

MILES SIDES

ELLA

by

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START

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Abe treads to the edge of the parking lot, which is mostly empty, except for a grouping of six PARKED CARS and about twenty HIGH SCHOOL KIDS, gathered in smaller various groups.

Ella approaches MILES, 18, charismatic bohemian and de facto leader, who smokes a cigarette.

Nearby, Miles' friends JERMAINE (tall, stylish athlete) and JORDAN (jacked up troublemaker) shoot the shit.

Abe is alone in alien territory.

OTHER KIDS look at Abe. *Too late to turn around.*

Abe beelines towards Ella.

MILES

Hey girl.

ELLA

Hello boi. Don't mind if I do.

Ella steals Miles' cigarette. She casts a glance at Abe.

MILES

(to Ella)

Missed you.

Miles hands Ella a SKI MASK.

ABE

You guys robbing a bank?

Everyone takes stock of Abe: "who's this kid?"

MILES

Something like that.

Shunned, Abe looks around: strangers everywhere. He spots SASHA, 15, in gym clothes, lacing up running shoes.

She sees him -- he looks away.

JORDAN

(to everyone)

Headin' out in a minute!

Jordan throws on A SKI MASK.

Miles and Jermaine FOLLOW SUIT, and pile into Miles' car.

STOP

Older kids get into cars, and drive out of the parking lot.

SASHA

Oh.

A CAR SCREECHES IN THE DISTANCE. OTHER KIDS SCREAM.

SASHA (CONT'D)

We should go.

She sneaks. Abe follows, tripping over himself.

EXT. SHOP QUIK - SUNSET

Abe and Sasha dash to the Shop Quik, touching the entrance.

SASHA

Looks like we're first.

She jogs in place, cooling down. Abe doubles over, huffing.

Sasha looks around for the others. Abe, still gassed:

ABE

You wanna go for a walk--

Sasha's PHONE BUZZES. She reads it.

SASHA

Oh jeez. Family dinner.

ABE

Cool. Cool cool.

SASHA

What was your name?

ABE

Abe.

SASHA

Sasha.

(beat)

See you in class.

Sasha takes off jogging.

CUT TO:

START EXT. SHOP QUIK - MAGIC HOUR

Abe leans against the wall. He chews on a toothpick.

A CAR PULLS UP. Miles, Jermaine, Jordan, and Peter get out. The first three take off their MASKS.

JORDAN
(to Peter)
Get us some Gatorades too.

Peter, LIMPING, walks inside.

The other three lounge. Miles lights a cigarette.

MILES
You're the first one here?

ABE
Yeah. Sasha too. But she left.

MILES
Tch. She forgot her prize.
What're you drinking?

ABE
What do you mean?

MILES
We get the younger kids beer.

ABE
...I'll take whatever.

Nearby, Jermaine and Jordan ARGUE. In the distance, a SKATEBOARD ROLLS ACROSS THE ASPHALT.

JERMAINE
She's hot if you're into Asian
chicks. Admit it.

JORDAN
She's a loser. No offense Miles.

MILES
None taken.

JORDAN
She blew Eli last year. The dude's
sixteen and looks like a weasel.

JERMAINE
I heard she blew Eli and Preston at
the same time. ...doesn't mean I
wouldn't hit.

JORDAN
Enjoy your visit to the clinic.

MILES
 (to Abe)
 How do you know Ella?

Jermaine and Jordan pay attention to Abe for the first time.

ABE
 She went out with my older brother.

MILES
 Oh shit. You're Sam's little
 brother.

JERMAINE
 You trying to move on that?

JORDAN
 That's clearly what he's doing.
 There's no other reason to hang out
 with her.
 (to Abe)
 No offense, dude.

ABE
 Nah, yeah. She's weird.

Nearby, a CLICK of a BEER CAN. The guys don't notice.

MILES
 You two fooling around?

ABE
 Maybe a little.

JERMAINE / MILES / JORDAN
 Nice. / Cool. / Gross.

Silence falls.

JORDAN
 What's taking Peter so long with
 the beer?

ICE MACHINE (O.S.)
 No worries, I got it.

REVEAL: Ella sits on the ground behind a nearby ICE MACHINE,
 hidden from view. She pokes her head around.

ELLA
 Hi.

No one says anything.

ELLA (CONT'D)
Go on. You were saying?

She gets up and approaches them. She's carrying a five-pack of beer and a PHARMACY MEDICATION BAG. The sixth beer is already open in her hand.

ELLA (CONT'D)
(holding out beer)
Want some?

JORDAN
I'll take one.

Ella smiles, sips, then SPITS BEER at Jordan, who RECOILS.

ELLA
Yum! How's it taste asshole?

JORDAN
Jesus--

Ella throws a glare at Abe -- then kicks off with Miles' SKATEBOARD and disappears around the corner.

MILES
Goddammit.

Abe takes a step to follow her, then STOPS. She's gone.

Peter returns with drinks.

PETER
(re: Jordan)
What happened to you?

JORDAN
Get in the car.

MILES
(to Abe)
Wanna ride with us?

ABE
I gotta go home.

MILES
See you around.

STOP

CUT TO:
