

HOSPITAL PLEASE

By:

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INT. TAXI - DAY

BRUCE, 48, overweight and blading sits at the wheel. Pulls up to the side of the road.

The back door opens and LAURA, 21, beautiful, hair up in a bun and heavily pregnant gets in. About to give birth. Any day now

LAURA
To the hospital please.

BRUCE
I could have guessed that. You look ready to pop.

She smiles at him politely.

LAURA
Yeah. I feel like it too. But this is just a checkup. Whoever is in there. They're not quite ready to come out yet.

BRUCE
You don't know? I mean. If it's a boy or a girl?

She shakes her head. Puts on her seat belt.

LAURA
I didn't want to. I want to be surprised.

BRUCE
Fun?

LAURA
No. Stressful. I've got a million things to get done and I can't seem to get any one thing finished before something else pops up. It's like having a ticking bomb inside of you. I've never felt this way before. This stressed. If I could scream until my lungs exploded I would.

He gives her a disappointed shake of the head.

BRUCE
Well that's no good. I'll try and make this ride as smooth as possible. You just sit back and relax.

CUT TO:

INT. TAXI - DAY

Bruce pulls his taxi up outside the front of a supermarket. Laura climbs in with all her food shopping bags.

She looks up at the back of his head and smiles.

LAURA

Oh yeah. It's you again. Twice in one day.

He turns in his seat to face her. Smiles back at her, excited.

BRUCE

You remember me?

LAURA

It was only a few hours ago. How could I forget?

BRUCE

And already you're on the other side town?

LAURA

Like I said. Too much to do. And not enough time to do it in.

BRUCE

Where do you need to go now? Another smooth ride I promise. It's the least I can do for remembering me.

She giggles to herself.

LAURA

You really are happy about that aren't you?

BRUCE

I've had other jobs. All kinds. But I've never been so lonely as doing this. It's nice to meet someone who recognizes that I exist for a change.

LAURA

Been lonely sucks doesn't it?

BRUCE

You know it too?

She turns away to look out of the window, places a hand onto her stomach.

LAURA

Yeah. But in a couple of days I
won't be lonely no more.

CUT TO:

INT. TAXI - DAY

The taxi comes to a stop outside an apartment block. Laura finds her purse.

LAURA

How much?

Bruce takes off his seat belt. Turns around in his seat to better face her.

He finds a note pad and pen from the glove box and quickly writes out his number.

BRUCE

No charge. It's free. And here. I
want you to have my number. You
need taking somewhere. You just
get in touch and I'll be there.

She smiles and cautiously takes the paper from him.

CUT TO:

INT. TAXI - DAY

The taxi parks up. Laura climbs into the front passenger seat.

Bruce smiles happy. Over the moon to see her again.

He pulls away and drives slowly along the empty road.

BRUCE

When the big day comes have you
got people coming to the hospital
with you?

LAURA

My mom will be there. Wouldn't
miss it for anything. Me getting
pregnant is probably the best
thing that could have ever
happened for me and my mom. We've
never been so close.

BRUCE

And you're husband?

Laura holds up her hands. There's no wedding ring.

LAURA

Nope. And to answer you're next question I know who the father is but I don't know where is he. Got up and left.

BRUCE

I didn't mean to offend you.

LAURA

A single mother and I haven't even given birth yet. And he gets all the sympathy in the world. I'm the one who's pregnant. He's the coward who decided to run away.

BRUCE

I'm sorry.

LAURA

Why?

BRUCE

It's a hard world out there. You're so young. And pretty. You shouldn't have to do this on your own.

Laura sinks into her seat. Turns away from him. The pretty remark clearly made her feel uncomfortable.

LAURA

I'm stronger than I look. Trust me.

CUT TO:

INT. TAXI - DAY

Bruce brings the taxi to a stop. Laura instantly opens the door to get out.

He reaches over and takes a hold of her.

BRUCE

Wait. Don't go just yet.

She looks over at him.

LAURA

Are you OK?

BRUCE

I'm serious when I say I'm here to help.

(MORE)

BRUCE (CONT'D)

I don't like the idea of you
being on your own. And I for sure
don't like been on my own.

She frowns. Doesn't know where this is going.

LAURA

You've already helped me out more
than you ever needed to.

BRUCE

I can be there for you. I can
give you a relationship. No one
should be on their own.
Especially when there's a baby on
the way.

She gets out of the taxi, annoyed.

LAURA

I'm not interested. I'm sorry. I
don't know what you thought this
was. I'm happy been on my own.
You're a nice guy. But you need
to leave me alone now.

She slams the door shut behind her and leaves.

Bruce seethes. He watches her go. A rage bubbles up inside
of him and threatens to spill out.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Laura has a travel bag down by her feet as she waits on the
empty city street.

She has her phone in her hand. Sees a taxi approach her.

She puts out her arm, goes to wave it down. But when she
sees it's Bruce who drives she puts her arm back down
again.

Oh no. Why him?

Bruce pulls up alongside her and gets out.

LAURA

It's OK. I'll wait for another.

BRUCE

Did I really upset you so much
the other day? You've never been
asked out before?

LAURA

It was one of the weirdest asking outs I've ever faced. You could have just said. Hey. Lets go for a coffee. I'm about to give birth. Like literally. Right now. My contractions are right there. Today is going to be the day. I just know it.

BRUCE

Then let me take you.

LAURA

Are you listening. I'm about to give birth. This baby is coming today. I don't really want to face an uncomfortable ride over there.

BRUCE

I'm sorry I made you feel that way. Let me make it up to you. I like you. I'm Lonely. I let it get the better of me. But it won't happen again.

He reaches down and picks up her bags.

LAURA

There's another taxi on its way.

BRUCE

But my taxi is right here. I can have you there in no time at all.

He opens up his trunk and Laura gives in.

LAURA

Alright.

He gestures for her to join him at the back of the taxi.

BRUCE

How do you want this going in?

She comes over to him. Confused.

LAURA

What do you mean?

He drops the bag to the floor. Wrestles with Laura and throws her inside the trunk. Rough and nasty. She screams. He slams the trunk closed.

BRUCE

I love you. And you're going to love me too.

He climbs in. Drives away.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END