

**1 INT. PHOTO STUDIO - DAY****1**

The sound of a camera shutter and the ring of studio lights introduces us to DANI. She is holding a camera and standing in front of a seamless that is littered with various facial creams. Her assistant, CORRINE, moves the items around after every few clicks.

DANI

Could you move the hydrating serum out? I just feel like we have enough shots of that one already.

She does. Dani clicks the camera a few more times and reviews the photos in camera. Corrine goes to adjust the setup again, but Dani stops her

DANI

Actually, I think we have enough of everything.

CORRINE

You sure?

DANI

Yeah. I'm gonna send some over tonight and if they aren't happy with this I'll just have to revisit it when I get back.

Corrine begins to pack up the products and equipment

DANI

Which, by the way, will be the 14th. Or some time around it. I don't know, I still haven't really settled on what I want to do yet. But, you will be the first person I text when I know.

CORRINE

Hey, Dani, it's truly no worries. That's the point of the trip, right? Just... letting go. So, you drive and come back whenever, we'll all still be here.

Dani lets out a sigh and nods, Corinne is right

DANI

This will be good for me. A few weeks of no product photography, UGC, freelance... whatever my career has become. I'm so exhausted, dude. (Facetious) I really wanna disconnect, you know? Just me and my camera. I'm just trying to find myself.

CORRINE

Well I think this is the perfect opportunity. Get inspired and bring back some good pics, okay?

Dani continues packing up

CORRINE

Uh uh, stop that, you get out of here. I can close up. You've got a quarter-life crisis to go fix.

DANI

Adore you.

They hug.

DANI

See you in a few weeks?

CORRINE

Drive safe

Corrine waves as Dani exits the studio.

**2 EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY**

**2**

Dani and her roommate PARKER load a suitcase and supplies into an old camper van. Dani fiddles with the door handles and mechanisms inside, familiarizing herself with the vehicle. She hugs goodbye to Parker before hopping in, taking a deep breath, and starting it up. She notices a note on the dash and smiles when she reads it:

BRING IT BACK IN ONE PIECE, YOURSELF TOO. LOVE, DAD

As she folds the note and places it in her purse, we hear the familiar melody of a cheesy road trip tune begin over the speakers. And then, she's off, Parker waving as she disappears down the street

**3 EXT. ROAD - DAY/NIGHT**

**3**

## ROAD TRIP MONTAGE

--Wide shots of the vehicle driving through scenic routes  
(Santa Monica Mountains, Malibu, Palm Springs, Big Bear)

--INT vehicle Dani jamming to music

--Dani making a really poor attempt at a camp site

--Dani talking to a park ranger

--Dani hiking and taking photos

--INT vehicle Dani eating fast food while driving

--Dani sleeping in the van

--Dani talking excitedly to a barista

--Dani reading by a fire

**4 EXT. VALLEY RIDGE - MORNING 4**

Dani snaps a photo on a tall ridge, overlooking a beautiful valley. She doesn't even inspect the photo, just lowers the camera and takes in the sight. She stands there, looking satisfied with her journey, silently saying thank you to the trip and the land for all it gave to her. And with that, she turns and begins her hike down to her vehicle.

**5 EXT. DRIVEWAY - DUSK 5**

A still, suburban evening. In the distance, we see headlights driving towards us, eventually finding their way into the driveway. After a beat, the engine cuts.

**6 INT. ROOM - DAY 6**

Dani sits at her desk with a big cup of coffee, wearing her comfy editing clothes. She is locked into adjusting a photo she took of Big Bear Lake

PARKER

Daniiiiii

She barely lifts her head

DANI

Huh?

Dani's roommate PARKER enters her room, with the outfit and demeanor of someone who is running late to work. He immediately hugs her

PARKER

I'm running so late but I wanted to say hello and welcome back before anybody else got the chance.

She finally breaks her concentration and flashes a smile

DANI

You're a doll, thank you. Are you coming back for lunch today or will I not see you until tonight?

PARKER

They're catering today so... wanna catch me up on your trip over dinner?

DANI

Would love nothing more.

Parker turns to exit

PARKER

Alright then i'll see you later, love ya

DANI

Love ya

Dani returns to her screen and takes a sip of coffee to get back into her groove. She finishes the photo she was working on and starts to browse through her collection. We see various images from her trip before she finally settles on the photo she took on the valley ridge, sitting back to reminisce. We cut back and forth between the photo and her face, as she grows from nostalgic to concerned. She leans forward and zooms into a spot on the valley floor, unsure of what to make of a figure standing next to a truck. When she finally deciphers what she is looking at, her face goes pale.

A man, with a dead body next to him, is staring straight at the camera.

Dani doesn't have time to think, there is a knock at the front door. She hesitantly looks up and slowly rises. She walks to the door. As she turns the handle --

(FLASHBACK - SC. 4 VALLEY RIDGE)

We hear the shutter of Dani's camera, and see the satisfaction on her face

**7 EXT. VALLEY RIDGE - MORNING 7**

From the valley floor, a man is looking up at the ridge where Dani just took the photo. She begins her hike down and we finally see his face, he is petrified. He watches her leave, glancing between the body and the spot where she stood. He takes a deep breath before quickly finishing his task and hopping in his truck.

**8 EXT. ROAD - DAY 8**

We follow Dani home through the eyes on the man.

--Dani gets in her vehicle at the bottom of the trail

--Driving behind Dani out of Big Bear

--Dani fills up on gas

--Reverse of Dani driving down her long street and turning into her driveway

**9 EXT. ROAD - DUSK 9**

The man parks his car in Dani's neighborhood, he is hesitant to shut off the engine. His eyes are fixed and glassy, trying to think of a plan. He goes for the handle, but stops. He lowers his head in his hands and begins to breathe shallow and fast. He doesn't know what to do.

CUT TO:

**10 EXT. ROAD - DAY 10**

The man is still in his car. Has he slept? His puffy eyes are fixed on Dani's house. After a few calming breaths, he slowly opens the door and makes his way to her driveway

**11 EXT. PORCH - DAY 11**

The man stands in front of Dani's door. After a long pause, he reaches his hand up and --

**12 INT. ROOM - DAY 12**

Dani sits at her desk, looking at her computer horrified. There is a knock at the front door. Dani looks up and rises with great caution. She opens the door to reveal a man, looking just as scared as she is. Both unsure of what move to make next, they stand there for an impossible amount of time.

BLACKOUT