

INT. CAR - HIGHWAY - DAY

A chaotic scene as TRAFFIC whizzes by passenger side windows of a car.

Inside the car is JACK, she/they, 35, TERRY, she/her, 34, and SAM, she/her, 38. Jack rigidly drives, not a wrinkle in her neatly pressed blazer, she white knuckles the steering wheel, her face tenser than the strings of a violin.

Jack chaotically jerks the car between lanes, weaves in/out of traffic, steals panicked glances at Sam next to her and then Terry in the rear view mirror after each swerve.

Sam sits in the front passenger seat, her bare feet casually up on the dashboard, she wears ripped jeans and a vintage tee, holds a blissful but vacant stare, giant smile plastered on her face. Her fingernails, bitten down to the nub, dial a number into an imaginary floating phone, she mouths words into the imaginary phone. Sam is not in her right mind.

Terry leans forward from the backseat, her flowy hippy dress falls forward down her braless chest but she pays it no mind. She watches Sam's behavior in disbelief, holds back inappropriate laughter.

TERRY

Whatcha doing Sam?

JACK

How can this just happen out of the blue?

Jack swerves the car hard right, they all jerk their bodies simultaneously. Nobody loses focus.

SAM

I've got to call her. She said so.

Jack & Terry exchange another look.

JACK

Got to call who, Sam?

Sam lets out an exasperated sigh.

SAM

You guys just don't understand. I'm fine! I just need to be with-

POP! A flat tire.

JACK

Shit.

Jack swerves again, pulls over to the shoulder.

EXT. SIDE OF HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jack & Terry get out of the car, Jack immediately locks the doors. Sam, still in the car, obviously continues her hallucinatory behavior.

JACK'S OXFORDS meet TERRY'S BIRKENSTOCKS at the rear passenger wheel, it's flat.

TERRY

Do we have a spare?

Jack looks at Terry.

TIME CUT:

EXT. SIDE OF HIGHWAY - ONE HOUR LATER

Jack & Terry lean against the trunk of the car, wait for the tow. Jack, on her phone, tries to order an Uber.

Terry plays with a hole in her dress, senses Jack's growing aggravation, she reaches out and caresses her shoulder.

JACK

Why is everything taking so long? The page won't even load!

Jack pounds on her phone screen with her pointer finger. Terry rubs Jack's shoulder down to her hand, eases it away from the phone, places Jack's hand on her heart, looks into Jack's eyes with a coquettish smile.

TERRY

You need to breathe.

Jack shoots daggers out her eyes at Terry.

Terry ignores the look, takes Jack's hands, closes her eyes, begins their centering meditation.

TERRY (cont'd)

When we get caught in an undertow, we relax and allow the waves to wash us up to shore.

Jack opens her eyes.

JACK
Terry, pretty sure Sam's the one
drowning in the ocean. We are the
lifeguards.

EXT. SIDE OF HIGHWAY - CAR PASSENGER DOOR WINDOW

Sam, inside the car, now knocks on the window and listens to
it as if it's telling her a secret.

EXT. SIDE OF HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jack & Terry both look at Sam, heads tilted in confusion.

JACK
What do you think she's hearing?

TERRY
Or seeing. Clearly someone's there
talking to her... This just happened?
Totally random?

JACK
Like it fell from the sky.

They both stand in silence for a beat, then Terry gently
touches the side of Jack's face. Jack turns, softens.

JACK (cont'd)
I'm so glad you're here with me.

They embrace and hold each other for a long time. A deeply
sweet shared moment.

TERRY
Always will be.

Jack smiles, kisses Terry.

JACK
I love you.

TERRY
So much.

They look into each others' eyes, Terry caresses the side of
Jack's face.

TERRY (cont'd)
It's gonna be okay. I know it.

JACK
How do you know?

TERRY
What's the alternative?

THE BERZERKS