

MILE O

(c) 2025

FADE IN:

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

A dusty two-lane road.

A YOUNG WOMAN (20s) stumbles down the shoulder. Her makeup's smudged, her outfit dirty.

She blinks into the darkness, swaying a little.

Then, headlights appear in the distance.

She sticks her thumb out with the desperation of a drowning woman reaching for a lifeline.

The car slows.

INT./EXT. CAR

DAVID (30s) leans over the passenger seat, looking through the window.

DAVID

You okay?

She squints at him like she's not sure he's real.

YOUNG WOMAN

Pfft...once I threw up in a cab and lost my shoes so, yeah, tonight's...a win?

DAVID

Want a ride?

YOUNG WOMAN

God, yes, before I start talking to raccoons again.

She fumbles the door a moment, then climbs in.

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)

You're officially my hero slash kidnapper. I'm cool with either at this point.

David starts driving.

INT. CAR (MOVING)

The road stretches out ahead, lonely and long.

DAVID
You sure you're okay?

YOUNG WOMAN
Physically, I've got one contact lens, my feet hurt, and I might've peed a little when that owl flew at me. Emotionally...we'll circle back.

DAVID
Long night?

YOUNG WOMAN
Started strong. Cute outfit, free drinks. Then my dick of a ride bailed on me and I made the smart choice to walk down Hell Highway.

DAVID
From a party? Out here?

YOUNG WOMAN
Bonfire, bad decisions, the works.

She flinches.

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)
Then, ugh. Everything went so fast.

DAVID
What's the last thing you remember?

She turns to the side window, stares into the night.

YOUNG WOMAN
The way the light looked...from the car...

She goes quiet, pensive.

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)
I think I died. Didn't I?

DAVID
You didn't survive that night.

She looks down, frowns, then lets out a small, shaky laugh.

YOUNG WOMAN

I really thought I'd wake up with a hangover.

She studies him.

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)

You seem too normal to be Death.

DAVID

I'm not...Death. I'm...me.

He reaches into his shirt pocket and pulls out a faded photo of her, same clothes, same face.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I was there that night. It wasn't just that I tried to help...I hit you. It was me. I was tired. I shouldn't have been driving. One second, I looked down at my phone, just for a moment.

YOUNG WOMAN

Well, that's one way to leave a party. And you... remembered me.

DAVID

I never forgot.

They sit in silence for a moment.

YOUNG WOMAN

Weird, I thought I'd be more pissed.

DAVID

Why aren't you?

She shrugs.

YOUNG WOMAN

Maybe I used it all up already. Maybe I was just tired of being mad. Tired of waiting.

DAVID

Waiting for what?

YOUNG WOMAN

Someone to...see me...I dunno. Something.

Then, she leans back, resting her head against the window.

DAVID
You still with me?

YOUNG WOMAN
I think so. But...it's different...

David glances at the passenger seat...

She's gone.

He chokes back a breath.

EXT. ROAD

David passes a mile marker: Mile 0.

FADE OUT: