

The Loveless Layover

By

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INT. AIRPORT BAR IN O'HARE - Night

DAVID NELSON (34) is sitting alone on a stool at the far end of the bar. He is a soft pudgy man, who looks like he hasn't raised his voices in years, and is constantly pushed over. He is wearing an ill-fitting suit that even though it is ten years old, it was never once in style.

The bar is dimly lit compared to the rest of the airport and just feels sad compared to the hustle and bustle in the rest of the terminal. There is a TV turned onto ESPN which is airing an NFL talk show.

David is talking with the BARTENDER and drinking a beer.

DAVID

Look. All I'm saying is that the Packers got the Defense, and if they get hot at the end, then they have a shot.

BARTENDER

Yeah but not if my Bears stop them first. I really like our shot, and Cutler still has a heck of an arm. How about your Cowboys?

DAVID

I think Romo is our QB and I think this is finally our year.

BARTENDER

Have you been out to that stadium yet?

DAVID

Actually, I have not, but all my wife and all my co-workers have and they say it is beautiful.

BARTENDER

Yeah, I've only heard good things. Hey, David, right? Do you want another beer?

DAVID

Yeah and yes please.

The bartender gets David another Bud Light and then goes to clean some dishes while David plays on his phone.

(CONTINUED)

MARCO RODRIGUEZ (33), enters the bar and sits on the opposite end of David. Marco is a tall slender man, with curly brown hair and smooth tan skin that shows he is never lazy with his intense skin regiment. He is wearing skinny jeans, a very slim casual button down shirt, and brown penny loafers. His presence commands the entire room.

BARTENDER

What can I get you, chief?

MARCO

Hi, can I get a Cosmo, please.

BARTENDER

Coming right up.

The bartender start to make the drink and Marco's face begins to turn to horror as the bartender sloppily makes the drink.

BARTENDER

I don't make these too often, so tell me how it is.

Marco takes a sip from the drink.

MARCO

Honestly, it's not the worst Airport cosmo I've ever had. Thanks.

BARTENDER

So where are you from, because Midwest guys don't normally order these.

MARCO

I live in New York City now, but I am from Texas.

BARTENDER

Oh really? No kidding, the guy on the other side of the bar is from Texas too.

The bartender motions over to David for him to come closer to Marco and himself.

BARTENDER

Hey David! This guy is from Texas too! Small world!

DAVID
Oh wow! Really?

David begins to walk over to Marco's side of the bar and sits 2 stools away from him.

MARCO
Yeah, I was born and raised in Dallas but then I moved to New York for college and just stayed there.

DAVID
I'm from Dallas! This is crazy!

David begins to eye Marco up and down and then realizes he starts to look familiar.

DAVID
Hey, wait. I think I know you.

MARCO
Oh yeah? How?

DAVID
I can't put my finger on it, but you look damn familiar. Us Texas boys gotta stick together, here let me buy you a drink.

MARCO
Oh you're funny, but if you insist.

DAVID
What are you drinking?

MARCO
A cosmo, have you ever heard of it Texas boy?

DAVID
Of course I've had a cosmo before, but it's been years. Can we have two cosmos for me and my friend please.

The bartender goes to make their two cosmos, still lurking and listening to their conversation the entire time.

DAVID
So, do you still live in Dallas?

(CONTINUED)

MARCO

Fortunately, I do not. I got out of there and moved to New York as soon as I could. What about you?

DAVID

Yep. Still live there, only left for four years for college in Austin.

MARCO

Don't you ever get tired of it? The same old thing, and no diversity?

DAVID

Sometimes, but it is nice living there. Nothing really happens, whether that is good or bad is up to the person.

David really examines Marco to try and figure out where he knows him from. Staring at his big brown hair and he knows it is so familiar and comforting to him.

MARCO

What do you do for a living?

DAVID

I am an account rep for an Insurance company.

MARCO

I am a freelance writer, but the last piece I did was for The Advocate. I'm actually heading out to San Francisco now for work.

DAVID

Wow, that has to be exciting!

MARCO

Yes, it can have it's moments sometimes, but I can't complain.

The bartender returns with their two cosmos.

BARTENDER

Here you guys go.

David awkwardly leans down to the bar and takes a sip out of the glass without picking it up.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

This is amazing! Brings back so many memories.

BARTENDER(TO MARCO)

So, since you don't live in Dallas anymore, are you still a Cowboys fan?

MARCO

Oh no. I don't really like or have time for football, another reason why I left Texas.

The bartender walks away defeated.

MARCO

So, I never got your name.

DAVID

Oh yeah sorry, David Nelson.

MARCO

Marco Rodriguez, it's a pleasure.

David realizes where he remembers Marco from.

MARCO

Wait a second. David? David Nelson? I KNOW YOU!

DAVID

Oh yeah? How?

MARCO

Oh come on you should definitely remember.

DAVID

Nope, sorry I think you have me mistaken for someone else.

MARCO

No David, I remember you. I knew I recognized that face. But what happened to your beautiful blonde hair.

Marco starts brushing David's patchy grey hair, but David quickly brushes him away.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

I really don't know what you're talking about.

Marco grabs David's arm as David is reaching down to sip the cosmo.

MARCO

Don't do this David. Do you really not remember, me? Marco? I see your wedding band, but that's no reason to completely forget about everything.

DAVID

Ok fine. I remember you, and yes I am now happily married.

David turns away from Marco and starts to watch the TV again.

MARCO

The David I know doesn't look football.

DAVID

I've changed.

MARCO

Oh yeah? Name me one player on the Cowboys besides Tony Romo?

David hesitates for a second

MARCO

Yeah I didn't think so.

David leans over to Marco

DAVID

Look. You hurt me Marco. I can't forgive you for that, even though it was so long ago. I'm married with a wife and kid now. I've put everything behind me, and I'm just trying to live my life one day at a time. You left Dallas for a reason, I stayed in Dallas for a reason.

MARCO

Look David. I never ever meant to hurt you. We were just kids.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

I gave you everything, and you just ripped it all apart and didn't even realize.

MARCO

You know what, you're right. I didn't realize. I thought we were just having fun, but I guess we had two very different ideas of what we were doing.

DAVID

I guess so.

David stares down at his watch, then motions over to the bartender.

DAVID

Hey, can I get the check, my flight home is going to leave soon.

BARTENDER

Yeah of course.

The bartender goes to get David his check.

MARCO

David, I want to talk about this because I can tell you're still hurting.

David ignores Marco's pleas.

The bartender gives David his check and David puts down 2 crisp 20 dollar bills.

DAVID

Thanks boss. Have a good night.

David takes his suitcase and leaves the bar very swiftly as Marco simply looks on.

INT. AIRPORT TERMINAL - NIGHT

INTERCOM

Now boarding flight 227 nonstop service to Dallas.

David starts to queue for the boarding line, when Marco comes running out of nowhere and everyone is staring because he is a big tall man running through the airport until he finally stops at David, but everyone's eyes still remain on the two of them.

(CONTINUED)

MARCO

Please. I'm sorry. There. I. AM. SORRY. There, I admit it. I fucked up when I was younger and played with you. You trusted me and I completely fucked around with it and didn't realize how much I was to you.

DAVID

You were my whole world. But now I'm past that.

MARCO

I'm sorry that I took that beautiful world away from you.

The crowd starts to lose interest in the two of them, as David starts to warm up to Marco.

MARCO

Hey David, are you at least somewhat happy now, you seem to have a lovely wife and kid.

DAVID

Yes. You know what, I am very happy. They both love me, and we care for each other.

MARCO

That is great, David. That sounds really nice.

Marco sticks out his hand to shake. After much hesitation, David reluctantly sticks out his hand and they shake. David walks back into the line and boards his plane while Marco walks back to the bar.

FADE TO BLACK