

8 INT. - DINER - COUNTER - DAY 8

Focus on news playing on the TV inside the tiny, charming little diner.

TIM  
Joining us now is runaway specialist Dr. Hank. Doc, has Zane simply run away?

DR. HANK  
To me this seems like a cry for attention. Celebrities feed off of the public's adoration. If we keep looking, we're simply enabling this type of behavior.

START PULL BACK: The diner is packed with the lunch crowd. DANNY Diner owner, loves what he does. Tough on the outside but a teddy bear on the inside. He rings the bell from the kitchen.

DANNY  
Order's up! What do I gotta do around here, Cook and serve?  
(beat) Oh, look who's joining us!

JEANETTE Single mom, hard working to provide the best for her daughter. Hurries through the doors putting on her apron. She takes the food and starts to deliver it right away.

JEANETTE  
I know, I know. I 'm sorry. I had to drop Quinn off at my moms.

She drops the sandwich off to a LOCAL MAN.

LOCAL MAN  
Thanks Jeanette.

She picks up a few empty plates from tables around her.

DANNY  
Keep showing up late, and you won't have to worry about dropping her off.

CINDY hardened waitress. Good friend to Jeanette, always has her back.

CINDY  
Dad, you know threats only work if you follow through right?

DANNY

Quiet, or I'll fire the pair of ya.

Jeanette knows Danny would never fire either one. He sighs and gets back to work. Jeanette fires Cindy a thank you smile. The bell on the door <RINGS> as TOM(29), a sweet but goofy local who has a crush on Jeanette, enters the diner.

TOM

(singing)

*There she is... The girl of my  
dreams...*

(speaking)

What do you say Jeanette? Ever had  
a guy sing to you before?

Tom is a horribly singer with good intentions. Trying his best to make her smile but Jeanette is busy with coffee refills around the diner.

JEANETTE

Hmmm, not since yesterday when you  
did it.

TOM

Well, you my daisy, are always  
welcome! And I'm gonna follow it  
up, by checking another thing off  
your bucket list. I'm taking you  
out Friday! What do you say to  
that?

Everyone in the diner is watching. Smiling as Tom tries really hard.

JEANETTE

I appreciate the offer Tom, but I'm  
busy.

CINDY

Tom, you are a gluten for  
punishment.

Tom ignores her.

TOM

Saturday then? And if you're busy  
then, Sunday? You gotta have one  
night off don't you?

JEANETTE

I really don't Tom.

Tom sits everywhere she's trying to work. Everyone in the town loves Tom. He's the local sweetheart.

TOM

Danny, can Jeanette have tonight off to go out with me?

DANNY

*She's off at four.*

OLD LADY

Give a fella a chance Jeanie.

TOM

Yeah Jeanie, give a fella a chance.

END

Tom is giving her puppy dog eyes next to the older lady.

JEANETTE

At four, I'm headed straight over to my next job. Then I have a full night of studying. I'm sorry Tom, I just... I don't go on dates.

Jeanette slips away, and gets back to work.

TOM

Alright, I'm hearing ya loud and clear. You need some you time. Straight shooter, that's one of the things I love about you. I'm not gonna chalk this one up to a loss. I'll see you later okay?

(to everyone)

I'm counting on all of you to convince her for me now.

A few laughs from the locals. Tom is lovable. The town nice guy. He takes his food and leaves.

CINDY

If that boy could bottle persistence, he'd be a billionaire.

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EXT. - SIDE ROAD - DAY

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A long stretch of road, just outside of town. Very pretty. The newly fallen snow makes everything pretty. A lone police car sits behind some bushes.