

DESTINY RENTALS

(PILOT)

by
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FADE IN

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

KEVIN (25) ducks as a plate crashes and shatters on the wall behind him. The dish is immediately followed by another, narrowly missing his head.

FREEZE FRAME: Kevin is wide-eyed, mid panic

KEVIN (V.O.)
That's me. I had the feeling that
this was going to be one heck of a
day.

RESUME SPEED

Another plate is hurled toward him, disintegrating on the wall.

Kevin raises his hands, pleads for an end to the onslaught.

KEVIN
Honey... I'm sorry.

CHARLOTTE (23) is standing next to the near empty dish drying rack at the kitchen counter. She reaches for another plate.

CHARLOTTE
You're sorry!... I've wasted three
years in this relationship waiting
for you to see me!

FREEZE FRAME: Charlotte, furious, mid throw.

KEVIN (V.O.)
That is... my girlfriend. Despite
how she looks right now, she really
is quite attractive.

RESUME SPEED

CHARLOTTE
Can you see me now?

Charlotte launches the last plate and HUFFS in exasperation.

Again Kevin ducks.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
It's over!

She spins on her heels, grabs the keys on the counter and swoops up her purse on her way out the door.

Now safe, Kevin slowly stands up. His cell phone rings.

KEVIN
(into phone)
Hello?

He surveys the damage. Shattered porcelain litters the floor.

VOICE (V.O.)
Hey it's Doug.

KEVIN
Hey man.

DOUG (V.O.)
You wanna catch a flick tonight? A few of us are gonna grab some chow and hit the ten-fifteen downtown.

KEVIN
Ya... I don't think I can...

DOUG (V.O.)
What have you got to do that's better than hangin' with the boys?

KEVIN
I think Charlotte just left me.

DOUG (V.O.)
What do you mean, 'you think'...

KEVIN
She threw plates.

DOUG (V.O.)
Dude, airborne flatware is a sure sign that things have reached a breaking point... Cut your losses and come to the movie with us.

KEVIN
Thanks man, but I think I'm gonna go away for a bit.

DOUG (V.O.)
(sincerely)
Alright... alright. Gimme a shout when you get back. Look, Kev... I'm sorry to hear about Charlotte.

Kevin hangs up the phone.

KEVIN
(to self)
Ya... Me too.

EXT. APARTMENT PARKING - DAY

Kevin exits the steel exterior door to the parking garage fumbling with his keys, backpack, fishing rod, and tackle box.

Reaching his parking space, he finds it vacant. He stands there for a moment. Pocketing his keys, he pulls out his cell phone and makes a call.

KEVIN
(into phone)
Doug, I need a favor...

ACT ONE

EXT. DESTINY RENTALS - DAY

Doug's car pulls to a stop in front of a small gas station and car rental company. Kevin gets out, collects his things, and pats his friend on the shoulder through the open driver's-side window.

DOUG
You're sure.

Kevin nods.

DOUG (CONT'D)
'Cause you know... You lost your woman and your car this morning...

Doug does his best to imitate a psychotherapist.

DOUG (CONT'D)
You're in a very vulnerable emotional state right now. I wouldn't want to see you do anything rash.

Kevin chuckles, knowing that his friend is only trying to lighten his mood.

KEVIN
I'll be fine... after this morning,
I just need some mellow time on my
own... I need to think.

Doug responds with a nod and waves as the car slowly pulls away.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Thanks for the ride.

Watching his loyal friend leave, Kevin turns to the combination rental office/gas station behind him.

INT. DESTINY RENTALS - DAY

Miles (55) has the look of a man who is much wiser than his years. His cheerful disposition is complimented by intense blue eyes. Seeing his customer approach, Miles waits behind the service counter.

Kevin enters and is greeted with a broad smile.

KEVIN
Hi.

MILES
Hi there... What can I do for you today?

KEVIN
(jovially)
I find myself in need of a car.

MILES
Oh...I'm sure I can find one for you.

Miles begins the paperwork, noticing Kevin's fishing gear.

MILES
Where ya headed?

KEVIN
Somewhere quiet.

Miles chuckles.

MILES
Fair enough.

Miles organizes some paperwork and Kevin lends his autograph to seal the deal.

MILES (CONT'D)
Ever been up to Chetlan River?

KEVIN shakes his head.

KEVIN
No... Never heard of it.

MILES
Good fishing... Lots of 'quiet'.

Miles gives him an knowing look.

MILES (CONT'D)
Follow me.

EXT. DESTINY RENTALS - DAY

Miles walks him to a late-model, white SUV.

MILES
Everything you need should be in there... She's all topped up and ready to go.

Miles hops into the driver's seat and pushes a few buttons on the dash-mounted GPS Navigation screen.

MILES (CONT'D)
There you go... I punched in the route to my favorite spot on the river. This thing with guide you right to it.

KEVIN
Great... Thanks.

Miles stands there with his hands behind his back as Kevin N slides in behind the steering wheel.

Unseen by Kevin, Miles' wrists begins to glow. The slight golden radiance grows brighter, spawning tendrils and small points of light that finger and float their way toward the vehicle keys hanging from his index finger. Like miniature fireflies milling around an open plasma flame, the brightness grows until the intense central core collapses in an instant like a dying star swallowing itself.

MILES
Oh, you'll need these.

He hands the covertly supercharged keys to his client.

Miles waves good-bye as his customer heads out.

INT. RENTAL VEHICLE - DAY

Kevin drives along the winding, two-lane mountain road. The sun is out, the windows are down, and the MUSIC is up. There is no other traffic.

The red dot on the Navigation screen is active. A FEMALE VOICE speaks to him from the dash.

FEMALE VOICE
Turn right in 200 meters.

Kevin slows and glances around, unsure whether to trust the digital voice in his dash or not. Tepidly leaving the main highway, he guides the vehicle onto a compacted gravel road as instructed.

KEVIN
(to self)
This can't be right...

He continues for a few more kilometers and is about to turn the GPS system off when he spots a car stopped on the shoulder further up the road. A glance in his rearview mirror shows no other vehicles in sight. Slowly, he pulls over to the shoulder to offer assistance to the stranded driver.

EXT. OPEN ROAD - DAY

DEE (24) pulls her head out from under the open hood of her rusty, 1970's Buick at the SOUND of Kevin's vehicle. She is beautiful. Long blond hair pulled up in a makeshift bun, big brown eyes, and long legs sprouting from black boots up to her short, pleated skirt.

She waits as he hops out of his vehicle.

KEVIN
Hey...

The woman is obviously frustrated. Her only response to his salutation is to open the trunk of her car and pull out a guitar case and small backpack.

Kevin tries again.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

... I just saw you on the side of
the road here... I thought I'd...

Seemingly disinterested in him, she continues emptying the car. Dee opens the driver's door and pulls her purse from the back seat, tossing it to the rest of her belongings at his feet.

Kevin tries a third time, looking for any sign of acknowledgment.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Can I call somebody for you?

She slams the trunk shut.

Finally she gives him a determined look square in the eyes.

DEE

Push.

Kevin nods hesitantly and moves to the rear of the car. Dee puts her shoulder into the driver's door frame and with a HEAVE, the massive car begins to roll.

The pair manage to get it up to the speed of a fast walk as they both strain against the weight.

Without warning, Dee cranks the wheel TOWARDS THE SHOULDER, let's go, and watches as the car slowly lurches across the gravel before slipping over the edge into the deep ravine below.

Kevin joins her as they stare at her jalopy bumping, bouncing, and rolling it's way to the bottom of the ravine landing on it's roof. A curt, understated EXPLOSION erupts from the engine.

Dee's expression says it all. She couldn't be happier. With a beaming smile, she spins and thrusts her hand forward.

DEE

People call me 'Dee'.

Kevin, shakes her hand, too dumbfounded to get his own name out... not that it matters, she's already walking back to his vehicle with her gear in tow.

INT. RENTAL VEHICLE - DAY

Kevin gets into the driver's seat. Dee has already made herself at home.

With a turn of the key, the navigation system's female voice instantly offers guidance.

FEMALE VOICE

You must turn around to return to
the main highway.

Kevin raises his hands, confused and a little annoyed.

KEVIN

Stupid thing... It tells me to
turn, then it tells me to go back
to where I started.

Dee quickly glances at him like a child caught with their hand in a cookie jar.

Immediately she does her best to distract him.

She puts her feet on the dash and fiddles with the stereo until finding a SONG that she likes.

Her demeanor puts him at ease. Kevin flips the vehicle around and heads back the way he came.

After a few kilometers of nothing but the RADIO, Dee decides it is time to talk. She turns down the MUSIC.

DEE

So what's your deal?

KEVIN

My deal?

DEE

Ya... Who are you? Where are you
headed?.. Your deal.

Kevin sighs.

KEVIN

Let's just say, you're not the only
one having a bad day.

DEE

Wanna talk about it?

KEVIN

No.

(beat)

Just trying to escape for the day.

DEE

So it involves a woman.

KEVIN

What? Can't a guy just go fishing for a day?

DEE

Sure, but you're not just going fishing, you're escaping.

(beat)

So... Who is she?

KEVIN

My girlfriend. But if you asked her right now, I'm sure she'd say ex.

DEE

See? I knew it was a woman.

Dee pries further.

DEE (CONT'D)

What'd you do?

KEVIN

What do you mean?

DEE

What did you do to provoke her?

KEVIN

That's a little personal don't you think?

DEE

Look, I read in a book once that most people find it easier to deal with intimate relationship issues with a complete strangers.

(beat)

I'll be your complete stranger.

KEVIN

My complete stranger?

DEE

Well, you got me here. It's just the two of us and I'm not going anywhere for a while.

KEVIN

Okay... uh, I guess I'm a bit of a workaholic.

His voice trails off a bit.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

We've been so busy at work completing this contract that she... I haven't had much free time lately.

Dee fills in the gap.

DEE

Ah yes... attention starved princess syndrome... a classic.

She chuckles to herself.

KEVIN

It's not like that. She's a good woman.

DEE

Which totally explains why you're driving to the middle of nowhere and picking up totally strange women.

KEVIN

Women? For the record its *woman*... I don't plan on picking up any others.

DEE

Good Samaritan quota filled for the day?

KEVIN

No... I don't make a habit of picking up strangers. You just looked like...

She sits, smiling at him, twisting a long strand of hair. Kevin catches himself momentarily staring at her toned, tanned legs and she knows it. He snaps his attention back to the conversation.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
... like you could use some help.

She stops teasing him. Sitting upright she tries her best to sound convincing in establishing her independence.

DEE
Nah... eventually I would have got
it running again...

(beat)

Maybe.

KEVIN
Which explains why you rolled it
off a cliff.

She laughs coyly.

DEE
Hey, I seem to recall having some
help in that area.

(beat)

Sometimes, you just gotta let
Destiny take control.

ACT TWO

EXT. DINER - DAY

KEVIN
Hungry?

Dee nods. Kevin pulls the vehicle up to a roadside diner.

INT. DINER - DAY

The two enter the old diner. Sunlight streams through the dusty windows giving the entire restaurant a warm, almost ethereal glow. Kevin motions to a window booth and Dee slides in.

KEVIN
What about you? You got a
boyfriend?

DEE
 (seductively)
 Always on the lookout for my knight
 in shining white armor.

Kevin glances through the window at the white rental vehicle parked outside and smiles at her.

The WAITRESS (42) descends on them with a beaming smile. She slides a pair of menus onto the table.

WAITRESS
 What can I getcha ta drink?

DEE
 I'll have a green tea, please.

KEVIN
 Coffee, thanks.

With that, the waitress heads off. They peruse the menus.

Kevin leans in slightly.

KEVIN
 So... What about you? What's your
 'deal'?

Dee shifts in her seat at first, then her posture relaxes.

DEE
 You know when you get to that point
 where everything just adds up...
 And still more and more gets piled
 on until you can't even breathe?

Kevin nods.

DEE (CONT'D)
 You just get to that point where
 you want to explode?

Again, he nods.

DEE (CONT'D)
 And then when someone drops a bomb
 on you? That last straw.

(beat)

That's when you just have to
 surrender to it.

Kevin is intrigued.

KEVIN
Surrender to... what?

Dee has his full attention. She leans back, pausing for effect.

DEE
Destiny.

Kevin snaps out of captivity.

KEVIN
Bah... Com'on... You don't believe in all that hocus-pocus do you? Destiny... Fate... Serendipity... Karma... It's all the same... a bunch of excuses made by people too afraid to make their own decisions in life. I don't believe in it.

She tests his resolve.

DEE
Really... What would you call it when someone is driving down a long lonely road without seeing a single other vehicle and their car breaks down minutes before someone else just happens to show up on a road that they're not supposed to be traveling down in the first place?

Kevin is not sold just yet.

KEVIN
Faulty navigation software and coincidence.

DEE
You may not believe in it, but it's right in front of you.

The waitress returns with their drinks.

WAITRESS
Alrighty... What can I getcha?

Dee looks down at the open menu and closes her eyes. Raising her index finger, she drops it down on the list of choices. Opening her eyes, she commits to the item below her finger.

DEE
Polly's Peach cobbler please.

Kevin shakes his head at her acceptance of a completely random selection.

WAITRESS

And for you?

KEVIN

B.L.T., brown bread with Monterey Jack, crispy lean bacon, no mayo, light mustard, garden salad, no tomatoes, with a vinaigrette dressing.

The waitress collects the menus and retreats to her station to place the order.

DEE

That's pretty specific.

KEVIN

I'm not so much into the whole 'point with my eyes closed' method of choosing what to eat.

DEE

How do you know? Have you ever done it?

KEVIN

No... But it's a prime example.

DEE

Of what?

KEVIN

Of a misplaced belief in Destiny.

DEE

How so?

Kevin looks pleased with himself.

KEVIN

You randomly chose lunch... What if you picked something that you had an allergy to?

DEE

(mockingly)

As opposed to the perfectly selected B.L.T., brown bread with Monterey Jack, crispy lean blah blah blah dressing?

(beat)

What if that allergic reaction leads me to a local clinic where I meet my the love of my life? What if it is the last piece of Peach cobbler in the place and by me eating it, I save the life of someone who *is* allergic to it?

KEVIN

That's pretty thin.

DEE

I'll take my randomly thin lunch over your anal retentive one any day of the week, thanks.

KEVIN

Hey... That's not fair. I can do random... when I choose to.

Dee laughs at him.

DEE

Even your 'random' has order to it.

(beat)

Look, all I'm saying is that you have to make allowances for the unknowns, the things that are unexpected... Otherwise life becomes boring and unoriginal. What's the point of trudging through life exactly like the next poor sap? Everyone on the planet is unique, why do our lives have to be so intently manufactured?

Kevin raises his mug.

KEVIN

Well, you... Are definitely unique.

ACT THREE

INT. RENTAL VEHICLE - DAY

Dee looks over her shoulder seeing the tackle box on the back seat.

DEE

My Father used to fish all the time... He loved it. He used to say there was something so peaceful about it.

(beat)

I never got it though... I always imagined myself as the fish just swimming along, seeing lunch... suddenly I'm getting dragged out of the water by a man in rubber pants and a silly hat.

(beat)

But I always loved tying the flies.

KEVIN

You can tie flies?

DEE

Uh-huh... When dad realized I didn't like catching the fish so much, he taught me how to tie his flies for him. He promised that if he caught any fish with my one of my flies, he'd set them free.

(beat)

Of course, after hearing that I went to work making as many flies as fast as I could replacing every single store-bought one that I could find in his gear.

KEVIN

Did he ever catch any fish again?

Kevin chuckles.

DEE

Yes... The same one, every time. Over and over again and every year when we went back to that same spot. I eventually named it. Sam.

She laughs.

DEE (CONT'D)

He tried everything. Every fly I ever made and always it was the same fish with the little notch in it's tail. And every time, he did as he had promised.

KEVIN

'If you love something, set it free...'

Kevin laughs but Dee is silent for a moment.

DEE

So... do you love her?

Kevin thinks momentarily about his answer.

KEVIN

(earnestly)
More than anything.

EXT. MILES' FISHING SPOT, PARKING LOT - DAY

Kevin parks next to the only other car in the small gravel lot. A MAN (38) and a WOMAN (35) emerge from the path in the bushes. SHELBY, their two year old golden retriever streaks past them to meet Dee as she opens her door. She bends down to greet him with a pat on the head.

MAN

Shelby! Come here!
(to Dee)
Sorry about that.

DEE

No problem... He's just excited.

WOMAN

Yeah... he pretty much loves everybody.
(to Shelby)
Com'on... Com'on boy!

The dog joins his owners as the couple packs their belongings into their car.

Kevin opens the rear door and collects his gear. Dee joins him as he heads for the path through the bushes, but stops in her tracks.

Kevin turns around to see that she is not following him.

KEVIN
What's wrong?

DEE
Nothing...

She forces a smile.

DEE (CONT'D)
I just forgot something in the car.

Kevin unlocks the door with the remote and waits with his gear as she heads to the truck. Unseen by Kevin, she places all of her belongings on the ground behind the vehicle.

Picking up her purse, she returns to him.

DEE
I... I have something for you.

He stands perplexed as Dee roots through her handbag.

DEE (CONT'D)
This might help you believe in
Destiny.

Producing a small, decoratively carved wooden box from the depths of her purse, she hands it to him. Dee leans in with a kiss on the cheek she turns and waves at the couple about to leave.

Kevin unties the ornate string and opens the small box. Inside is a beautifully colored, hand-tied fishing fly.

He looks up just in time to see Dee finish loading her belongings into the couple's car. She pauses and smiles before getting in.

Kevin smiles, waving good-bye as the car drives off, headed back the way that he and Dee had just come.

EXT. MILES' FISHING SPOT - DAY

Kevin fixes Dee's fly to the end of his line and wades into the waist high water wearing rubber pants and a silly hat. With a firm flick of his wrist, he casts the fishing rod. The thin line arcs in a beautiful fluid motion up over his head and down just above the surface of the water.

On his second cast, a beautiful Rainbow Trout launches itself out of the water in front of him, catching the fly in its mouth before falling back to the water.

Kevin begins to wind the reel slowly, though the fish does not fight him at all. Thinking it has broken free, he winds the reel faster until it is close enough that he can see it calmly swimming just below the surface in front of him.

Carefully reaching down with his free hand, he plucks the fish from the water.

Kevin notices the small notch in its tail.

Smiling.

KEVIN

Hello Sam.

Wedging his rod under his arm to free both hands, he cautiously works the fly loose and places the fish back in the water in front of him.

With a pensive look, he watches as the compliant fish calmly swims away.

He looks at the fly still tied to the end of his line for a moment before turning around and heading for the shore.

EXT. MILES' FISHING SPOT, PARKING LOT - DAY

Kevin and his gear emerge from the bushes. His pace quickens as he approaches his vehicle. Unceremoniously he throws his gear into the back. Leaping into the driver's seat, he guns the engine in reverse kicking up dust and gravel. In an instant, he's headed back down the main road.

EXT. OPEN ROAD - DAY

MONTAGE

- Kevin's vehicle on the open road.
- Kevin's vehicle passes the diner
- Kevin's vehicle passes the turn-off where he found Dee

EXT. DESTINY RENTALS - DAY

As Kevin pulls into the parking lot he sees his own vehicle, and Charlotte waiting for him.

He throws the shifter into park, jumps out, and begins walking toward her without bothering to turn off the engine or close the driver's door.

Charlotte heads for him. Their walk becomes a run and the two find each other in a heartfelt embrace below the Destiny Rentals sign.

KEVIN

I'm sorry.

Charlotte pulls back to look him in the eyes.

CHARLOTTE

Me too.

They kiss and hug each other tightly. Kevin suddenly pulls back.

KEVIN

Wait... How did you know I'd be here?

Charlotte smiles.

CHARLOTTE

A woman phoned me and told me that you'd be back... That everything would be okay.

KEVIN

Lets go home.

CHARLOTTE

(with guilt)

We should probably swing by and pick up some plates first.

Kevin laughs.

Their conversation begins to fade into the background.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I didn't hit you did I?

KEVIN

No, but you came real close.

He seizes his opportunity.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Well, I might have gotten hit by some shrapnel here.

He motions to his face.

CHARLOTTE
(Consoling)
Oh baby.

She holds his face in her hands and kisses him tenderly.

KEVIN (V.O.)
We may never really know if there
is some cosmic force out there,
guiding your journey through life.
But in the end, it's all about the
experience. Living for some day in
an idealized future can never
replace a randomly perfect today.

INT. DESTINY RENTALS - DAY

Miles watches the couple from a distance. He smiles as
Charlotte helps with transfer his gear to his own vehicle.

The pair drive away together.

FADE OUT