slightly visible.

JOEL  
Help!

MOVING FARTHER BACK

They've disappeared.

JOEL  
SomeoAHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

EXT. SKY

Day turns to night.

EXT. SOMEWHERE IN THE WOODS - NIGHT

A campfire is set. Rachael spins the rope around her hand and forearm.

A cellphone rings. Retrieving it from her back pocket and seeing whose calling, Rachael answers it.

RACHAEL  
Hey Stace.

She holds the cell to ear with her shoulder and goes back to spinning the rope.

STACEY (V.O.)  
Hey. The boss wants you for a group project.

RACHAEL  
Whose the other members?

STACEY (V.O.)  
Christian, Alexander, and Thomas.

RACHAEL  
(upset)  
I'll be there.

Hangs up and puts it back into her back pocket.

O.S. Joel MOANS.

Rachael spins the last of the rope and places it inside her backpack. She zips it up and puts the backpack on.

RACHAEL  
Take care.

She takes a couple of steps before poof, vanishing. O.S. Joel CRIES.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

10.

Joel's on his side. Naked, long and short cuts cover his back.

Blood covers his legs and buttocks. From the buttocks, a very long and thick tree limb sticks out.

FADE OUT