

FADE IN

EXT. GAS STATION -- EARLY MORNING

A gas station stands quietly in the outskirts of a small suburban town. The station doesn't have a lot of service at the moment, due to the early time, but it gets a lot of business. People are always at the pump putting gas in their cars because this is the most convenient gas station for residents.

It's the middle of summer, the temperature at least above ninety degrees. To make matters worse, the air is very dry, making it almost impossible to breathe. A slight breeze blows through the air.

An obese Mexican family consisting of a father, a mother, and their small child are at the pump. The father and the son are bickering and in a small argument for some reason, the mother annoyed by their fight. She says something, then walks off to the station. They talk in Spanish.

A young woman in her mid-twenties, CAMILA ANDERSON, drives her silver Toyota up to the front of the gas station and parks. She has short hair. Her hair is usually blond, but she had it dyed red.

She carries a black leather Prada bag that drapes over her right wrist. She grasps the door handle to the station and walks in.

INT. GAS STATION

Inside the gas station, a slightly overweight African American cashier, AL YOUNG (52), who has long sideburns, stands behind the counter. He finishes swiping the credit card that belongs to the Mexican mother. He hands the card back to her, putting it back into her wallet.

AL YOUNG

Thank you, ma'am. You have a good rest of the day.

Scattered across in the scare amount of aisles that contain mostly junk food, many young and middle aged people browse around looking for the things they need.†

Among the people in the gas station, a young beautiful girl, PEPPER, around the age of fourteen stands in one of the aisles, texting someone.

The gas station is cold, the usual temperature, but feels good compared to the heat. The station has a very unique smell consisting of cigarettes and sweat.

Camila takes in a deep breathe of the cool air conditioned gas station once she steps foot inside.

AL YOUNG

Ms. Anderson! The heat is a scorcher today, ain't it?

CAMILA

Yeah, it sure is. Feels good to be in here.

AL YOUNG

It sure does. Freezing here in the winter though, if only the damn heater worked then. It works just fine in the summer, but shuts off for good in the winter. If only Jim would come down and fix it.

CAMILA

Yeah, lazy Jim.

AL YOUNG

Yep, always the same ol' stuff from him. So what will it be for you today, Mrs. Anderson?

CAMILA

Just the usual, Al.

AL chuckles, turning around to grab a pack of Camel cigarettes. AL is very sweet, easy to get along and talk to about anything. Camila walks up in front of the counter, setting her purse on the counter. Unzipping her bag, she takes out her wallet.

AL YOUNG

Just as usual.

AL runs the cigarettes through the checkout machine.

CAMILA

Jim told me the other day that your mother was doing better.

AL YOUNG

That's right, the doctor told me that she's got her appetite back. They're not sure what's exactly wrong with her yet.

CAMILA

Well, I wish you and her the best. Jim also told me to tell you that you still owe him that money for that Super Bowl bet.

AL YOUNG

And tell him that I'll give him the money straight as he comes down and repairs that damn heater.

CAMILA

Sure thing.

Camila smiles at Al, who hands him the money for the cigarettes. Al punches in some buttons on an old cash register. It rings, the money drawer extending out, Al putting in the money and collecting change.

CAMILA

You keep the change, Al.

AL YOUNG

(CHUCKLING)

Thank you, Ms. Anderson. You have a nice day.

CAMILA

You too, Al. Say hi to your mother for me, alright?

AL YOUNG

Will do. Take care.

Zippering her purse back up, she is about to leave the store when a young male teenager, LOU around the age of fourteen, enters the store. He is drenched with sweat and heavily breathing. He pushes in his bicycle.

Pepper notices him and she extends her arm up into the air and waves, signaling to him that she is here.

Camila exits the store, waving at Al.

AL YOUNG

Hey there, young man. What can I do for you today?

LOU

No, thanks, I'm good. You mind if I park my bike in here?

Al shakes his head, Lou leaning his bike up against the wall. He speed walks over to Pepper and they exchange whispers to each other, Al being able to make out what they are saying a bit.

LOU

Sorry I was late, have you found them yet?

PEPPER

No.. I even checked behind the counter, I don't think they sell them here. Besides, I forgot my money..

LOU  
Goddammit. I don't have any..

AL YOUNG  
What are you two looking for?

LOU  
Oh, nothing, we're just looking around.

AL YOUNG  
Alright, you let me know if you need any help.

Al then shrugs, Camila entering the gas station again. She seems fretted and a bit unstable.

CAMILA  
Did I leave a set of keys somewhere? I think I accidentally left them in here.

AL YOUNG  
No, not that I've seen. I'll help you look around.

Lou and Pepper listen in on their conversation, who then spot what they needed behind the store counter when Al comes out from behind: CONDOMS.

Al and Camila exit out of the store, looking around for her car keys. There is only one other person in the store along with Lou and Pepper, a middle aged man who is at a magazine rack, browsing through.

LOU  
Come on, quickly, I see them.

PEPPER  
What are you going to do? Just take them?

LOU  
You or I don't have any money, and I

didn't bike a mile for nothing. They're right in front of our faces.

PEPPER

Okay, just make it quick.

Lou quickly and carefully scans the gas station and looks outside to see Camila and Al on the ground looking for her keys. Lou makes a dash for it. He looks at the man at the magazine rack, who is reading an article in Men's Health.

Al and Camila are still trying to find her car keys, but Camila sees something shine under her car; her keys. The two of them talk for a little while.

He ducks behind the counter and grabs two packs of Durex condoms without being noticed. Pepper is anxiously and nervously watching Lou.

On the packages of condoms, there are sensor stickers on them, which set off the alarm if they haven't been scanned through the checkout. She then notices Al walking back to the gas station.

She signals Lou to quickly get out behind the counter. He successfully gets out, before Al comes in. Lou now casually roams the aisles, getting back to Pepper, who has a purse around her shoulder. Lou sticks the condoms in her purse, grabbing a bag of chips.

Al walks into the gas station, chuckling, walking back behind the counter. Lou and Pepper walk up to the counter, Lou holding up the bag of chips.

LOU

How much does this cost?

AL YOUNG

That will be two ninety-nine.

LOU

Alright. Pepper, do you have the money?

PEPPER

No, I already told you that I forgot it.

LOU

And I forgot mine, I thought you told me you'd bring it.

PEPPER

Yeah, sorry, but I forgot.

AL YOUNG

It's alright, you two. Everybody messes up sometimes. I'll just let you guys take that for free this time.

LOU

No, it's okay, really. We'll just come back another time.

Pepper takes the bag of chips and walks back to the aisle where they found it and sets it back. She walks back up to the counter.

AL YOUNG

Alright, well, you two take care.

PEPPER

You too, thanks.

Lou walks over and stands his bike up straight, Pepper pushing the door open, but the alarm suddenly sets off, startling everyone in the store.

LOU

Oh, shit!

Lou and Pepper panic, who just stand there, frozen and still as can be. Al pushes a button that ends the alarm, who then walks toward them both, with a disappointed frown on his face.

AL YOUNG

Miss, could you please open your purse for me?

Pepper, knowing that there is no way out of this, slowly opens her purse and shows Al the contents inside.

AL YOUNG

Now, please take out what you took without paying.

Pepper reaches in and takes out the two packages of condoms, handing them to Al.

AL YOUNG

I just did a nice thing for you two. I offered you to take that bag of chips without paying, but you regardlessly took these. I did this for you two for the sole reason of my own generosity and this is the what I get in return.

Lou and Pepper look down at the ground, shamed.

AL YOUNG

Being the kind of person I am, I won't ask you for your names, your parent's names, or call the police for shoplifting. I'll let this one pass, but keep in mind that you shouldn't have done what you did. Do you understand?

LOU

Yeah..

PEPPER

Yes. It won't happen again.

AL YOUNG

Good. All that I ask now is for you two to kindly leave.

Lou shakes his head, Pepper holding the door open for him. He walks out with his bike, Pepper following him, then closing the door. Al sighs, shaking his head and walks back behind the counter and puts the packages of condoms back where they belong.

The man who was at the magazine rack walks up to the counter with a magazine, a bottle of Pepsi, and a bag of chips.

AL YOUNG

Hi, sir.

Al runs his products through the checkout.

AL YOUNG

That will be seven ninety-nine.

The man reaches into his pocket and pulls out his wallet. He takes out a ten dollar bill and hands it to him. Al puts it in the cash register, handing him back the change through complete silence. Al reaches for a plastic bag and puts his items in it and hands it to him.

AL YOUNG

There you go sir, two dollars is your change. Thank you, you have a nice day now.

The man takes his bag of items and walks out of the gas station, leaving Al alone. The whole gas station is silent, until his cellular phone rings.

Al extends his arm out to answer the phone, which sits by the cash register. He picks up his phone and opens the top screen, putting it to his ear. A voice of a middle aged female speaks on the other end of the line.

AL YOUNG

Hello?

FEMALE (V.O)

Hello, is this Alexander Young?

AL YOUNG

Yeah, this is him speaking. What can I do for you?

FEMALE (V.O)

This is nurse Diane calling from North

County Hospital informing you that your  
mother passed away.

Al collapses onto a small stool behind him in  
complete sadness and sorrow.

AL YOUNG

When did this happen?

FEMALE (V.O)

She passed away in her sleep last night  
at three AM from a stroke that lead to  
heart failure.

Al starts to cry.

FADE OUT SLOWLY