

THE ROAD TO SOMEWHERE

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CONNECTICUT - HILLTOP - NIGHT

Overlooking a big city that is lit up like a Christmas tree. The clear sky above illuminates the scenic hill. Rock music fills the night air, coming from the high end stereo of a 2009 Mustang GT, parked next to an '08 Honda Civic.

SUPER: Hartford, Connecticut

Two teens drink beer and share a joint. AMBER HAYES (15), her good soul in the clutches of misery, chugs the rest of her bottle like a pro. She's had too much to drink already.

Standing against the Civic, she leans on JOSH TANNER (16), ear, eyebrow, and lip piercings, a nice-looking "bad boy". He takes a long drag from the joint.

In the back seat of the car, KATIE (16) and JEFF (16) go at it hot and heavy. Their moaning is barely heard over the thumping of the music.

Josh passes the joint to Amber. She inhales, then blows out a large cloud of smoke.

AMBER

This is some good shit.

JOSH

Nothing but the best when you're with Josh.

AMBER

You're hilarious when you're stoned.

Josh glances inside the Civic, at their friends in the early stages of sex. Lust burns in his eyes. He tosses Amber's beer bottle aside and cuddles her rather roughly.

JOSH

Know what else I am when I'm stoned?

AMBER

Stupid?

Josh kisses Amber's neck. She takes another hit of the joint.

JOSH

Horny.

Josh backs Amber up toward the GT. She resists, slightly at first, even laughing but her resistance intensifies.

AMBER

Stop it, Josh. I told you I'm not ready.

Josh's kisses grow more intense and work their way up to Amber's lips. She recoils and slaps Josh.

AMBER

I said to stop!

JOSH

What the hell?

Amber snatches her purse from the front seat of the car and bolts towards the road.

Katie pops up from the back seat of the Civic, her shirt missing and a bra strap hanging down her arm.

KATIE

Amber!

Katie stumbles out of the vehicle while putting on her shirt. Shirtless and breathing hard from ecstasy, Jeff sits up.

JEFF

Where are you goin`? I'm not done.

NEAR THE ROAD

Katie races to catch up with Amber.

KATIE

Hey, what's wrong?

AMBER

Josh is an asshole.

KATIE

Yeah, we already knew that.

JOSH (O.S.)

Hey!

The girls stop.

AMBER

I didn't feel like being raped tonight, okay?

Katie's eyes widen at the alarming news.

KATIE  
I'm so sorry.

Josh hobbles up to them.

JOSH  
You're nothin` but a tease, you  
know that?

Amber shoots Josh a glare. Zipping up his pants, Jeff joins the group.

JEFF  
I think we all need to calm down  
here.

Amber makes a grand exit by marching off to the road.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Jeff drives his Civic up to Amber and keeps pace. Katie leans out through the lowered passenger window.

KATIE  
At least let us give you a ride  
home.

Amber gives it a moment's thought and stops. The car halts. Amber climbs into the back seat and the car drives off.

AT JOSH'S CAR

Josh watches the Civic's taillights disappear around the bend. He smacks the fender of his GT.

INT. AMBER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

DAVE BERGER (40) is evil in a meek disguise. He drinks a can of beer in his recliner while watching a baseball game on TV.

His wife, TAMMY BERGER (late 30s), very plain and glum, downs a glass of wine as she comes to the doorway. She holds a half-full bottle in her other hand.

TAMMY  
If you'd give me half the attention  
you give that box, I'd be a happy  
woman.

Dave forces a pretend happy face and goes to Tammy. Giving an award-winning performance, he cuddles his wife.

DAVE

Now come on, Tammy. You know  
there's nothing more important in  
the world to me.

Dave kisses Tammy.

DAVE

Now why don't you go fix yourself  
up real nice for me. I'll be there  
as soon as the game is over.

Tammy falls for his bull hook, line, and sinker.

TAMMY

Okay.

Tammy pours wine into the glass as she goes to the steps,  
spilling a little. Takes turns bumping into the wall and rail  
like a pinball as she makes her way upstairs.

A sly look crosses Dave's face. He sits back down in the  
recliner and works on his beer as he watches the game.

The front door opens and Amber enters. She spots Dave and  
instantly sours.

DAVE

Where have you been?

Amber ignores Dave and jogs up the stairs. Dave seethes, his  
face tightening as he stares after her.

UPSTAIRS HALL

Amber passes by an open doorway. Inside, Tammy is on the bed,  
drinking straight from the bottle.

TAMMY

Amber! Come here and see your mama.

Amber sighs and enters the room.

MAIN BEDROOM

Tammy sets her bottle aside on the nightstand and guides  
Amber down to her. She smiles at her daughter as she brushes  
the hair back from Amber's face.

TAMMY

Look at you. Your daddy would be  
proud.

There's something else on Amber's mind.

AMBER  
 Mom, I need to tell you about Dave.

TAMMY  
 I know.

AMBER  
 You do?

TAMMY  
 Yes, Amber. It's got to stop.

Amber smiles, relieved.

TAMMY  
 Dave told me how you treat him like  
 shit.

Amber's smile fades into panic.

AMBER  
 No, Mom. That's not it...

TAMMY  
 Do you realize without his paycheck  
 we'd be homeless? Your grandparents  
 don't want to help us.

AMBER  
 Because you're a drunk.

Tammy smacks Amber, short of a slap. Amber's hand goes to her  
 cheek as she stares at her mom in disbelief.

TAMMY  
 Don't you talk to your mama like  
 that, you hear?

Amber springs up and flees the room. Tammy finishes off  
 what's left in her bottle.

AMBER'S BEDROOM

Lots of hand-drawn sketches, showcasing unbridled artistic  
 ability, hang on the walls. They range from people to  
 landscapes to animals. A wide variety.

Amber storms in and slams her door closed. No lock. She turns  
 on her stereo to rock music and throws herself down to the  
 bed. Lies there, trying to absorb the music.

She removes a sketchpad and small box of sketch pencils from  
 her nightstand drawer.