

End of The Rainbow

By:

Alec Porwal

Aren is sent on a unexpected but needed journey of self rediscovery after he hitches a ride off the side of a highway.

EXT. SIDE OF HIGHWAY - DAY

AREN (man mid 40s, introvert with sass) is on the side of the highway, watching on coming traffic, CAR stops for him. The car stands out sporting a bright pink color in a sea of GREY, BLACK and WHITE VEHICLES.

INT. CAR - DAY

Aren opens the door to the car. CAMMIE (girl 10, dressed in bright colors) is the driver.

The car is covered in 'girly' colors and STICKERS, VELVET seats, like candy land threw up in there.

AREN  
(confused)  
Aren't you a little young to be  
driving?

CAMMIE  
(smug)  
Aren't you a little old to need a  
ride?

Aren hesitates for a moment before getting in.

INT. CAR - LATER

Car appears to be driving itself, the drive is passing open fields.

CAMMIE  
(leaning back)  
So, what was an old loser like you  
doing on the side of the highway?

Aren opens his mouth cautiously. Cammie is curious but decides to play it cool.

CAMMIE  
It's okay if you don't know or don't  
wanna say, kinda weird for an adult to  
trauma dump on a kid anyway.

Cammie takes a lollipop seemingly from out of no where.

CAMMIE (CONTINUED)  
Want one?

AREN  
I'm good thanks.

Cammie shrugs and pops it into her mouth.

INT/EXT. DRIVE-THRU - DAY

Cammie and Aren go through CHILDHOOD DRIVE-THRU as Aren notices all their favorite items being listed. Sun begins to set.

SPEAKER BOX (V.O)  
(Muffled electrical noises)

Cammie unbuckles and rolls down the car window before moving half her body out to hit the speaker.

SPEAKER BOX (V.O)  
Ah hem, sorry about that. What can we get you?

CAMMIE  
(Smiling)  
Same as usual!

Bottle of PINK NAIL POLISH appears in the car.

AREN  
(Looking around)  
Um, what exactly is this?

CAMMIE  
What like you'd forget, just choose something. Or we can share mine.

AREN  
(Muttering)  
Not really what i meant...

Aren looks at items on the board.

CAMMIE  
And Sharkie!

A SHARK STUFFED ANIMAL appears in Aren's lap.

CAMMIE (CONTINUED)  
You're welcome!!

AREN  
(Looking at SHARKIE, fondly)  
Uh, thanks, I guess.

INT. CAR - DUSK

Aren starts feeling more comfortable , while driving in the RAIN. JAZZ MUSIC starts playing on the radio.

AREN

This is my favorite piece.

CAMMIE

Yeah, [INSERT SONG NAME], is pretty good

Aren looks at Cammie in shock.

CAMMIE

(Speaking with hands)

Just because I'm young doesn't mean I'm not cultured.

Car swerves slightly to the other lane, Aren grabs the wheel.

AREN

Focus on the road!

CAMMIE

Relax grandpa, I know what I'm doing.

Aren looks out the window and blinks. Time has passed.

CAMMIE (CONTINUED)

We're here.

The car pulls into a parking lot, name of JAZZ BAR is visible.

AREN (V.O)

(Confused)

How long was I asleep?

INT. JAZZ BAR TABLE - NIGHT

Cammie and Aren sit at the bar. BLUE, PINK, WHITE hues. BARTENDER is serving them drinks.

BARTENDER (O.S)

What can I do you for?

AREN

I'll have a beer, and some juice for

the kid.

APPLE JUICE and BEER are given to Cammie and Aren. Tapping of fingers, hearing music in the background. Sharkie is in Aren's lap.

CAMMIE

Has anyone ever told you how ugly your nails look?

AREN

Huh?

Aren looks at his hands.

CAMMIE

I thought adults could take better care of themselves.

AREN

We try.

CAMMIE

(Slyly)

I can fix that.

Cammie holds the bottle of polish.

AREN

Absolutely not.

CAMMIE

Boo you're no fun, Sharkie would be upset.

AREN

Good thing a stuffed animal can't talk.

It's funny, I had a similar toy and named it that too. Never knew what happened to it.

CAMMIE

(Slips up)

Always happy to reunite what was once lost.

AREN

What was that?

CAMMIE  
Nothing, so can I please-

AREN  
No, you are not painting my nails.

Cammie sighs grumpily and sips on her juice.

INT. JAZZ BAR TABLE - LATER

A JAZZ MUSICIAN plays a TRUMPET.

CAMMIE  
You play?  
(Taking sip of drink)

AREN is lost

AREN  
(Sighs)  
Used too..

CAMMIE  
(Turns to look at Aren)  
Why'd **we** stop?

Cammie and Aren look into their reflection in the glasses, now shaking.

WHITE FLASH

INT. MUSIC ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Aren is sitting playing his TRUMPET. Other students bodies are seen but not their faces.

BULLY 1 (O.S)  
Haha, did you see Cammie? She looks like a boy.

BULLY 2 (O.S)  
Playing the TRUMPET like a girl but dressing like a boy better make up her mind before someone gets the wrong idea.

Bell rings.

BULLY 1 (O.S)  
Right, and don't get me started on that hair its so gross.

TEACHER (O.S)  
Okay you two that's enough of that.  
(Teacher waves their baton)  
And a-

Aren's is focused on the music, holding back tears.

END FLASHBACK

FLASH CUT

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Cammie drives as if nothing happened, Aren is confused about where they are, they come to a fork in the road.

CAMMIE  
Can I paint your nails now?

AREN  
So, you are me?

CAMMIE  
Was wondering how long it'd take you.

Cammie pops another lollipop into her mouth.

CAMMIE (CONTINUED)  
I'd hope I'd be smarter when I grew up.

AREN  
Nice to know I've always been self deprecating

CAMMIE  
(Waving the lollipop)  
So are you gonna answer my question or-

AREN  
(Smug)  
Wouldn't you already know my answer though? -

CAMMIE  
Hope you still like pink.

Aren looks down to see his nails colored pink.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT (MONTAGE)

Seasons cycle though one night.

In spring, Aren and Cammie are playing on a PARK. They slide down slides and Aren pushes Cammie on the swings. This is in spring.

In summer, Aren and Cammie playing hide and seek and eating ice cream together.

In fall, Aren and Cammie dress up for Halloween, Cammie does Aren's face paint. They share CANDY.

In winter, Cammie and Aren part take in making snow forts and have a snowball fight.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

Cammie and Aren make snow angels on the ground.

CAMMIE

Thank you.

AREN

For?

CAMMIE

Being you, being us. This is the most fun I've had in a while.

AREN

(sighing)

I'll miss you.

CAMMIE

No you won't.

(Look's at Aren)

Because I can't leave. Literally I mean, I'll still be apart of you.

Miss me all you want but I'm still here, there, somewhere.

(Gestures vaguely to Aren)

You'll always be able to reach me.

AREN

(Smiles)

I'll make sure to remember that.

Aren's eyes are happy, closing for a split second.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Aren opens his eyes on a field, nails are painted pink.  
Sounds in the distance like he's next to a highway.