

BANDWAGON

by
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(13th draft)

1 BLACK. OPENING CREDITS.

1

The sound of tires rolling on concrete can be heard. A fuzzy FOLK SONG barely creeps through the RADIO STATIC.

ZOEY

-And another folk station, Adam
plug your phone in.

ADAM

Into what?

CHARLIE

Guys, guys, guys, gas station!

ZOEY

Doesn't the stereo have an MP3
thing?

ADAM

Maybe, this van is ancient. Plus,
you know, driving.

CHARLIE

Guys seriously I have to piss like
a race horse.

ZOEY

Just hold on, we're in the home
stretch. Only thirty miles to
California.

CHARLIE

Ughhhhhhhh-ah screw it.

Rumbling of PLASTIC BOTTLES.

ZOEY

Don't you dare.

CHARLIE

Yep, this is happening.

ZOEY

Don't do it, Charlie!

THUMP! SCREEEEEEEECH! The VAN stops.

ZOEY (CONT'D)

Fuck!

SMASH CUT TO:

2 EXT. DESERT - DAY

2

A large PASSENGER VAN with a small TRAILER sits on the side of the road, SMOKE gently pours out of the open HOOD.

ADAM, 22, sits in an open seat of the VAN stares at his PHONE. MIKE, 22, lies under the chassis of the VAN trying to fix it. CHARLIE, 21, urinates on a bush.

ZOEY, 18, stands furthest from the VAN with a PHONE in the air, trying and failing to get a signal.

ZOEY

Shit.

She walks to the VAN passing Charlie as his zips up.

ZOEY (CONT'D)

Nothing.

CHARLIE

Think the new guy will get it working?

ZOEY

Maybe, I don't know. I'm trying to take this one thing at a time.

CHARLIE

What about that dude from the record label?

ZOEY

God don't remind me, I can smell the contract already. Okay, when we show up late we just play it off like we don't give a shit. (sarcastic) Seems like the most punk thing to do.

CHARLIE

(sarcastic)
We are so punk.

ZOEY

I got nothing, you?

ADAM

Zip.

Charlie climbs in the VAN and rummages through the mess.

ZOEY

Mike please tell me you have good news.

MIKE

It looks like fuel line snapped.
Not too great, but it could be way
worse.

ZOEY

Can you fix it?

MIKE

Yeah I think so. The thing is, we
don't have any of the stuff we need
on hand.

ZOEY

But that gas station we passed-

MIKE

Exactly. If we hurry we can make it
late to sound check- (to Charlie)
will you just chill up there?!

CHARLIE

Sorry!

ZOEY

Okay seems simple enough. Try not
to do anything stupid, I'll be
right back.

Zoey walks away.

ADAM

You're going out there, are you
nuts?! Who knows what's out there?!

ZOEY

Yeah, because Arizona is known for
it's interstate axe killers.

ADAM

Still, it'll be easier to just wait
for someone to come by.

ZOEY

Come by? When was the last time you
saw another car? I'm not gonna
waste time for a car that might
pass by and might be kind enough to
help us. If there's something we
can do I'm gonna do it.

ADAM

Just trying to do my job, baby sis.

ZOEY

Thank you so much, big bro.

Charlie stumbles out of the van towards Zoey.

CHARLIE

Wait! I'll come with you, we need water anyway. All we have is half a bottle of my piss and-

ZOEY

-Why are you coming?

CHARLIE

Oh. Well you know, buddy system?

ZOEY

Buddy system?

CHARLIE

Yeah. I'm sure Adam will feel much better about you going off if you had someone watching your back. (to Adam) Right?

ADAM

Sure.

ZOEY

(beat) C'mon.

ADAM

Just be careful!

CUT TO:

3 EXT. DESERT ROAD - CONTINUOUS

3

Zoey walks down the road, the VAN begins to fade in the background. Charlie quickly catches up.

CHARLIE

(sarcastic)

Yaaaay first tour.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

4

The place has seen better days. Next to it is the remains of an AUTO SHOP. Zoey and Charlie approach from the HIGHWAY EXIT.

Zoey fails to open the door.

ZOEY

UGH.

Zoey bangs on the window.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
 HELP! We're a bunch of idiots from
 the Midwest and we're stuck in the
 middle of the desert!

Charlie wonders off, Zoey stares through glass not noticing.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
 Hold on I think I see a phone. Bet
 you I can break the lock and get
 in. We could totally fight off any
 drifters inside. Right Charlie?
 Charlie?

Charlie is already walking to the AUTO SHOP.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
 Of course.

INT. ABANDONED AUTO SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Charlie stands in the middle of the mess, scanning the space.
 Zoey enters.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
 Hey come on we got-

CHARLIE
 -Shhhh.

CLAP. They listen to the echoes and reverberations, a sickly,
 strangely pleasant metallic sound.

Zoey claps a few times on her own digesting the sound for
 herself, searching for the sweet spot.

ZOEY
 Hey, what if we recorded in a place
 like this?

CHARLIE
 Why?

ZOEY
 Why not? It would be fun to do
 something unique. I bet Mr. Record
 Exec would love a band that wants
 to innovate.

CHARLIE
 (sarcastic)
 And we would call it something
 really original, like the
 "Abandoned Jiffy Lube Sessions".

ZOEY

Hey at least we'd be doing something unique.

CHARLIE

"Something unique." Yeah labels love it when bands get all esoteric and shit.

ZOEY

Then why are we trying to get signed?

CHARLIE

Simple: make a little bit of money, get exposure, and maybe, just maybe be able to make the music we want in five years, once we break our contract and start our own label. Until then this is our life: play a show a night, try to become relevant on the internet-

ZOEY

-Make twenty bucks a year off Spotify, live out of the van-

CHARLIE

-And always broke, tired, and homesick.

ZOEY

There has to be a better way.

CHARLIE

Maybe, if my name was George and your's was Ringo.

ZOEY

Yeah . . .

Charlie gets close to Zoey, taking her hands in his.

CHARLIE

Come on, cheer up. We did it. We finally made it on tour.

ZOEY

Yeah, now all we have to do is-

Charlie goes in for the kiss. Zoey responds briefly but then quickly pulls away.

ZOEY (CONT'D)

You asshole! You just followed me here to get laid!

CHARLIE

Hey if this is how it's going to be, we're going to have to get creative.

ZOEY

"Creative"? There won't always be places like this to sneak off to.

CHARLIE

Eh-

ZOEY

C'mon, we got shit to do.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. VAN - DAY

5

Mike remains crouched underneath the VAN while Adam paces back and forth.

ADAM

They should be back by now.

MIKE

Nope.

ADAM

It's not that long of a walk.

MIKE

It's at least two miles.

ADAM

I'm gonna check my phone.

Adam walks to the VAN.

MIKE

No service, dumbass.

Adam reaches in the VAN and pulls out a water bottle half filled with URINE. He throws it into the desert.

CLANG.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Damn it!

Mike climbs from under the VAN and climbs in.

ADAM

You okay dude?

MIKE

Nothing. Something. I don't know, I can't fix the van by myself but I don't care anymore and you're annoying the shit out of me.

ADAM

Well that isn't rude, like at all.

Mike pulls out a PIPE and DIME BAG OF WEED.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Isn't that Charlie's?

MIKE

So?

ADAM

(beat) I don't know.

Adam climbs into the VAN.

CUT TO:

6 INT. GAS STATION - DAY

6

CHARLIE (O.S.)

This is a terrible idea.

ZOEY (O.S.)

Yeah we'll see about that.

CHARLIE (O.S.)

You're cute when you commit misdemeanors.

ZOEY (O.S.)

Ha, jackass.

CRACK. CLICK. SWING. Zoey and Charlie enter. Zoey picks up a PHONE. SIGNAL TONE.

ZOEY (CONT'D)

Yes!

Zoey immediately starts dialing while Charlie explores.

ZOEY (CONT'D)

We call a tow truck, beg the driver to take us the rest of the way, then barely make it to the show on time. We got this!

Charlie pulls BOTTLED WATER out of a FRIDGE.

ZOEY (CONT'D)

Hello? Yeah hi our van broke down
on the I-8. (beat) Uhh we got
forced off by a semi truck and our
gas line broke-

Zoey gives Charlie a thumbs up from across the convenience
store. Charlie rolls his eyes and Zoey responds by turning
that thumb into a middle finger.

ZOEY (CONT'D)

-I think he might have been drunk-
what? Yeah I can hold. (to Charlie)
Told you this would work! We are
going to be just fine.

CHARLIE

Yeah that's awesome.

ZOEY

Whoa contain your excitement.

CHARLIE

Hey, I'm just glad we won't be out
ten grand for this.

Zoey drops the PHONE.

ZOEY

What?

CHA-CHUCK. A SHOTGUN loads a round.

OWNER (O.S.)

WHO THE HELL IS IN HERE?!

CHARLIE

NO ONE!

Zoey and Charlie sprint out of the STATION.

CUT TO:

7 INT. VAN - DAY

7

Adam and Mike are smoking with the DOORS closed.

ADAM

It's a tourist trap near Flagstaff.

MIKE

What?

ADAM

Seriously. We passed it once when
we were kids. Zoey screamed bloody
(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)
murder at our Dad to pull over
because she thought it was a town
run entirely by bears.

Adam passes the PIPE to Mike, who takes an ungodly long hit.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Few years later we decided to name
the band after it.

MIKE
Hey, I know you're worried about
Zoey. But, I did the math, and
according to my calculations they
should be back . . . now!

Mike and Adam look out the back window. No one is in sight.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Aww damn. I'm sorry man.

ADAM
Dude. It's cool. It's like, cool.

MIKE
But dude, like Zoey's cool. She can
totally handle any bullshit that
happens. I know like, I've only
known you dudes for a week but I
can just tell, ya' know?

ADAM
I know man. It's just, she puts a
lot of herself with the band, and
back home, and . . . Everyone has
their limits.

MIKE
Amen.

Mike takes another hit. This one comes in a little awkward.

ADAM
Plus it's Charlie I'm worried
about. I swear that dude will bang
anything that moves-

Mike coughs heavily.

ADAM (CONT'D)
You okay man?

MIKE
Yeah, it's just hot as shit-

More coughing.

MIKE (CONT'D)
-I'm a bit light headed.

ADAM
Alright man, hold on. I'm gonna get
some fresh prince of bel air in
here.

Adam places the PIPE and DIMEBAG in the pocket of a HOODIE
draped across the seat and opens the door.

ADAM (CONT'D)
How's that?

Mike stumbles over.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Oh shit.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. DESERT ROAD - DAY

8

Zoey and Charlie walk along the highway. The sun beating down
on them as a reminder of the limited time they have.

ZOEY
So . . .

CHARLIE
Oh god, please don't get started.

ZOEY
I was just going to ask what song
we should open with. We haven't
settled on our set list yet and-

CHARLIE
-Cut the shit Zoey. (beat) Alright
fine yes! We spent ten grand
renting the van.

ZOEY
Huh. Interesting. So considering
the amount of money you spent on
the van, if we can't get this tour
off the ground we're going to be in
debt?

CHARLIE
Yep.

ZOEY
Okay. So why, exactly, did you not
to feel the need to let me in on
this little secret.

CHARLIE

Adam didn't want you to worry.

ZOEY

And you just agreed with him?

Charlie shrugs.

ZOEY (CONT'D)

What the fuck Charlie?! I get enough over-protective shit from Adam! I don't need you backing him up!

CHARLIE

I wasn't exactly able to disagree with him.

ZOEY

Oh right! You have no problem with shitting on my ideas but once Adam throws something out you're all fucking smiles and nods.

CHARLIE

Well what was I supposed to do?! "Adam I'm going to have to disagree with you. Even though Zoey has been a nervous wreck for the last month I think we should tell her that we spent a fuckton on the van."

Zoey rolls her eyes.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

"The fact that she's your sister and the girl I happen to be sleeping with has nothing to do with it."

ZOEY

What's your point?

CHARLIE

You have single handily planned out this entire tour without any input from the rest of us. You booked the shows, ordered the merch, and you run all of our social media from your phone!

ZOEY

That's only because you guys can't do anything without dropping it to dick around and smoke weed!

CHARLIE
Only because you never let us do
anything in the first place!

ZOEY
Bullshit!

CHARLIE
Name one thing!

ZOEY
I let you guys rent the van!

ADAM
(far off)
Hey! We got a problem over here!

CUT TO:

9 EXT. VAN - DAY

9

Zoey and Charlie sprint to the VAN. Adam is fanning Mike who is trying to sit upright.

ZOEY
What the hell happened?

ADAM
I don't know, he was fine a second ago then he was all-

Adam can't find the end of his sentence.

ZOEY
Are, are you high?

ADAM
(beat) Okay a little.

ZOEY
Let me guess, you two hotboxed in the van didn't you? And now Mike has heat stroke.

ADAM
(beat) Yes?

ZOEY
Fucking A!

Zoey steps away from the VAN. Charlie takes the PIPE from the VAN and approaches her.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
Look it's crazy, but if we just go apologize to the guy at the gas
(MORE)

ZOEY (CONT'D)
station, I think he'll help us out.

CHARLIE
Do you really think Captain Shotgun
back there will want to help us
out?

ZOEY
Fuckin' I don't know. I'm just
trying to think-where's that bottle
of piss?

CHARLIE
Wow you are getting desperate.

ZOEY
Do you have a better idea?! Because
I would love to hear it. (beat)
Yeah that's what I thought.
(to Adam) Listen we struck out at
the gas station, but I'm gonna go
back and try again. Just keep him
alive until we get back.

ADAM
What happened?

ZOEY
We tried sneaking in, owner waved
his shotgun at us.

ADAM
What?! I told you it was a bad idea
to go out there!

ZOEY
I can take care of this!

CHARLIE
You've been doing great so far.

ZOEY
At least I'm trying to do
something, instead of whining and
trying to have sex in the-

Zoey shuts it.

ADAM
Trying to do what?

ZOEY
Nothing! Nothing at all just go
back to being high.

ADAM
I'm not that-

Adam briefly sees the scope of time and space.

ADAM (CONT'D)
-high. What the hell are you
talking about?

Zoey glances at Charlie who give her a "go ahead" gesture.

ZOEY
Alright fine, Charlie and I have
been dating about two years now. I
know we should have been up front
about it but we just-

Adam bum-rushes Charlie bringing him to the ground. They
fight in the only way two guys high on weed can.

ADAM
You fucking asshole! I knew would
try to pull some shit like this!

CHARLIE
Fuck you!

Zoey jumps in and breaks up the fight, but not before Charlie
lands a solid punch on Adam's face.

ZOEY
What is wrong with you?! Did you
forget where we are?! No gas, no
water, in the middle of nowhere!

Charlie and Adam avoid eye contact with Zoey.

CHARLIE
And there's the ten thousand
dollars in debt we're in-

ZOEY
AHHHHHHHHHHHH! I AM SO SICK OF THIS
SHIT!

Zoey walks to the VAN and begins KICKING IT.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
FUCK THIS TOUR. FUCK ARIZONA. FUCK
THIS BAND. AND FUCK THIS FUCKING
VAN!!!

Zoey kicks the VAN until she feel that she's blown off enough
steam. She stares at the VAN.

ADAM
Zoey I-

ZOEY
-Phones, now!

ADAM
What?

ZOEY
Give me your phones. Come on, chop chop!

Adam tosses his phone to Zoey.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
Thanks.

Mike follows suit but misses by a foot.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
Thank you Mike. Charlie . . .

Charlie pulls his phone out and holds it out. Zoey walks up and takes it. Zoey climbs on the VAN and holds Charlie's phone in the air. No signal.

CHARLIE
Are you serious?

ZOEY
Yes. Now shut up.

ADAM
We're gonna die out here, aren't we.

ZOEY
No we aren't.

Zoey works though Adam and Mike's phones before using her phone. She holds it up to find a single signal bar.

Zoey dials. BRRRRRRRRRRNG. BRRRRRRRRRRRRNG.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
Hi. Remember me?

TECH
(O.S.)
Alright bass drum.

SMASH CUT TO:

10 INT. VENUE - NIGHT

10

Sound check. ROADIES jog around the stage preparing for the show. Adam and Charlie tune guitars while Mike lays on the STAGE with a water bottle to her head. Zoey sits at her DRUM KIT zoning out.

TECH

Bass drum!

ZOEY

Oh, sorry!

Zoey steadily kicks at the drum while the TECH sets the level in the sound system.

While kicking away Zoey stares at Charlie, who walks up to Adam and exchanges words. Zoey can't hear the conversation but can infer from Charlie pointing to the fresh BRUISE on Adam's FACE.

CUT TO:

11 INT. GREENROOM - NIGHT

11

Zoey warms up on a DRUMPAD while the bass tones of a HEAVY METAL BAND permeates through the walls.

Charlie enters.

CHARLIE

Hey listen, I talked to the dude from the label. He seems cool.

Zoey doesn't look up.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Listen I know the trip here was tough and things got tense, but it's all going to be worth it.

Charlie kisses Zoey on the cheek.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(sarcastic) Just don't fuck this up.

Charlie walks halfway out of the room before Zoey pipes up.

ZOEY

What happened to all that stuff you said at the gas station? "Always broke, tired, and homesick"?

CHARLIE

What can I say? I was stressed out.

ZOEY

And you're never going to be stressed after we get signed?

CHARLIE

Not really.

Charlie exits. Zoey throws a DRUMSTICK across the room. MR. RECORD EXEC, enters with a hand extended.

MR. RECORD EXEC

You must be Zoey, it's great to finally meet you.

ZOEY

Nice to meet you.

Record Exec holds out a stack of papers.

MR. RECORD EXEC

Here it is, right here right now. Will you draw first blood?

ZOEY

You want me to sign a contract without reading it?

MR. RECORD EXEC

Of course not. It's your standard one record deal with options for renewal and a signing bonus.

ZOEY

That's actually pretty tempting.

MR. RECORD EXEC

I think we have a future together. From what I hear you have some very interesting ideas. Doing a session in an abandoned building definitely seems intriguing-

Zoey looks in the hallway at Charlie.

MR. RECORD EXEC (CONT'D)

-but we'll cross that bridge when we get to it.

Mr. Record Exec hands her the contract.

MR. RECORD EXEC (CONT'D)

So what do you say?

RIIIIIING.

MR. RECORD EXEC (CONT'D)
Hold that thought.

Mr. Record Exec leaves.

MR. RECORD EXEC (CONT'D)
(O.S.)
I'll be right back.

Zoey stares at the CONTRACT in her hand like it's going to bite her, setting down on a TABLE.

Zoey puts on her HOODIE and finds the PIPE. She takes a hit and it tastes like candy to her.

Zoey sets the PIPE down and EXITS. Charlie enters.

CHARLIE
Zoey we're on now, like right now.
Zoey?

Charlie finds the PIPE and CONTRACT.

ADAM (O.S.)
Dude c'mon it's time to work.

CHARLIE
Where's Zoey?

ADAM (O.S.)
In there?

CHARLIE
Seriously where is she?

ADAM (O.S.)
Dude I don't know.

Charlie exits.

CHARLIE (O.S.)
Mike have you seen Zoey?

MIKE (O.S.)
Not since sound check, why?

CHARLIE (O.S.)
She decided to disappear . . .

FADE OUT.