

NOMAD

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SECOND DRAFT

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LOGLINE

ALEX and SANDRA, two disgruntled lovers are en route to retrieve Sandra's paroled brother from Prison. During their sweltering country road trip, they run over a NOMAD. A witness to account the event influences their decision to bury the evidence. The sun-baked soil proves no match for their shovels and pickaxe. A shallow grave, a punctured irrigation pipe and many attempts of cremation fail to hide the dead Nomad from the police and fire brigade.

SYNOPSIS

SANDRA, a young disappointed woman is trying to get ALEX, a young man angry at the world, to break off their relationship. In the sweltering heat of the day they drive on a country road to a local Prison to retrieve Sandra's paroled brother. Their plans go astray when Alex runs over a NOMAD, killing him instantly. As Sandra and Alex search through the Nomad's belongings, another driver witnesses their misfortune. Alex decides to bury the Nomad.

After purchasing shovels and a pickaxe from a Hardware store, they drive to a far off field to bury the Nomad. Alex attempts to bury the Nomad under a dead Gum tree pointing towards the sky. Discovering the soil is too hard; Alex attempts to cremate the Nomad, twice.

Failing this, Alex continues digging the grave with a pickaxe. He pierces an underground irrigation pipe and creates a water geyser. The badly burnt body of the Nomad floats in a pool of smouldering wood and blackened soil as the police and fire brigade arrive.

CHARACTERS

ALEX	.....	The Boyfriend
SANDRA	.....	The Girlfriend
NOMAD	.....	The Nomad
RADIO ANNOUNCER	.....	Radio Announcer
FARMER	.....	Farmer
DRIVER	.....	Passing Motorist

1 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. DAY

1

Dressed in their heavy grunge styled clothing, ALEX drives a dirty, rusty FJ Holden with SANDRA sitting beside him in the front seat. She fidgets and looks bored and oppressed. The excessive heat of the day overwhelms them. A song begins its introduction as we hear the RADIO ANNOUNCER.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V/O)
 ... Repeating, today is a day of
 Total Fire Ban throughout the entire
 State...

In the horizon, a FARMER hides his well-weathered face underneath his well-worn hat, plotting a field in his tractor high on a hill. The sun reflects off the tractor's glass panelling.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (cont'd) (V/O)
 ... Currently thirty-nine degrees
 outside, the mercury is rising...

Alex drives along an isolated country road, surrounded by rolling hills and farming country. Sandra attempts to swat a fly that buzzes around her head.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (cont'd) (V/O)
 ... Heading towards a top of forty-
 two.

The sun shines in a clear blue sky.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (cont'd) (V/O)
 The time is just on one twenty-five.

A crumpled cigarette packet fly's out of the passenger car window.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (cont'd) (V/O)
 Time for another cool tune before we
 get into the news.

The song continues to play from the radio. Alex and Sandra drive past a field of cows. One cow watches them as they drive past.

ALEX
 (To the cow)
 Mooooooooo.

Alex laughs. Sandra shakes her head. They drive past a Farmhouse and other associated rustic farm buildings.

2 INT. CAR. DAY

2

SANDRA unwraps a new packet of cigarettes, handing it to Alex. He struggles to retrieve a cigarette from the cigarette packet.

2 CONTINUED:

SANDRA sits with her face towards the open window. The wind blows in her face and throughout the car.

SANDRA
Why did you have to leave so late?
We're never going to make it in time.

ALEX
It's not my fault this bloody thing
wouldn't start. Jesus Sandra, why the
fucks do you has to be such a bitch?

Alex retrieves a cigarette from the cigarette packet and lights up. Sandra peels an orange, throwing the peel out the window.

ALEX (cont'd)
What am I, the fucking delivery
prison service? Your little brother
forgot how to steal cars?

Sandra eats her orange until it is half gone.

SANDRA
If you stopped worrying about your
dumb dolls and...

ALEX
...They're not dolls. They're Super
Hero Action figurines.

SANDRA
Will you listen to yourself? *They're
Super Hero...*

ALEX
They're collectors' pieces.

SANDRA
How about collecting some fucking
money to pay the rent?

ALEX
At least I'm not the one who got
caught stealing cars.

SANDRA
Just fucking drive.

Perspiration runs down their faces.

ALEX
Why don't you keep your mouth shut?

2 CONTINUED (1):

Sandra throws some of her orange peel at Alex, hitting him in the face.

ALEX (cont'd)
What the fuck?

Alex throws a cigarette lighter at Sandra. It hits her on the shoulder. Sandra picks up a metal car door window handle from the floor of the car. She throws it at Alex, hitting him in the temple. Alex blacks out and loses control of the car.

3 EXT. COUNTRY SIDE. DAY 3

The car swerves off the road and onto an embankment. Dust and gravel fly in the air. The car drives close to a roadside fence. Sandra screams as Alex regains consciousness and control of the car. He drives back onto the road.

4 INT. CAR. DAY 4

Blood trickles from ALEX's open wound. He picks up the metal car door window handle and throws it at SANDRA. It fly's out the window.

SANDRA
Stop throwing shit at me.

ALEX
(pointing to temple)
What do you call this?

SANDRA
Think you're such a great fucking man.

ALEX
Shut the fuck up, you waste of space.

SANDRA
Is that the best you can come up with?
Oh, boo fucking hoo.

Sandra picks up an empty soft drink bottle from the car floor and throws it at Alex. It hits him in the head. Alex attempts to slap Sandra across the back of the head. He is too far away from Sandra to reach her. Sandra throws eclectic items from the car floor at Alex.

The car hits a large dark solid object. It impacts onto the front of the car, rolls onto the bonnet, cracks the windscreen and rolls off the roof of the car, disappearing out of sight.

Alex screams as the impact occurs. He slams on the breaks and they lurch forward. Sandra bumps her head on the dashboard of the car; she is injured.

4 CONTINUED:

Dust and gravel fly in the air and they come to a complete stop. They remain seated as Alex turns the motor off. Silence.

5 EXT. FRONT OF CAR. DAY

5

ALEX exits the car. SANDRA remains seated. Alex inspects the damage of the car. Alex looks to the back of the car. He sees a large pile of dark cloth, lying on the road. Plastic bags, some torn and eclectic items surround it.

Alex looks at Sandra. Sandra looks towards the back of the car, then at Alex.

SANDRA

What did you hit? Can you see it? What is it?

ALEX

Don't know.

SANDRA

Go have a bloody look, for Christ's sake.

Sandra turns to face the back of the car. Alex walks to the back of the car.

6 EXT. BACK OF CAR. DAY

6

ALEX notices the dark cloth covers a man; a NOMAD. He is dressed in an overcoat and torn boots. He looks bigger than what he is, due to the way he is dressed.

Alex walks up to the Nomad and places his finger on his jugular.

ALEX

(To Sandra)

He's dead.

Alex searches through the pockets of the Nomad. He places anything of value in his pockets. He looks through the scattered items on the road for valuable items. We hear a car door open and close.

Sandra walks to the back of the car, holding onto the boot of the car.

SANDRA

What are you doing?

ALEX

What does it look like I'm doing?
Come on.

***** TRUNCATED *****