RX Persona

by
Ryan Jenkins
FADE IN:

EXT. HIGH RISE BUILDING – DAY


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 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: