

GOING TO CHICAGO

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DUSK

A lone car driving on a deserted highway.

EXT. DESERT CAFE - DUSK

A car pulls into a parking lot of a cafe, a man carrying a map gets out and walks up to the front of the cafe. The cafe is closed but the man knocks on the window anyway. A waitress opens the door.

WAITRESS

Sorry, but we are closed.

MIKE

(Interrupting)

Sorry about that, But I'm really lost, and I'm just looking for directions back to the main highway.

WAITRESS

Like, I said we are closed, but maybe I can help you out.

INT. DESERT CAFE - DUSK

MIKE enters the cafe and sits down at the counter. The WAITRESS starts pouring Mike a cup of coffee.

MIKE

Thanks, it feels like I been lost forever.

WAITRESS

It seems like that's the way most people find us these days.

MIKE

(Looking at a map)

I'm trying to find Highway 28.

WAITRESS

Where are you heading?

MIKE

I'm going to Chicago.

WAITRESS

Boy, you are loss; you want Highway 42, not Highway 28.

MIKE

Well, that might explain while I been driving around in circles.

WAITRESS

So why are you going to Chicago?

Mike starts laughing to himself.

WAITRESS

What's so funny?

MIKE

I was having a childhood flashback. When I was growing up no one in my family ever died. They just want to Chicago.

WAITRESS

Chicago?

MIKE

Yes, death was kind of taboo subject in my household. I first notice it when my cat died. When I came home from school one day, I couldn't find the cat. The cat dish was gone too. So I ask my Dad what happen to the cat? He replied the cat want to Chicago.

WAITRESS

Oh.

MIKE

Yeah, to this day I still have visions of my cat getting into a cab and going to the airport.

WAITRESS

So you never have been to a funeral service?

MIKE

No, when my Grammy past away, we pile into the station wagon and

drove to the airport. When we got there, Dad got out, looks around, came back and said we just miss her plane. And that she was already on her way to Chicago.

WAITRESS

I thought I heard them all, more coffee?

MIKE

Yes, please.

WAITRESS

You sure you never been to a funeral service?

MIKE

No, I couldn't bring myself to go.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mike drives into the parking lot of a cemetery.

INT. DESERT CAFE - DUSK (REALITY)

WAITRESS

(Sensing a awkward moment)

Can I get you something to eat?

MIKE

(Looking down at the map)

No, I need to back on the road.

WAITRESS

No, I insist. Look the cook has already left, but I can go back in the kitchen and make something up for you.

MIKE

(Having second thoughts)

Sure... thanks.

WAITRESS

So, where's your family?

MIKE

They were killed in a car accident...

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

There's a family in a car driving on a two-lane highway; the lights of an on coming car suddenly blind them.

MIKE (V.O.)

... By a drunk driver,  
INT. DESSERT CAFE - DUSK (REALITY)

The Waitress comes out of the kitchen.

WAITRESS  
That's horrible.

MIKE  
Since the accident, things haven't  
been the same. So, I decided I  
needed a change of scenery.

WAITRESS  
Sounds like you're running away  
from your problems.

MIKE  
No, after the funeral things just  
felt different.

WAITRESS  
What do you mean?

MIKE  
It feels like I --

EXT. MIKE'S HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mike's neighbor washing his car, Mike gets out his car,  
waves to the neighbor; the neighbor doesn't even  
acknowledge him.

MIKE (V.O.)  
-- Don't exist anymore.

INT. DESSERT CAFE - DUSK (REALITY)

MIKE  
In away, I guess I deserved it.

WAITRESS  
Why?

MIKE

I couldn't bring --

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY (REALITY)

Mike is watching a funeral from a distance, behind a fence.

MIKE (V.O. CONT'D)  
-- myself to attend my wife and  
kid's funeral.

INT. DESSERT CAFE - DUSK (REALITY)

MIKE  
Two funerals in one week was just  
too much to bear.

WAITRESS  
Two funerals?

MIKE  
Oh, yeah my father had passed away  
earlier that week. We were coming  
back from the wake when it happens.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

We show two adults, one kid lying on the ground, dead.  
They all have white sheets covering them.

INT. DESSERT CAFE - DUSK (REALITY)

MIKE  
(pauses, looks up at  
the waitress)  
I died in that car accident,  
didn't I?

WAITRESS  
Yes you --

EXT. CEMETERY - DAYTIME

There is a white flash. Both Mike and the Waitress are  
looking down at three tombstones.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)  
-- did.  
After a moment of silence, the waitress put her hand on  
Mike's shoulder.

WAITRESS

It's time --

There's an another white flash; we now have a man's hand on his shoulder. The man is an attendant for a mental institution.

ATTENDANT/WAITRESS (CONT'D)

-- To go.

Mike is now in straight jacket, with an ATTENDANT staring at two tombstones. Mike and the Attendant walk off.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

We show two adults, one kid lying on the ground. They all have white sheets covering them. Now we show Mike sitting on the ground.

FADE TO BLACK.