

THE RIDE

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. STAFF AREA OF RESORT - DAY

ZENITH (22) hops on the buggy driven by TAYLEA (18). She drives off and parks the buggy in the staff area.

Zenith hands Taylea a sub.

TAYLEA

Thanks.

Ravenous, she tears away the wrapper and munches on the sub. Out of the corner of her eye, she catches Zenith pointing to her lip. Embarrassed, she licks a crumb off her lip.

ZENITH

Marc Evans' coming today. You driving him after lunch?

TAYLEA

Yea. Wiki-ed him.

ZENITH

What does Wiki say?

TAYLEA

He's amazing.

ZENITH

(smirks)

You should have seen the front desk ladies this morning when they heard his name at the briefing.

Zenith mocks shooting an arrow, then squeals like a chipmunk style and swoons. Taylea laughs.

TAYLEA

I might quit next month.

ZENITH

Really?

TAYLEA

Saw a course on fashion design.

ZENITH

Chasing the dream, huh? You told Willie?

(CONTINUED)

TAYLEA

Not yet.

Taylea looks at Zenith for 3 Mississippi.

ZENITH

Another long day ahead.

Taylea grabs a plastic bag under the foot pedal and flings it into Zenith's lap. Zenith pulls out a limited edition figurine.

ZENITH

Wow. How did you get it?

TAYLEA

A friend was in Japan, so here it is.

ZENITH

You're awesome!

WILLIE (32), the Front Desk Manager, speaks through the walkie.

DUTY MANAGER

Willie to Zen.

ZENITH

Zen speaking.

WILLIE

Mr. Piper's waiting.

ZENITH

Heading to Front Desk in 5.  
(presses walkie button again)  
Is he standing right next to you?

WILLIE

Yes!  
(professional voice) Mr Pi --

The voice from the walkie goes out.

ZENITH

Gotta run.

EXT. RESORT / NEAR VILLAS - DAY

Taylea drives the buggy as Zenith runs behind it, struggling to keep up.

TAYLEA  
You know I can't stop! He's waiting  
at reception!

Zenith runs up closer to the edge of the buggy.

ZENITH  
Come on!

TAYLEA  
Hop on!

ZENITH  
You're crazy.

The buggy slows and Zenith leaps on board.

Zenith searches every corner he could reach in Taylea's buggy -- nothing.

ZENITH  
Must the buggy be moving while I'm  
doing this?

TAYLEA  
Yes.

ZENITH  
Willking's pissed. (holds up  
replacement walkie) He passed me  
this one, but he insists I find the  
one I had.

TAYLEA  
Just calm down and try to remember.  
Where did you last use it?

ZENITH  
Lunch!

TAYLEA  
Yea, Willking asked you to pick up  
Mr. Piper --

ZENITH  
And I took the walkie with me. I  
remembered placing it in my back  
pocket. I just hoped I had dropped  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ZENITH (cont'd)  
it on your buggy -- Maybe it's at  
the staff area. You have 3 minutes?

TAYLEA  
Marc Evans first!

ZENITH  
You know Willking will kill me!

Despite licking her lips nervously, Taylea turns the buggy  
and heads for the staff area.

INT. RESORT LOBBY - DAY

Taylea dashes to a deadpan MARC EVANS (26) and Willie.

WILLIE  
Taylea will escort you to your  
room.

Taylea gives Marc Evans a polite smile and leads him toward  
the buggy.

EXT. RESORT / NEAR RESTAURANTS - DAY

A familiar sight -- Taylea drives the buggy through the  
resort, but this time, with Marc Evans in the back seat.

TAYLEA  
(eager)  
I apologise to have kept you  
waiting, Sir.

Silence.

TAYLEA  
If you would look to the left, we  
have an Italian restaurant. Their  
signature pizzas are baked in a  
traditional brick oven. They're  
delicious.

Marc nods.

TAYLEA  
I'm pretty excited for London 2012.  
Archery is one of my favourite --

MARC

Is it your company's policy?

TAYLEA

Sorry? Mr Evans --

MARC

To keep your guest waiting for 10 minutes at the lobby, and after you fetch him, to engage in polite, idle chatter and *compliment* him.

TAYLEA

No, no, it certainly is not.

More silence as Taylea drives on. Willie's voice booms through the walkie.

WILLIE

Willie to Taylea.

TAYLEA

Taylea speaking.

WILLIE

I need you to bring Mr. Williams from Amour to reception.

TAYLEA

Will head to Amour after Room 209.

WILLIE

He's drunk. Ask the restaurant staff to help you.

TAYLEA

(persistent)

Will head to Amour in 10. I'll bring him to reception.

Taylea plants her eyes firmly ahead and drives the buggy. She continues in a professional tone.

TAYLEA

If you would look to the right, coming up's Amour, our flagship restaurant.

They drive past the restaurant.

TAYLEA

They have a special menu for Oysters Night tonight --

(CONTINUED)

Taylea hears a loud crash and cranes out of the buggy window. We hear indistinct shouting in the distance.

MARC

I don't really like that guy, but do you need help with him?

TAYLEA

It's alright, I'll come back later.

MARC

Stop the buggy.

Marc leaps off and supports a very drunk but conscious MR. WILLIAMS (47) onto the buggy.

MARC

(boards buggy)

Send him to where he needs to go first.

(firmly)

Go.

TAYLEA

Thanks.

And the buggy drives off. Mr. Williams begins to sing indistinctly under his breath.

MR. WILLIAMS

(suddenly shouts)

Soburr!

TAYLEA

Nope, you're not.

Marc looks at her, almost smiling.

MR. WILLIAMS

(sings)

Superman!

Mr. Williams sticks a fist out the buggy, which Mark grabs and places back on Mr Williams' lap. For a brief moment, silence prevails.

Mr. Williams looks mischevously at Taylea, then at Marc. He raises his fist again and moves slowly to the edge of the buggy.

MARC

No!

With a 'THUMP', Mr Williams lands on a bush.

(CONTINUED)

TAYLEA  
MR. WILLIAMS! Shucks.

Marc and Taylea exit the buggy and rushes up to a groaning Mr. Williams. Eying the flustered Taylea, Mark puts Mr. Williams' arms around his shoulder, and inches toward the buggy.

MARC  
Wow, the dude's even heavier now  
that he's out cold.

TAYLEA  
Thanks.

Marc drops Mr Williams. Taylea gasps.

MARC  
Second time. The third time I hear  
'Thanks', I'll demand a free  
dinner.  
(looks at Mr Williams on the  
ground)  
Sorry, I just had to do that.

He gives Mr. Williams a kick and picks him up again. Taylea cannot help but grin.

INT. RESORT LOBBY - NIGHT

An agitated MRS. WILLIAMS shouts at Willie.

MRS. WILLIAMS  
I'm checking out with him. I'm not  
leaving him here with that woman!

WILLIE  
But he's -- he's here.

Mrs. Williams looks at Mr. Williams, sandwiched between two men, passed out.

MRS. WILLIAMS  
I'm sorry for the trouble. I'll  
check out first. Mike.

Mike, her ten-year-old son, who was sitting on a lounge chair, runs over.

MRS. WILLIAMS  
Send him back home when he's sober.

Mother and Son walk to the desk, with Mike looking back at his father.

EXT. RESORT - NIGHT

Taylea and Marc walks up to the buggy, silent. Marc sits in the front seat. Taylea looks at him.

MARC  
May I ride shotgun?

TAYLEA  
(nods)  
Sure.  
(boards buggy)  
Thank you for helping me with the guest.

Taylea drives off once more.

Marc looks out at the resort passing by.

MARC  
Just now, the way I snapped at you.

TAYLEA  
Snapped at me?

MARC  
For being late and introducing the resort.

TAYLEA  
It's no worries. Some guests kind of do that. And I was late.

MARC  
Sorry. I don't really want to be remembered as someone like that.

Taylea smiles.

MARC  
Is there any chance you could go faster?

TAYLEA  
I doubt so, Mr. Evans.

MARC  
I have a first name.

(CONTINUED)

TAYLEA  
Not really, Marc.

MARC  
My father used to work on a golf course. He'll drive me all around to explain the different holes. Then he'll race on the buggy with the other staff.

TAYLEA  
He owns the golf course?

MARC  
(beat)  
Wikipedia. Genius. We stopped -- talking after I pursued archery. I hope Wikipedia didn't write that.

TAYLEA  
(smiles)  
No.  
(realises she's smiling) I'm sorry.

MARC  
Go as fast as you can.

Taylea looks at Marc and considers. She steps on the pedal.

As they drive, the resort seems to blur out around them. Taylea and Marc look out their windows, smiling, then at each other. The moment was very silent, and transcended time or words.

The buggy comes to a gentle stop at its destination - near Marc's room. Marc gets off the buggy. He faces Taylea as he walks round the buggy.

TAYLEA  
Thank you again, Mr. Evans.

MARC  
You're supposed to keep this professional, right?

Taylea smiles.

MARC  
I'm checking out tomorrow. Will you be --

TAYLEA  
Off day. See you on TV London 2012.

CUT TO:

Zenith is running after Taylea's buggy once more.

ZENITH  
Taylea!

Taylea stops the buggy.

ZENITH  
(waves walkie)  
I found the walkie! It was in my  
buggy all along!

Taylea stares at him for a beat. Then she looks forward and drives off.

ZENITH  
Taylea!

TAYLEA (V.O.)  
When I think back to that summer, I remember that buggy ride with Marc Evans in shotgun that could go on forever. Maybe it's preliminary to call it that, maybe we didn't know each other well enough for that moment to be imperfect.  
(beat)  
But all I know is in moments like this, I could be anybody, he could be just Marc, not an archer, and we could both feel like we're on the top of the world.  
(beat)  
And those moments stay with me.

FADE TO BLACK