

PASSENGER: UNKNOWN

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

A dimly lit street. Light drizzle falls. From a darkened car, the glow of its dashboard.

INT. RIDESHARE CAR - NIGHT

ERIC a tired looking 30's, drives. His App DINGS.

ERIC
(sighing, looking to his
phone)
Alright...Eli. Corner of 5th and
Main. Let's go.

He drives a short way, then pulls over. A figure, ELI (20s, anxious looking, hoodie up) jumps into the back seat, nervously looking behind him.

ELI
Go! Just drive!

ERIC
Whoa man. Everything okay?

ELI
Just go! I'll explain later.

Eric hesitates, glances at the nervous man in the backseat and then back ahead. He drives.

EXT. CITY STREETS - CONTINUOUS

The car winds through darkened, empty streets. Eli continues looking out the back window.

ERIC
Hey man, you're kind of freaking me
out.

He stiffens looking in the mirror again at Eli as another thought strikes.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Wait, you're not running from the
cops are you?

ELI
No, nothing like that. I swear, I'm
just being followed.

ERIC
Followed? By who?

ELI
I don't know. I was just taking a
walk and I noticed a car following
along. I ducked into an alley but
then it circled around and came
back.

ERIC
You want me to call the police?

ELI
NO!

And then more controlled.

ELI (CONT'D)
No, just drive. Away from here.
Anywhere.

INT. RIDESHARE CAR - LATER

The car continues on. The tension has settled somewhat. Eric
checks the rearview - nothing behind them.

ERIC
Looks all clear. Still think you're
being followed?

ELI
I don't know. It's like I've been
running from something for awhile.
But tonight, it felt like it was
catching up.

ERIC
Running from something like what?

Eli doesn't answer immediately. Just stares out the window.

ELI
You ever felt like something was
chasing you but you didn't know
what it was?

ERIC
[dryly]
More often than I'd like to admit.

EXT. DESERTED ROAD - NIGHT

They're outside the city now. Silence. Stars above. Eli breathes easier now.

ELI
How long have you been driving
rideshare?

ERIC
A few years now. Pays the bills.
And as a bonus, I get to hear a
whole lot of life stories.

ELI
Do those life stories ever...not
make sense?

ERIC
Sometimes.

He looks in the rearview directly at Eli.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Kind of like now. This may sound
weird, but I feel a little deja vu
right now. Someone else asked me
to bring them out here, a while
back. They were nervous, said they
were being followed. Same story.

Eli leans forward.

ELI
What happened to them?

Eric doesn't answer immediately. Eli's nervousness returns.

ELI (CONT'D)
I said what happened to them, man?

Eric finally speaks.

ERIC
They disappeared. I dropped them
off...that's the last thing I
remember. The cops found my car
the next day. Abandoned.
(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)
 No sign of the rider. I don't
 remember any of it.

Eli is pale now. Confused.

ELI
 How long ago was that?

ERIC
 Three years ago, nearly to the day.
 Weird, right?

Eli, breathing hard now, sweat beading his forehead.

ELI
 Where did you drop them off?

Eric stops the car. Middle of nowhere.

ERIC
 Here.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

They sit in silence, considering each other in the reflection
 of the rearview.

ELI
 What if I'm not the one being
 followed?

ERIC
 What do you mean?

ELI
 Maybe I'm the one chasing
 something? Something left
 unfinished?

A beat. Eli opens the door. Prepares to step into the night.

ELI (CONT'D)
 Thanks for the ride, man.

Eric blinks. The backseat is **empty**. The door **never** opened.

His phone DINGS.

MESSAGE ON PHONE
Trip complete. Passenger: Unknown
Rating: 5 Stars

Eric looks out the car window into the darkness, sighs.

ERIC
See you next year...

FADE OUT.