SECOND CHANCE

Written by

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INT. Diner- Night

DAVID, 25, walks in carrying a duffle bag. He sits down and pulls a pamphlet and letter out of his duffle and sets them on the table. A CLOSE-UP reveals that the letter is a rejection from the U.S. Army.

SAMANTHA, 25, waitress, walks over to the table.

SAMANTHA
What can I get for you?

David continues to look down in a daze.

SAMANTHA (CONT’D)
David?

David finally looks up.

SAMANTHA (CONT’D)
Do you remember me?

He smiles.

DAVID
Of course I remember. How are you?

SAMANTHA
Not bad. I'm surprised you're still here.

DAVID
What do you mean?

SAMANTHA
I thought you'd be off at college somewhere.

DAVID
Yeah. So did I.

SAMANTHA
What happened?

DAVID
I didn't get the scholarship I needed.

SAMANTHA
That's rough.

(CONTINUED)
FRANK, 50's, manager, places two plates on the counter.

FRANK
Order up!

SAMANTHA
I'll be right back.

Samantha picks up the plates and delivers them to a nearby table. David looks up at a picture that is hanging on the wall across from him. It's a picture of New York. Samantha returns with two cups of coffee.

DAVID
So what about you? I read in the paper that you were getting married.

SAMANTHA
Eric took a job in California.

DAVID
You didn't want to go with him?

SAMANTHA
No. (beat) Because with Eric, his career always came first and I knew that wasn't going to change.

DAVID
Oh wow. I'm really sorry Sam.

Samantha adds sugar to her coffee.

SAMANTHA
The saddest part is, I don't really care. I just feel kind of...

DAVID
Numb.

SAMANTHA
Yeah.

David picks up his drink and takes a sip.

DAVID
That's how I feel about being in this place.

SAMANTHA
The diner?

(CONTINUED)
DAVID
No. I mean this town. All my life
my dad talked about traveling and
all the places he'd go. He never
did any of it. I don't want to be
like him.

SAMANTHA
Where are you going?

David glances at the picture of New York.

DAVID
New York.

SAMANTHA
(smiling)
Spring in Central Park.

DAVID
Watching the ball drop in Time
Square on New Years.

SAMANTHA
Broadway shows.

DAVID
The Museum of Natural History.

Samantha looks at David, amused.

SAMANTHA
Dork.

They chuckle. Samantha notices a gun in David's duffle bag.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Whoa. What are you doing with
that?

DAVID
Oh, uh, it was my dad's. I'm going
to sell it.

SAMANTHA
Guns freak me out.

A WIFE and HUSBAND finish their meal at the next table. The
wife looks at the check.

WIFE
It's $18.77. How much do I tip?
HUSBAND
Uh...

DAVID
That's two dollars and eighty two cents for the standard fifteen percent or three seventy five if you're looking at twenty...

WIFE
Was I talking to you?

DAVID
...percent.

HUSBAND
(laughing)
Come on. Leave Rain Man alone.

The couple exits.

DAVID
(in Rain Man voice)
Yeah, those guys are definitely assholes, definitely. Yeah.

Samantha laughs. A CUSTOMER walks in.

SAMANTHA
(beat) You know, I had a crush on you in 7th grade.

DAVID
Really? I always assumed you thought I was pretty nerdy.

SAMANTHA
I did.

The customer passes David and Samantha and goes to the counter.

CUSTOMER
Hey Sam.

SAMANTHA
Hi.

Sam gets the customer's to-go order and rings it up. The customer sets his phone and keys down on the counter and pays for his order. He walks toward the door. A MAN, 40's, enters the diner. The man bumps the customer with his shoulder as they pass each other.
MAN

Excuse you.

The man sits down. Samantha walks over to him.

Samantha walks away. David glances at the man.

MAN (CONT'D)

What are you looking at?

DAVID

Nothing.

MAN

That's what I thought, punk.

Samantha returns with a beer.

MAN (CONT'D)

Sit down.

Samantha walks into the kitchen. David looks back at the picture. The man chugs his beer and slams it down on the table. Samantha returns with Frank. The man pulls out a gun and points it at Samantha.
MAN (CONT'D)
As a matter of fact, I'm so dissatisfied with the service here...

Man motions with his gun.

MAN (CONT'D)
Empty the register.

Samantha walks over to the register and opens it. The man sees Frank glance under the counter.

MAN (CONT'D)
Don't even think about it, fat boy.

The man turns his attention to Samantha. Samantha starts removing the cash from the register.

MAN (CONT'D)
Hurry up! Bring it here.

She walks toward the man and drops some of the money by David's table.

MAN (CONT'D)
Clumsy bitch! Pick it up!

David moves. The man points the gun at him and cocks it. Samantha cries hysterically as she fumbles with the money.

MAN (CONT'D)
(to Samantha)
Put it in the bag!

Samantha begins shoving money into David's duffle. The man glances at Frank.

MAN (CONT'D)
If I don't have that money in thirty seconds-

The customer re-enters the diner. The man turns toward the customer.

CUSTOMER
Hey, I left my phone on the...oh shit.

Samantha has David's gun pointed at the man's temple.

SAMANTHA
Then what?

(CONTINUED)
She cocks the trigger.

CUT TO:

INT. DINER- NIGHT

Frank is talking to a police officer. Police car lights are flashing into the diner. David is sitting at a table. Samantha walks over with a plate of fries and sets them in front of him.

SAMANTHA
So New York, huh?

DAVID
Yep.

SAMANTHA
Honestly, I don't think you're ready for a city like that.

DAVID
Really?

Samantha picks up one of David's fries and eats it.

SAMANTHA
Yeah. I think you'll need me there to protect you.

David smiles.

FADE TO BLACK.