

OFF TO A GOOD START

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT: OUTSIDE OF A CAR - MORNING

There is a fully packed car to the point where you can't see out of the back windshield sitting on the side of the road outside a dorm building.

CHRIS is a very fit and handsome twenty year old. He has very defined facial features and dark skin. He is wearing a shirt that has been cut into a tank top to show off his bulging muscles. He has a very intimidating look to him that makes you think this is not someone you would want to get into a fight with. He is trying to shove a 30 pack of beer into the trunk and failing miserably.

MACKENZIE runs up to him. She is a very petite and short twenty year old. You can tell by the way she stands up straight, making herself as tall as possible, that she doesn't take anyone's shit and stands up for herself if necessary. She has very motherly instincts shown through her soft facial features making her the mother of the friend group.

MACKENZIE:

Chris, you are not putting that there. If we get pulled over, none of us are 21 and we will never make it down there.

CHRIS:

Shut up, you stress too much. It will be fine.

Chris manages to shove the 30 pack into the trunk which knocks something into the back seat.

LACEY is a worrisome 19-year-old which you can tell by her constant forehead wrinkling and scrunched up face that looks like shes about to wince. She is already dressed like she's going to the beach despite the long car ride ahead of them and is sitting in the back seat.

LACEY: (V.O.)

(yells from inside car)
OW! What the hell?

INT: INSIDE CAR - MORNING

A suitcase has hit Lacey in the head. She turns towards the trunk but can't see out of it because of all the luggage.

LACEY:
Are you kidding me Chris?!

CHRIS: (V.O.)
My bad!

Lacey looks like she's about to get out of the car and punch him but thinks twice about it and rubs her head.

EXT: OUTSIDE OF A CAR - MORNING

GREG, 20, has been leaning up against the outside of the car. He is very skinny and short. The baggy clothes he is wearing are making him look even smaller. He is constantly wearing sunglasses to hide the redness in his eyes. He pokes his head into the car.

GREG:
You alright babe?

LACEY: (V.O.)
(faintly)
Obviously not I just got hit in the
head with a suitcase.

Greg pulls his head out of the car and pulls out a bowl and lights it.

MACKENZIE:
Greg, don't you dare think about
bringing any sort of drugs into the
car.

GREG:
Chill dude.

Greg walks away.

MACKENZIE:
I'm so serious Greg.
(beat)
And where the hell are Kate and
Tori?

As she says that KATE, 20, and TORI, 20, come walking towards the car giggling.

Kate has a full face of make up that makes her look like she's going on a date, not a car ride. She is wearing a bright sundress and little brown wedges. Her tight brown curls hang all the way down her back stopping at her waist.

She walks with purpose and a slight bounce in her step giving her a "don't mess with me," but flirty look. She is holding a large make up bag.

Tori on the other hand looks the opposite of Kate. She is wearing sweats and a sweatshirt with frat letters on it. Her hair is tossed up into a messy bun that looks like she just rolled out of bed. She is one of those people who just looks good all the time despite just waking up. She is a big partier that can be seen through the bags under her eyes and the appearance of last night's make up still on her face.

MACKENZIE: (CONT'D)

Don't even think about bringing that bag Kate. There is literally no room.

KATE:

Calm down Kenz! Its not like I can go a week without my make up.

MACKENZIE:

Kate, you do realize we are going to a beach right... You know like water and sun? You're not even going to be wearing that make up.

KATE:

Well duh I won't wear it to the beach! It would affect my tan! I need it for going out at night. Do you expect hot guys to buy me drinks if I am looking like a troll?

Mackenzie rolls her eyes.

MACKENZIE:

Alright people we really need to go like NOW or we are never going to get there.

TORI:

I can't believe you're making us leave now. I'm gonna need a nap.

MACKENZIE:

It's 14 hours away! We need to get on the road. It's not my fault you all decided to go out to the bar until 4am.

Everyone shuffles into the car grumbling about how there is no room and that they're tired.

FADE TO:

INT: INSIDE CAR - MORNING

The car has three rows. Chris is in the drivers seat. Mackenzie is in the passenger seat. Tori and Kate are in the second row and Greg and Lacey are in the third row. There is piles of luggage packed in around them.

MACKENZIE:
(turns around)
Okay, does everyone have everything?

ALL:
Yes.

They start driving down the road.

TORI:
WAIT! STOP!

Chris slams on the brakes.

TORI: (CONT'D)
I forgot my headphones.

Tori jumps out of the car to go get them.

Mackenzie looks annoyed.

GREG:
Can I play music?

Mackenzie hands him the aux cord. Greg puts on EDM music.

CHRIS:
I am not listening to this shit all the way down.

GREG:
This is good music man!

MACKENZIE:
I second Chris for once in his life.

Chris turns around and rips the cord out of his phone.

GREG:
Dude, seriously?

Chris puts his phone in and starts playing old hits.

Tori jumps back into the car.

Greg looks pissed and takes out his headphones.

MACKENZIE:
Can we PLEASE leave now?

They leave.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

TEXT: 2 HOURS LATER

INT: INSIDE CAR - 2 HOURS LATER - MID DAY

We see them all in the car. They are on the highway and they are all singing to the music playing.

Chris turns down the music.

CHRIS:
Kenz, I think the GPS just told me
what exit to get off but I didn't
hear it. Can you check?

MACKENZIE:
Ya. Hold on.
(studies GPS)
I think it's coming up.

Mackenzie studies her GPS on her phone for 10 more seconds.

MACKENZIE: (CONT'D)
(looks up)
Okay, got it! Exit 46.

As she says that, they pass exit 46.

MACKENZIE: (CONT'D)
Oh shit.

CHRIS:
SERIOUSLY?! This is why I asked a
minute ago. It's really not that
hard to figure out.

MACKENZIE:

No need for the attitude. Wait,
hold on, its recalculating!

GPS:

(British accent)
Take exit 32 in 34.3 Miles.

CHRIS:

WHAT?! How does that even make
sense? Mackenzie give me the phone.

Chris reaches across to grab the phone out of Mackenzie's
hand but she keeps it out of reach.

MACKENZIE:

No, you can't look at it you're
driving!

Chris keeps looking at Mackenzie, the phone, and the road.
Eyes switching from the three periodically.

CHRIS:

(looking at Mackenzie)
I could drive and look at the GPS
and I could still steer us in a
better direction than you.

KATE:

CHRIS!

CHRIS:

(looks up)
WHAT!

They are about to hit the guard rail on the side of the road.

Chris swerves back into his lane, missing the guard rail by
an inch.

KATE:

How about I do the directions and
we get there in one piece.

MACKENZIE:

Fine. I don't want to deal with
Chris and his attitude anyway.

Mackenzie reluctantly hands the phone over to Kate. Kate
pulls up the directions and they start on their way again.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

TEXT: 5 HOURS LATER

INT: INSIDE CAR - 5 HOURS LATER - NIGHT

Tori is sleeping as usual, Kate is texting furiously, Mackenzie is complaining about the car ride, Chris is annoyed with Mackenzie and looks bored, Greg and Lacey are attempting to secretly make-out in the back of the car.

MACKENZIE:

Are we almost there yet?

CHRIS:

We have been in the car for seven hours, we have seven more to go. Stop asking me stupid questions.

MACKENZIE:

I'm hungry and I want dinner.

CHRIS:

Well I need to stop for gas soon so you can grab something then. But you better be fast.

MACKENZIE:

Okay fine.

Kate pops up from the second row and sticks her face in between Mackenzie and Chris.

KATE:

Hey can we stop in DC to eat!? We are about to pass it and the political science major in me is itching to go.

CHRIS:

That's so out of our way.

KATE:

PLEASEEEE!

CHRIS:

How far out of our way is it?

KATE:

(lies)
Only 15 minutes.

CHRIS:

Alright I guess we can go.

MACKENZIE:

Okay, I see how it is. When she wants something you say yes. When I want something its a big deal. Whatever.

Greg realizes what's going on from the back of the car and pops up.

GREG:

Wait shut up really? I've never been to DC before.

LACEY:

Oh my god, you have to see the Lincoln monument. It's literally so pretty at night.

CHRIS:

Guys, we don't have time for this!

KATE:

Please Chris, you know it would be so fun and we've been stuck in this car all day.

CHRIS:

Fine. But we are stopping for an hour. That's it.

Mackenzie rolls her eyes at the fact that Chris is only doing this for Kate.

FADE TO:

EXT: WASHINGTON, DC - NIGHT

Their car passes through the city, they are hanging their heads out the car windows like puppy dogs looking at all the buildings.

They park the car and all file out.

KATE:

Oh my god, it's so pretty.

MACKENZIE:

Let's find a place to grab food and then we can head over.

KATE:

Good idea.

They walk around and stop outside a small place.

MACKENZIE:
Wanna try this?

CHRIS:
Is it cheap? Because I'm broke.

MACKENZIE:
Hold on I'll check.

Mackenzie walks in and looks at the menu (we see her through the window). She walks back out.

MACKENZIE: (CONT'D)
Ya the prices are normal.

KATE:
Okay cool lets grab it to go.

They all go in and grab food and come back out with sandwiches.

LACEY:
How do we get there?

KATE:
I see it right over there, lets
just walk towards it.

They all walk to the memorial talking and laughing on the way.

EXT: LINCOLN MEMORIAL - NIGHT

Kate is standing taking pictures of the statue of Lincoln, fawning over him.

KATE:
I'm literally in love right now. I
need to live here after I graduate.

CHRIS:
Alright, I'll admit this was a good
choice.

GREG:
Wait guys.

He pulls out 6 beers from his backpack and smiles.

CHRIS:
What the fuck dude you stole my
beer!

GREG:
C'mon lets all shotgun a beer we
need to get this spring break off
to a good start.

TORI:
WAIT YES! That's so lit.

She grabs a beer and everyone follows suit except Kate and
Mackenzie.

TORI: (CONT'D)
C'mon guys do it with us.

Mackenzie hesitates then grabs a beer.

ALL:
(cheer)
YA! Lets gooooo!

They all stare at Kate.

KATE:
There is no way that I'm doing
this. This is so disrespectful to
our country's history. It feels
wrong.

LACEY:
Fine, take our picture then.

They all put holes in the end of their cans.

Kate reluctantly takes the phone from her.

Chris looks let he is getting ready to make a speech.

CHRIS:
(hand over his heart)
Four score and seven beers ago....
DRINK!!!!

They all start to shot gun.

Chris finishes first and throws his beer down.

CHRIS: (CONT'D)
YAAAAAAA!

A police OFFICER comes up to them.

OFFICER:
Excuse me, what do you think you
are all doing?

They all stare at him, beer cans in hand, looking shocked.

OFFICER: (CONT'D)
I'm going to need you all to come
with me. You're all under arrest
for disrespecting public property.

GREG:
Wait, are you serious.

OFFICER:
I'm completely serious. This is a
big offense.

LACEY:
(tearing up)
We were just kidding around we
didn't know.

OFFICER:
Either way, you broke the law. I'm
going to need the six of you to
come with me.

KATE:
Six? I didn't do anything.

OFFICER:
Ma'am you still took part in this
activity. I'm going to have to
bring you to the station too.

KATE:
This is so unfair.

MACKENZIE:
Kate, c'mon be quiet.

KATE:
Easy for you to say.

OFFICER:
Ma'am if you don't come I will have
to take force.

Kate looks like she's about to punch someone.

They all get ushered to the two police cars waiting and handcuffed. They are filed into both the cars.

FADE TO:

INT: HOLDING CELL IN POLICE STATION - NIGHT

They are all sitting in a holding cell.

MACKENZIE:

I'm so fucking mad I let you all talk me into this.

KATE:

You're mad?! I didn't even fucking do anything.

TORI:

It was your idea to stop here in the first place Kate. If we kept driving we wouldn't even be in this situation.

KATE:

Well we wouldn't get in trouble if Greg didn't bring the beers to the memorial.

GREG:

How was I suppose to know it was against the law?!

KATE:

Maybe you should've thought about it before.

CHRIS:

Guys shut up.

KATE:

No, Chris. I will not shut up. I shouldn't even be in here right now. I need to get into law school and you all got me stuck in here, of course in the place where I want to get a job someday. And they all think we are terrorists now because we were disrespecting a national monument. I literally can't even.

OFFICER #2 comes out and stands in front of their cell with a key.

OFFICER #2:

I'm going to need to take you all
in for questioning. Who wants to go
first.

They all look at each other.

KATE:

(raises her hand)
I will.

Kate gets up and he lets her out of the cell.

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - NIGHT

She is led into a tiny questioning room and sits across from
a MAN in a suit.

MAN:

Hello, I'm going to need you to
tell me exactly what happened.

Kate launches into her story but at the same time but the
camera is continuously switching between characters in the
same spot all telling their sides of the story...

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - KATE

KATE:

It all started this morning when
Chris tried to shove a thirty pack
of beer into the car. We told him
not to since none of us were 21...

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - TORI

TORI:

Wait, I don't have to tell you
where the alcohol came from, right?

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - KATE

KATE:

We had already gotten off to a bad start and then someone tried to smuggle marijuana in the car.

Kate pauses and thinks.

KATE: (CONT'D)

(hopeful)

I'll tell you who it was and you can get them if you let me go.

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - LACEY

LACEY:

(between sobs)

Please let me go, I don't know what I was thinking. My boyfriend talked me into it. I love America. I swear I'll never do it again.

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - MACKENZIE

MACKENZIE:

It was the longest drive ever, and we were tired. We just wanted to stop and get some food and stretch our legs...

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - CHRIS

CHRIS:

Kate talked me into going to the Lincoln memorial, I didn't even want to stop. I mean don't get me wrong, I love history! It's my favorite subject! But I really just wanted to continue driving.

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - KATE

KATE:

I just don't get how people can be so disrespectful. I want to be a lawyer one day. I do not condone my friends behavior.

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - GREG

GREG:

I'm sorry! I thought it would be funny. I've never been to DC before and I didn't mean harm in anyway. We are on our way down to the beach for spring break and I was trying to make it memorable.

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - KATE

KATE:

Can we make some sort of deal so this won't go on my permanent record???

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - MACKENZIE

MACKENZIE:

It was really all them, I didn't even want to do it! I got peer pressured.

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - TORI

TORI:

So like um can I go now?

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - LACEY

LACEY:
(between sobs)
I'm just so so so so sorry.

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - CHRIS

CHRIS:
I can't believe this is happening.
My mom is going to kill me.

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - GREG

GREG:
It wasn't even my beer, I just had
the idea. I swear to god I didn't
buy it.

FADE TO:

INT: QUESTIONING ROOM - NIGHT

Flash between all of them sitting there staring at the camera, not talking. Lacey is sobbing, Tori looks bored, Chris is holding his head in his hands, Greg looks like he doesn't know what to do, Mackenzie looks like she's trying to be really small and hide, and Kate is on the verge of tears.

INT: HOLDING CELL IN POLICE STATION - NIGHT

They are all sitting around not talking to one another. It could pass as the most intense staring contest you have ever seen.

After a few seconds, Kate looks down. Everyone has their eyes on her.

She unexpectedly bursts into tears and everyone looks shocked. No one knows whether to console her or not because they are all mad so they look around shrugging and mouthing things to each other.

Finally, Chris speaks up.

CHRIS:
Um, Kate... Are you okay?

KATE:
(sobbing)
No. I'm most certainly not okay.
Tonight has been the worst night of
my entire life.

MACKENZIE:
(weakly)
I think we can all agree on that ha
ha.

GREG:
Kate, I'm honestly so sorry. I
didn't expect this to happen. I
wish I could take it back.

KATE:
(looks up)
No guys, I'm the one who's sorry. I
should've never said we should stop
in DC and I'm sorry for the things
I said in the questioning room.

TORI:
It's not your fault! Don't worry
about it. We are all going to be
fine.

KATE:
Really?

MACKENZIE:
Yes, really.

Mackenzie pulls Kate in for a hug and the group all comes
over to them and joins the hug.

Then Chris pops up.

CHRIS:
Wait... What did you say about us
in the questioning room?

KATE:
Shhhhh... you're ruining the
moment.

Kate pulls Chris back into the hug.

FADE OUT.

