

The Designated Driver

By

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OVER BLACK: PRODUCER/DIRECTOR CREDITS

CUT TO:

INT. ZACH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

DOWNSTAIRS

ZACH, 20, enters his house. It's trashed with beer cans, Solo cups, deflated balloons and streamers torn from the walls. Zach moves through the trash to the staircase.

Zach is overweight, hasn't shaven or cut his hair in weeks, and dresses like a slob. He goes upstairs.

UPSTAIRS

Zach walks past five or six people sleeping on futons. He opens a door and enters:

ZACH'S BEDROOM

Zach flops down onto his bed, burying his face in a pillow. He moans, then turns and looks off.

ZACH'S POV

An alarm clock reads: "3:58 am"

BACK TO SCENE

Zach rolls onto his back and stares at the ceiling.

FADE TO BLACK

OVER BLACK

TITLE CARD: "THE DESIGNATED DRIVER"

CUT TO:

UPSTAIRS ZACH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

SUPER: "5 HOURS EARLIER"

ROLL CREDITS

Zach lies on a futon, looking as if he's about to vomit.
Dance music is heard through the floor.

ZACH (V.O.)

My name is Zachary Hill. I'm a college sophomore and this is the story of my first college party. A couple weeks ago, I moved in with three guys I had never met, and now here I am co-hosting a party for their friends, none of which I know. I guess you could say I've always been somewhat of a "mama's boy" which I'm proud of except that I have no real friends and now here I am in a real-world social situation and I'm lost. That is, until I met Laura.

LAURA, pretty, enters the room.

LAURA

Zach. Be my beer pong partner.

ZACH

I'm sorry, I don't know you.

LAURA

I'm Laura, I'm friends with Lance...come be my partner.

ZACH

I...uh...

LAURA

Oh my God, Zach, get off your ass you're depressing me. Let's go.

BASEMENT

Zach and Laura play beer pong against his roommates, LANCE and PAUL. Lance and Paul hit most of their shots, with Paul doing elaborate celebrations each time.

Zach, meanwhile, can't hit a shot. Miss after miss. A girl named KIM watches on the couch holding a red Solo cup.

KIM
My grandma plays better than you.

ZACH
(to Laura)
Who is she?

LAURA
My friend, Kim. Focus.

KIM
Zach, you suck.

Zach misses his shot. Paul hits the winner.

LAURA
Wow. That was....

KIM
PATHETIC!

LAURA
Drink up.

She hands Zach a cup of beer.

ZACH
I...I don't drink.

PAUL
Bro, it's the rules.

LAURA
Wait.

Laura pushes Paul to the ground.

LAURA
You don't drink?

Zach nods.

LAURA
So you can drive us to Taco Bell?

ZACH
Yeah, I guess so.

KIM
Tonight!

ZACH
Sure.

LAURA
I'm not drunk enough. I'll come
get you.

ZACH
Ok, I'm going outside for some air.

EXT. ZACH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Zach goes outside and finds MICHELE crying on the porch.

ZACH
What's wrong?

MICHELE
Nothing. Who are you?

ZACH
I live here.

MICHELE
Oh sorry. It's just my
roommate. She's drunk and I need
to get her home and I'm drunk and I
don't know what to do.

ZACH
I have my car here. If you want,
I'll take you guys home.

MICHELE
You would do that?

ZACH
Yeah, why not? Go find her and I'll
pull up.

She runs to find her.

MOMENTS LATER

Zach pulls up to the front of the house in a Mustang.
Michele and BRITTANY are waiting.

MICHELE
Thank you so much. This is Brittany
by the way.

ZACH
Nice to meet you.

Brittany doesn't respond.

MICHELE
This is a really nice car.

ZACH
Thanks.
(beat)
So where do you live?

MICHELE
North Quad.

ZACH
Perfect.

They get in. Zach puts the car in drive and leaves.

INT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

Zach drives Michele and Brittany. Brittany sits quietly in the back, Michele in the front, both of them drunk and sickly.

Awkward Silence. Then...

ZACH
So, what are you studying?

MICHELE
Sociology.

ZACH
That's cool, I know someone else
who's doing that!

As he responds, he hits a bump in the road. The car hops up. Brittany vomits onto the car interior. Brittany lies down and says nothing.

MICHELE
Oh my God, Zach, I'm so sorry.

Zach looks over and sees the vomit on his car.

ZACH
No....it....it's fine, really.

MICHELE
No, it's not, just pull over so I
can clean it.

ZACH
I'll get it later, it's fine.

He hits another bump in the road.

ZACH
God, this road....

He's interrupting by the sight and sound of Michele
vomiting. She looks up at him, disgusted with herself.

MICHELE
I'm so sorry.

ZACH
Seriously, it's....

MICHELE
(again interrupting, eyes
wide)
STOP THE CAR!

ZACH
I said...

MICHELE
NO STOP THE CAR NOW!

Zach pulls the car over.

MICHELE
Jimmy John's sells day-old bread
for real cheap. I need to go.
(beat)
Let's go!

She jumps out of the car.

MICHELE
Brit!

Brittany wakes up and starts to get out.

EXT. JIMMY JOHN'S - NIGHT

Michele is inside buying bread. Brittany is falling asleep, leaning against the wall outside the store, slipping down to a sitting position.

ZACH

Brittany!

She slides back up and opens her eyes.

She starts sliding back to sleep.

ZACH

Brittany!

Repeat.

Michele comes out holding bread.

MICHELE

(mouth full)

Want some? They didn't even charge me!

Zach nods: "no"

ZACH

Does she talk?

MICHELE

Nope.

(beat)

Well, thanks. We can walk from here.

ZACH

No, let me drive you. It's too cold.

MICHELE

No, we're fine.

ZACH

But..

MICHELE

GOOD NIGHT!

She grabs Brittany and they walk away.

INT. ZACH'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Zach walks in, carrying a rag he was using to clean up the vomit. Laura, Kim, Paul, and two girls ALEX and GINA are in coats and shoes by the door.

LAURA
We're ready.

ZACH
Ready?

KIM
Taco Bell!

ZACH
(reluctantly)
Oh.

PAUL
PARKOUR!

LAURA
Let's go, I'm starving.

She leads the gang past Zach out the door to the Mustang.

INT. MUSTANG - NIGHT

The five passengers squeeze into the car, Laura alone in the front and the other four piled into the back. Zach looks back, concerned.

LAURA
It's fine, drive.

MOMENTS LATER

Zach drives. Throughout the scene, Paul leans forward and yells "PARKOUR" out of Laura's window.

LAURA
Guys, Owen just texted me.
(off Zach's look)
Our friend.

ALEX
Yeah where the fuck was he?

LAURA
The library.

GINA
Lame.

KIM
What a tard.

LAURA
Oh my God. Zach, turn around.

ZACH
Why?

LAURA
Just do it. Go to the library.

KIM
We should do Gangnam style for him!

Zach rolls his eyes, and turns the car around.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Zach and the girls stand in the stacks of books. The girls all grab books. Zach looks around nervously.

ZACH
Where's Paul?

LAURA
Shhhh! I don't know.

The girls carry the books to a table where OWEN is seated with a group of other students. They place the books down without making eye contact and walk away.

Owen grabs the books. They are all sex-themed. He blushes.

Behind Owen, the girls do a sloppy version of the Gangnam dance. The other students all jeer and giggle. Owen drops his head hard onto the table.

EXT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Paul runs around like a mad man, climbing anything he can - tress, signs, fences - yelling "PARKOUR."

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

The girls join Zach in the stacks. Laura checks her phone.

LAURA
Guys, Kyle's throwing a party. We
should go.

ZACH
I'll take you.

Laura looks at Zach blankly, then to her friends with a nod.

EXT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Zach sits alone in his car as the girls all run into the party. Laura turns around and comes back.

LAURA
Come in with us.

ZACH
Are you sure?

LAURA
Yeah! C'mon!

She motions for Zach to follow. He does.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Zach enters. Laura, Kim, Alex, and Gina are lost in the crowd. Zach sees Michele and Brittany running from a bedroom into the bathroom.

He enters the bedroom and is joined by Kyle, Michele's brother, carrying beers for the girls.

ZACH
(nervously)
Hey man, what's up?

KYLE
Not much, bro.

Silence. Then, Zach looks at the beers, and reaches to take them from Kyle's hands.

ZACH
You know, let me hold these for
you.

Kyle laughs, hands over the beers.

KYLE
Dude, thanks!

Kyle leaves the room. Zach looks around for a place to hide the beers, and settles on under Kyle's bed.

EXT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Zach goes out onto the patio where all his friends are watching Paul attempt to climb down the side of the house.

PAUL
PARKOUR!!!

The crowd of people watching cheer him on as he climbs over the patio fence and onto a tree.

Laura turns around and sees Zach.

LAURA
Can we go to Taco Bell now? I'm bored.

ZACH
We just got here.

LAURA
Please?

ZACH
What about the others?

LAURA
They'll be fine.

ZACH
Sure.

EXT. DRIVE-THRU - NIGHT

Zach and Laura sit in the car at a drive thru.

LAURA
Let me buy you something.

ZACH
It's ok.

LAURA
Zach, you've been driving me around
all night. You like tacos?

ZACH
(reluctantly)
Sure.

INT. MUSTANG - MOMENTS LATER

Zach is driving. Laura eats.

LAURA
So, why are you doing all this?

ZACH
Why not?

LAURA
Because it's lame. You can't
possibly enjoy driving us drunk
people around all night.

ZACH
Well, it's quite entertaining if
you ask me, no offense.

LAURA
None taken.

ZACH
And, to be honest, I don't really
have many friends, so it's not like
I have anything better to do.

He's reached his house. He unbuckles his seatbelt and
reaches for his tacos. Laura has eaten them all.

LAURA
Sorry.

Zach just sits there.

LAURA
I actually don't want to go back to
your house. There's another party.
Can you drive me?

ZACH
Why don't you just come back here?
We can retry beer pong and I'll
make you a bed somewhere.

LAURA
Because. I don't want to.

Zach rolls his eyes and drives off.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Back at his house, Zach gives blankets and pillows to party guests sleeping on futons and offers sweatshirts and trash bins for them to throw up into.

INT. ZACH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Zach enters his room and starts changing into his pajamas. He sits down on a couch to watch TV, alone.

He starts to fall asleep. His phone rings. He answers.

LAURA (V.O.)
Help me, please.

ZACH
(half-asleep)
What?

LAURA (V.O.)
Zach, please, help me.

She hangs up. Zach looks at his phone, unsure for a moment what to do. He gets up and grabs his jacket and keys.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Zach enters the empty house. Kyle's party is long over.

He looks around and sees nobody, so he walks upstairs and sees Laura with a group of guys. She sees him and smiles.

LAURA
Zach!

She runs up and gives him a hug.

LAURA
I'll be down in a second. Go wait downstairs.

DOWNSTAIRS

Zach is waiting at the bottom of the stairs. Laura comes down the stairs but is stopped halfway by a guy grabbing her arm.

GUY
Give me your number.

LAURA
No.

GUY
C'mon! Just your number!

Laura shakes free of his hold.

LAURA
So what? So you can call me? Text me? You think we're gonna hang out or something? Uhhhh...NO.

GUY
Laura, you make my heart sing. Stay with me.

LAURA
Oh my GOD, you're SO CHEESY.

She runs away, down the stairs, to Zach.

LAURA
Let's go.

EXT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Laura and Zach walk to the Mustang.

LAURA
Thank you so much Zach.

She puts her arm around him.

LAURA
You probably sved me from having to sleep with that deuschebag just to get out of that place.

ZACH
Can I take you home now?

LAURA
Yes, please.

INT. ZACH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The opening scene replayed. Zach flops down onto his bed, burying his face in a pillow. He moans, then turns and looks off.

ZACH'S POV

An alarm clock reads: "3:58 am"

BACK TO SCENE

Zach rolls onto his back and stares at the ceiling.

This time, the scene continues.

Zach's phone rings. He has a Facebook notification. Laura, Michele, Kim, Alex, and Gina have all friend requested him.

Zach's phone signals that he has a text message from Laura.

TEXT MESSAGE

"thanks again. ur a great friend zach - laura"

BACK TO SCENE

Zach smiles, turns off his phone, and falls asleep.