

The Night I-75 Was Closed
By
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EXT. INTERSTATE 75 CORBIN, KENTUCKY - NIGHT

SUPER - January 8, 2001

Highway patrol cars, their lights flashing, block the interstate. Snow and ice blow through the air.

INT. COMPACT CAR - NIGHT

LEXIE (20), blonde and would be attractive if not for a disheveled look, dark stains on her face from running mascara and a pink, swelling welt on the left side of her face.

Her eyes widen in a panic as she sees the flashing lights ahead. She slows her car to stop.

A patrolman approaches her Lexie's car. Her hand shakes as she reaches for the crank that rolls down her window.

PATROLMAN

Road's closed ma'am.

LEXIE

I gotta get through.

PATROLMAN

Don't matter ma'am. Roads aren't safe. We may open 'em later tonight. We need you to pull off on this exit. There's truck stop that's open on the other side where you can wait.

LEXIE

Please! It's an emergency. I've got to get--

PATROLMAN

Ma'am you ain't gettin' anywhere in this ice. 'Specially in this vehicle.

Lexie looks ahead, puts her car back in gear and heads to the exit.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - CONTINUOUS

Lexie gets out of her car and into the cold, icy air wearing a sweatshirt and sweatpants. She pulls her sleeves down over her hands as she opens her backdoor and extracts a baby carrier. Her sleeping child is covered by a blanket.

She hurries into the truck stop.

INT. TRUCK STOP - CONTINUOUS

JASON (early 30s), GARY (late 20s) and DANIEL (30) are seated a booth. Each is wearing a matching black jacket.

Jason is asleep with his head resting on the table. The other two sport bloodshot eyes and exhausted looks. Neither notices Lexie as she walks past.

A man (40s) approaches their table.

MAN

Hey, are you guys on some sort of team?

GARY

Yeah.

DANIEL

We're the Tri-City IceHawks.

MAN

What is that?

GARY

We're in the United Hockey League. I'm Gary, that's Jason and this is our radio guy, Daniel.

DANIEL

I'm also the director of media relations and--

MAN

I don't really follow hockey. Have you guys been stuck here long?

DANIEL

About two hours.

MAN

Oh well, good luck on your season.

The man walks off.

GARY

Why do always you do that?

DANIEL

What?

GARY

Throw in the media relations thing? And also the sales--

DANIEL

I have a lot more responsibilities
than just--

GARY

Yeah, no one cares.

CARL (50s), the team's bus driver, walks past their table.

GARY

Yo, Bussie! When are they opening
the roads?

CARL

Dunno.

Carl walks past never breaking stride.

GARY

(to Daniel)

Does he have a personality or is he
just an asshole?

DANIEL

He's cool. I had lunch with him the
other day. He used to drive a tour
bus for Iron Maiden back in the
80s. He's got some stories.

GARY

I might have cared two hours ago.
But it's one in the morning and I
just want to get out of here.

VICTOR (O.S.)

Hey, one of you guys gotta condom I
can borrow?

VICTOR (early 20s), movie-star handsome, leans across their
table.

GARY

Seriously Vic?

VICTOR

Met this chick. She's gotta
minivan. She's on her way back to
college somewhere.

Gary pulls out his wallet, digs out a square-package and
slaps it into Victor's hand.

GARY
I know you asked if you borrow
that. Trust me, I'm not gonna want
it back.

VICTOR
Thanks.

Victor hurries out.

GARY
I swear, that guy could get laid in
a...in a...

DANIEL
In a Kentucky truck stop during an
ice storm?

GARY
Yeah.

DANIEL
Which by the way, means you owe me
ten bucks.

GARY
What?

DANIEL
That's his fourth one this road
trip. The over-under was three and
I had the over.

GARY
Dammit!

Gary digs into his pocket and slams a ten dollar bill into
Daniel's hand.

GARY
Somebody get me the keys to the
bus. I'm just gonna drive--

STEVE (O.S.)
Guys, you gotta come outside and
see Patty.

STEVE (early 30s) leans over to shake Jason awake.

JASON
(groggy)
What the hell?

STEVE
Come on. You gotta see this.

Jason rubs his eyes as the three get up, zip up their coats, stuff their hands in their pockets and follow Steve outside.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - CONTINUOUS

The four walk through a maze of tractor-trailer rigs in the parking lot.

Jason slips and starts to fall but catches himself.

GARY

Geez, dude, watch the ice. You couldn't stay on your feet tonight either. What's the matter with you?

JASON

My freakin' back.

GARY

And it's not your back, it's your core. Lay off the donuts.

JASON

Shut up.

DANIEL

Oh my god!

Daniel points across the parking lot where PATRICK (early 20s), wearing only a stocking cap and boxer shorts, is gliding across the frozen parking lot on ice skates.

PATRICK

Wooooooooo!!!

Daniel doubles over laughing.

STEVE

I told you!

GARY

(to Patrick)

You're gonna ruin your blades you idiot!

(to Steve)

Where's coach? If he's sees him--

COACH (O.S.)

I'm right here.

The three turn to see their coach standing behind them. He's an imposing figure and his stern expression is punctuated by a walrus mustache.

COACH

How many beers has Patrick had tonight?

STEVE / GARY

One or two. / Seven.

COACH

Why don't you guys get back inside.

STEVE

I'm going to the bus.

The other three walk back to the truck stop.

INT. TRUCK STOP - CONTINUOUS

The three walk in and see the table they were seated is now occupied by four truck drivers.

GARY

Now what'll we do? I can't take much more of this.

DANIEL

Who's Cal talking to?

The other two look across the diner and see CAL (25) talking to a young woman wearing a sweat shirt and sweatpants.

JASON

Did something happen between him and Cheryl?

GARY

I don't think so. Why?

JASON

I've got to go stop this.

DANIEL

Wait, what do you care?

JASON

He cheats on Cheryl then I'M in trouble. Amy will blame me for it.

DANIEL

Whst? Why will Amy care?

GARY

Last year, where were we? Muskegon? We're playing Tiger Woods golf on x-box at the hotel. Peter was

(MORE)

GARY (cont'd)
rooming with me that trip and went
to bang some chick--

GARY
The waitress from Red Lobster.

JASON
Whatever. He's nailin' her in the
bathroom while a bunch of us were
playing golf. Amy found out and she
got pissed. Froze me out for a like
a month.

DANIEL
That's crazy!

JASON
Tell me about it. We were playing a
skins game and I was down sixty
bucks. I had more important things
to worry about than Pete hooking up
with some skank in my bathroom.

DANIEL
Did you tell that to Amy?

JASON
Yeah. I think that just made her
even more pissed. She said
somethin' about me being the
captain having a responsibility
that goes beyond the ice, or
something like that. I gotta go
stop this.

Cal, dark hair and tall with broad shoulders, starts walking
their direction.

JASON
Cal, what the hell--

CAL
Guys, we gotta help this girl.

JASON
Cal, what--

CAL
Seriously. I'm coming out of the
bathroom and she comes up to me and
asks if I drove here and if she can
get lift to Cincinatti.

JASON

Cal--

CAL

Her name is Lexie. Her ex-boyfriend, they've got a kid together but he's some sort of prick. He comes over to get money from her and he ends up hitting her in the face.

JASON

Cal, we can't--

CAL

Guys, she hit him with a bottle to get away, then took their kid and, uh... his car--

GARY / JASON

No shit? / Cal, there's no way--

CAL

Guys, she's scared. She just wants to get to her grandma's house in Cincinatti. Her grandmother just moved there so she doesn't think her boyfriend will know to look for her there. But she thinks her boyfriend is after her and...probably the police.

JASON

No way, Cal.

CAL

Just meet her. Talk to her and let's go to coach.

Jason's bleary eyes look up to the ceiling. He lets out a sigh and the two walk through the crowd where Lexie is waiting, holding her baby carrier.

Carl passes them walking the other direction. He stops as Coach approaches. The two exchange a brief word. Coach turns and approaches Gary and Daniel.

COACH

It's opening up. Round up the guys. We're out in five minutes.

JASON (O.S.)

Coach, can you come here for a second?

Gary and Daniel watch their Coach walk with Jason to the other end of the diner where Cal, Lexie and her baby are waiting.

DANIEL

He's never gonna go for this.

GARY

Why not?

DANIEL

He's not a great mood. We lost tonight. We've been stuck here for two hours. We're still six hours from home. And did you see him watching Patrick skate around the parking lot? Now's not the time to be asking him for anything.

GARY

Ten bucks says she gets on our bus.

DANIEL

You're on.

The two watch as Coach listens to Cal talk, then Jason talk. Their Coach frowns and crosses his arms. He says something to Lexie and starts to turn away but is stopped as Lexie grabs his shoulders to give him a hug.

Gary holds his hand out toward Daniel.

DANIEL

Dammit!

Daniel reaches into his pocket and slaps a ten dollar bill into Gary's hand.

INT. TEAM BUS - MOMENTS LATER

Players walk down the aisle of the team bus. Among them is Lexie, now wearing a black team jacket draped over her shoulders. She puts the baby carrier onto a seat and starts to strap it in..

Victor passes them on the way up the aisle.

PLAYER (O.S.)

Vic! You at least wash your hands before getting on board?

Victor drops his head and smiles sheepishly and a dozen voices jeer him and a small bottle of hand sanitizer hits him in the chest.

The team trainer hands Lexie a ziplock bag and a bottle of water.

TRAINER

That's ibuprophen. Just take one.
You sure you don't want ice?

Lexie nods.

COACH

(to Carl)

Let's roll, Carl. And don't stop
this bus for anything. And I mean
anything! We'll tell you the exit
in Cincinatti when we get close.

The bus pulls away. Through the side windows of the bus, two patrol cars are seen, their lights flashing, pulling along side of the car Lexie arrived in.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - CONTINUOUS

The officers exit their vehicles and shine flashlights into the car. Neither turn to see the bus leave the parking lot.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. LEXIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SUPER: June 8, 2003

Lexie, wearing an Applebee's polo shirt, carries her child, asleep in her arms into his bedroom. Her eyes are bright, her face is clear and now reveals how attractive she is.

She settles down the three-year old in a bed.

LEXIE

There you go little man.

Hanging on the wall above the child's bed is an IceHawks pennant with 18 signatures on it.

Lexie walks to the door shutting it behind her.

LEXIE'S BEDROOM

Lexie enters and turns on a TV sitting on dresser across from her bed.

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)

...ties the game at two!

On the TV, a crowd is roaring.

Lexie untucks her shirt and raises the remote to change the channel.

ANNOUNCER #2 (V.O.)

Cal Stevenson makes this play happen. He beats two guys to the puck in the corner. Then watch, he takes a hit to make a play and sets up Sykora for the tying goal!

Lexie lowers the remote. Her mouth drops open.

ANNOUNCER #2 (V.O.)

That's only his second shift tonight, but what a play!

ANNOUNCER #1 (V.O.)

Cal Stevenson spent two years in the low minors and most of this season in the AHL. Anaheim called him up right before the playoffs and there he is with an assist in the Stanley Cup Finals.

The TV screen shows Cal on the bench. He gets a slap on his shoulder from one of the coaches, an imposing looking man with a walrus mustache.

Lexie smiles and tears come to her eyes.

LEXIE

(muttering)

Good for you guys. And thanks.

FADE TO BLACK