

Missed Connections

By

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INT. AIRPORT CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN-NIGHT

A man named Jonah, around the age of 24, is sitting at a California Pizza Kitchen inside an airport, eating dinner by himself. He has his phone out on the table but isn't looking at it.

Jonah is a little bit awkward by nature but is clever. He tends to be shy but tries to push himself to be more outgoing. Unfortunately, this means that he tends to talk too much when he doesn't need to.

Jonah hasn't always had the best luck for girls. He's a hopeless romantic.

At the next table sits a young woman named Dakota, around the age of 20, scrolling through her phone, alternating between texting and checking her Facebook. She's eating a salad.

Dakota has a dry sense of humor and is outgoing once you break her in. She is a bit shy at first.

A few minutes go by without the man noticing the young woman and once he does, he begins to look over at her every 30 seconds or so, trying to be discrete.

We hear a voice over of the man's thoughts as he looks at her.

JONAH (VOICE OVER)

She's very cute. Looks a lot like
Chris's sister. I hope she can't
see me looking.

Suddenly the words "She can" flash across the screen.

The woman eventually notices the man when she catches him looking at her from the corner of her eye.

DAKOTA (VOICE OVER)

I don't think he could try to be
more transparent.

She begins typing out a text message to one her friends about this creep that keeps looking at her and how obvious he's being. The text says "Jesus Christ get me back to school. Sitting in the airport eating dinner and there's a literal creep staring at me."

Eventually, the man gets up the courage to say something to her.

(CONTINUED)

JONAH

So are you coming or going?

DAKOTA

(Visibly off put by the man's question)

Uhm, oh well I'm just stopping here and then connecting back to school. I go to school in Maine but I'm from Colorado.

JONAH

Oh wow, okay. I went to Boulder actually. I'm from Vancouver BC though.

DAKOTA

Oh yeah? That's where the majority of my high school went. When did you graduate?

JONAH

2012. So 2 years ago.

DAKOTA

Very cool. It's a great school.

JONAH

Yeah it, it is.

Things are silent for a few seconds and Dakota goes to look down at her phone again. Jonah pauses and then begins to talk again.

JONAH

Oh, I'm Jonah by the way.

DAKOTA

Dakota, nice to meet you.

JONAH

Do you mind if I sit with you? Sorry I don't want to be weird but we're both here eating alone so why not eat together you know?

Dakota pauses for a second, with a visible look of hesitation in her face. She goes from being semi-uncomfortable to very uncomfortable now that this man is asking to sit with her.

(CONTINUED)

DAKOTA

Uhm, oh I don't know. My flight's in like an hour and I don't know, I'm sorry I just met you.

JONAH

Sorry I don't mean to be creepy! I just am bored sitting and waiting for my flight and you looked to be feeling the same way.

Dakota pauses for a second and we see her thinking about the man's proposal, and realizes it's not the worst idea.

DAKOTA

Well yeah, I guess you make a point. Sure, that's fine. Sit.

Right as Jonah is about to move, his food is delivered so he picks it up and moves it with him. It's a burger and fries.

As he is grabbing his food, Dakota looks down at her phone and sees a text message from the friend she was texting early. It says "Oh Relax. You're not going to get kidnapped in the airport. Lol."

Dakota smiles at the text message but still feels uncomfortable about this stranger eating dinner with her.

JONAH

So you're a senior, junior?

DAKOTA

(Says shyly)

No, actually, I'm a sophomore

JONAH

Oh, wow, I'm surprised. You just look older I guess! Kind of like Kate Winslet. Did you know she's 38? She looks so much older to me.

DAKOTA

Uhm...oh yeah I've been told that before I guess. I don't really see it though. I think I look like an 8th grader.

At this point we see Dakota go from looking skeptical and sitting in a rather stiff manner to relaxing a little bit. Her shoulders are no longer as tense.

(CONTINUED)

JONAH
(Laughs lightly)
Oh well I don't know about that.

DAKOTA
Yeah...so what are you doing in
Detroit?

JONAH
Well I live in Ontario now and I'm
connecting through here. I do
business in Cleveland.

DAKOTA
I see. What do you do?

JONAH
I'm a marketing consultant. It
sounds cooler than it is.

DAKOTA
I don't even think it sounds that
cool.

Jonah pauses for a second. Unsure by if she's kidding or
being serious.

DAKOTA
I'm kidding, I'm kidding.

Jonah laughs lightly after showing a sign of relief.

JONAH
Obviously, sorry it's hard to pick
up on sarcasm right away when you
don't know someone all that well.

DAKOTA
(Smiles lightly)
Yeah or when you're slow ya know?

JONAH
(Lightly giggles)
Okay I think I'm starting to get
it. Uhm, did they play a movie on
your last flight or anything?

DAKOTA
Yeah they played this movie,
"Parker" I think it was called. I
watched on and off, it was like an
action-y movie I think. Jason
Statham was in it, it was pretty
dumb.

JONAH

Oh really? I'm surprised I usually love Jason Statham's work.

Dakota pauses and a look of disapproval comes over her face.

DAKOTA

Are you kidding me...? I don't want to be mean but there is no one that LOVES Jason Statham's work...

JONAH

(Smiles and laughs)

See you're not the only one who can be sarcastic.

DAKOTA

(Genuinely laughs)

Jesus, I was going to be genuinely sad for you if that were true. I always say that mediocrity has a name and it's Jason Statham. Or Wilmer Valderrama.

JONAH

(While laughing)

Okay the Wilmer Valderrama thing I can definitely agree with. I started Annie Hall on my flight. I had never seen it. I really like it so far. There's something really admirable about Woody Allen's character. He wears his heart on his sleeve. I totally admire that type of personality. Probably because it couldn't be further from how I am.

DAKOTA

One of my favorite movies. I think it's such a good love story because it's realistic ya know? It- well I don't want to ruin it for you. But it's great.

JONAH

Yeah stop right there spoiler alert.

They both chuckle and then Jonah pauses for a second and a look of shock comes across his face. He looks down at his phone at the time and stands up quickly.

(CONTINUED)

JONAH

Holy shit my flight! I'm so sorry
I, I have to go right now. Oh my
god I'm an idiot, shit shit shit,
I'm going to miss it.

He is very hectic as he gets together his things. He knocks his phone off the table and scrambles to pick it up. During this time Dakota doesn't say much because it all happens so fast.

JONAH

I uhm, I'm sorry I didn't realize I
was so short on time. It was really
nice to meet you, I hope, have a
nice flight!

Jonah runs out of the restaurant briskly. He had been so preoccupied with talking to Dakota that he didn't even touch his food. Dakota is slightly flustered by the situation but is mostly unphased.

She grabs her phone and texts another message to the same friend she was talking to earlier. "Plot twist. Actually laughing out loud to myself. Wait until you hear what just happened."

She looks at Jonah's unfinished food and eats a fry. She scrolls through her phone a few more times.

INT. AIRPORT TERMINAL-DAY

During this time, Jonah is running through the terminal trying to get to his flight. Right as he gets to his gate he sees that his plane is boarding and he breathes a sigh of relief. He pauses for a second and approaches the desk by the gate.

JONAH

Excuse me when's the next flight to
Cleveland after this one?

DESK WOMAN

The next flight to Cleveland from
here is not for 3 days.
Unfortunately, with the predicted
storm there are a lot of scheduling
changes and cancellations within
the next few days.

(CONTINUED)

JONAH

Ah wow. Uhm shoot, well, okay thank you.

DESK WOMAN

Another option is for you to look into a different airline but I can assure you that it will be very expensive, and I can't promise you that their scheduling is any better than ours amidst this weather.

Right as he's about to move forward to board, he turns around and walks away, running back the way that he came.

Dakota is still in California Pizza Kitchen and gets up from the table and picks up her things as well as Jonah's uneaten food and throws it away. Right after this she starts to leave the restaurant and as she walks out, she sees Jonah running back towards her.

INT. OUTSIDE OF AIRPORT CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN- DAY

Jonah is lightly sweating. He's very winded as he talks.

JONAH

Oh good you're still here. I'm a total moron, managed to miss my flight.

DAKOTA

Oh my god, I'm so sorry when's the next one? Also I just threw your food away I'm sorry I thought you were gone!

JONAH

No no don't worry. Uhm the next one, the next one is in a few hours so I'm fine.

We see the words "That's not true" flash across the screen.

Things are silent for a little as they both look down at the ground.

JONAH

Listen I don't do these type of things very often. It took a lot for me to even ask you to sit down but I think you seem great, very smart and obviously attractive. Uhm

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JONAH (cont'd)

I just, do you think I could get your phone number? In the off chance that we're ever in the same area again I'd love to buy you dinner not at an airport California Pizza Kitchen. I know this seems bold and maybe it was Annie Hall that got me all worked up and feeling romantic, I'm sorry if this seems forward but I'm following my gut instinct which is rare for me and I just thought I don't know, why not?

Dakota smiles tenderly and pauses for a second. She blinks a few times with a bit of a furrowed eyebrow.

DAKOTA

I'm really flattered. This is a rare thing for men to do these days and I so appreciate your honesty I think you're very funny and incredibly sweet. I just, I have a boyfriend and I would love to catch up with you as friends uhm but I just don't know if you're really looking for uhm a friend? If that makes sense?

JONAH

(Very red in the face)

Oh okay I'm sorry I knew this was forward and too much. I should've just-

DAKOTA

No, no I really appreciate it, uhm I have to go to my flight listen it was really nice to meet you and I wish you the best.

Dakota starts to walk away as she's talking and smiles nicely but is noticeable a little bit put off.

Jonah smiles awkwardly and turns around to walk the other way. He closes his eyes for a few seconds and is visibly embarrassed.

INT. OUTSIDE OF AIRPORT STARBUCKS- DAY

He goes to sit down outside of a Starbucks and takes out his laptop. He has a blank stare in his eyes and it's clear to the viewer that he feels defeated.

He opens up his laptop and clicks on the internet. He starts to type in the Google search bar "Annie Hall."

We see him scrolling through articles about the movie and eventually he lands upon a summary of the film and he clicks on it. He reads through it and stops scrolling when he gets to the last paragraph. He looks up from his laptop and shakes his head a little bit as if he doesn't care about the ending getting spoiled now.

The camera zooms on the screen and we see the words "...it is at this point that it becomes clear Alvy and Annie will not end up together."

The camera moves back to Jonah's face and he stares at the screen with a blank stare, looking more defeated than ever now. He looks up from the screen and stares straight ahead. We hear one more voice over.

JONAH (VOICE OVER)

Shit.

Cut to black.