

RX Persona

by  
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FADE IN:

EXT. HIGH RISE BUILDING - DAY

Stacks of countless floors. More than one wants to count. Glass panels reveal the banality inside. A white collar zoo. Caffeine sipping, phone call making, waiting for lunch robots put on a clever ruse of production.

WILL (30's) stares at nothing in particular. The end of the world would go unnoticed. He could be handsome but he has a wrinkle in his shirt. So unprofessional.

Will's BOSS approaches. His stout and athletic body draw attention from his aging face. Each wrinkle a merit badge. Old school tough.

BOSS

We need you out of town this week.  
Corporate's opening a new branch in  
California.

Will's still staring.

BOSS

Hey, wake up. You're not getting  
paid to fantasize about drilling  
your mom.

WILL

Yeah.

BOSS

So we need you to go to California.  
Get things started at the new  
branch. Just a couple days.

WILL

Whatever you need.

WILL (V.O.)

You ass hat.

BOSS

Watch the tone. What? You forget  
to take your pills. Take em so I  
don't have to deal with your  
bullshit.

Will pulls out an intricate black box. The size of a cigarette box. It flips open. Inside are rows of various small colored pills. Blue. Red. Yellow. Green. Enough to pull the envy of Hunter Thompson.

Will tweezes one out.

WILL (V.O)  
 Make me love my job. Take one  
 excessive need to please my boss  
 pill.

Will closes his eyes. His mouth churns as if cogitating the square root of a number. Will's eyes open.

WILL  
 Go to California to set up shop at  
 the new branch. You got it boss.  
 Anything else I can do for you?

The boss smiles.

BOSS  
 Here's your flight coupons. Flight  
 leaves in two hours.

INT. AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

Homeland securities busy at work. Lines so long if your at the end you're already at your destination. Will slouches as he waits. His eyes are sagging as if the obese man in front of him is sitting on them.

The STEWARDESS checks the passengers in. All with her routine rhetoric delivered in the same high pitched voice.

WILL (V.O.)  
 When the drugs wear off you feel  
 comatose. Except you still have to  
 deal with the day. I'd rather be  
 shitting in my bed.

STEWARDESS  
 Hi, how may I help you?

WILL  
 Checking in for the two o' clock  
 flight to California.

STEWARDESS  
 There's been a delay on that flight  
 for two hours.

WILL  
 What kind of a delay? It's  
 California.

STEWARDESS

Well it seems a flock of bald eagles are circling the airport. They are an endangered species.

WILL (V.O.)

Great. I have to fly out on the only day where eagles are making a suicide flight. Maybe they didn't want to be saved.

WAITING TERMINAL

Will's eyes are closed, jaw rotating. He tries to drown out the airport ambiance. Crying kids, loud phone calls, the occasional security false alarms.

His lips cringe. He pulls out the black box. Swallows the pill. No water necessary.

Moments later he smiles. Playfully watches the kids and the run laps around the seats. He waves at their mom.

WILL

(Mouths)

Adorable kids.

Will is the only one seated in his row. Empty seats to his left and right. A young WOMAN (20's) sits down right next to him. Adorable in the I want to marry you sort of way. She offers a smile. Will smiles back.

WOMAN

You don't mind if I sit here do you?

WILL

Not at all.

WOMAN

I feel safer when I'm seated next to someone. Never know whose out there.

WILL

How do you know I'm not one of them.

WILL (V.O.)

What the hell was that? The drugs must be wearing off.

She giggles.

WOMAN  
I'm Gloria.

WILL  
Will.

GLORIA  
So where you headed today Will?

WILL  
California.

Will rubs his hands against his pant leg.

GLORIA  
What a coincidence, I'm going to California too!

WILL  
It's actually not a coincidence.  
This is the lobby for that flight.

WILL (V.O.)  
This is the lobby for that flight?

GLORIA  
It's still great. We can be seat buddies on the flight.

Both their head turns away from each other. Coincidentally they both look at the ceiling. Will pulls out the black box once again.

WILL (V.O.)  
Make me a hunk. Take one aloofness, two I'm the greatest looking guy alive.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

A domestic flight. Small aircraft with rows of two seats. Will has the window seat. Gloria on the outside. No escape from uncomfortable silence.

GLORIA  
So you have a black box.

WILL  
It's just a container for my...

GLORIA

Pills. I know. Just didn't peg you for a guy who would take em. You seem so normal.

WILL

Well, I'd like to think it's because of these...

Will waves the black box.

WILL

That I am.

GLORIA

Doesn't it bother you that you're pretending to be someone you're not.

WILL

Trust me, people are better off that I take em. Makes me more tolerable.

WILL (V.O.)

Self loathing does not suit you.

WILL

Look, I'm sitting here trying to impress you and I say something like that. The drugs must be wearing off.

Will reaches for the box. Gloria gently touches his hand.

GLORIA

How about if you don't take them for the rest of the flight. I'll let you take me on a date in California.

WILL

Like a sex on the beach kind of date.

PILOT (V.O.)

Flight number 1537 to California will not be landing before Will makes a complete ass of himself.

EXT. AIRPORT PICK-UP ZONE - DAY

Gloria grasps Will's hand as she jots down a phone number on it.

GLORIA

So call me later tonight okay?

Gloria hops in a taxi. As the taxi pulls away, she turns away and waves. Will smiles.

FADE OUT: