

1: EXT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

DIEGO (19), is fixated on a vending machine at the E Line Train Station, buying a candy bar. He's a normal looking teen: no glasses, hoodie, backpack, high school grad. While unwrapping the chocolate bar, he spots a stray cat crawl into view. DIEGO crouches and tries to pet the cat (unsuccessfully), before trying to offer it the candy bar.

ANNIE

You shouldn't do that, you know.

ANNIE (21), wearing a Pepperdine University sweater, cigarette in hand, approaches from behind.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Cats can't eat stuff like that.
Especially strays. They don't know
any better. Here.

ANNIE approaches DIEGO and takes out from her bag a small Ziploc of cat food. She kneels and pets the cat (successfully) and feeds it.

DIEGO

I think he likes you.

ANNIE

She's just hungry. Poor thing
probably hasn't eaten in days.

DIEGO

You just carry cat food in your
bag?

ANNIE

There were a lot of strays where I
grew up. I had a cat, but I'd
always carry a little extra for
them. Big 'cat town', I guess.

ANNIE stands and flicks the cigarette into the tracks.

DIEGO

And where's that? 'Cat Town'?

ANNIE points down the track. DIEGO looks.

ANNIE

About ten minutes that way.

DIEGO

I don't think the trains that way run this late. I kinda memorized the lines.

ANNIE

Really? I thought Labor Day didn't change train times.

DIEGO

Labor Day?

ANNIE kneels down, one hand playing with the cat, the other digging into her bag for a cigarette pack. DIEGO checks the date on his phone: September 1st. His eyes widen.

ANNIE

(chuckles)

Memorized huh? Tough luck. Cigarette?

DIEGO

I don't smoke.

Rain starts pattering onto the floors of the subway station. Heavier and heavier.

ANNIE

Suit yourself.

ANNIE takes off her Pepperdine sweater, wraps the stray cat in it, stands and begins to leave.

DIEGO

Wait! Where- where are you going?

ANNIE

Taking her to Cat Town.

DIEGO

Look. I know you don't know me and I don't know you, but home for me is a lot farther than ten minutes for me and-

ANNIE

And you don't have a sweater.

DIEGO

That too.

ANNIE

Well. As you can see, this one is very unfortunately taken-

DIEGO

Do you know anywhere around here
that I could maybe stay? A motel or
anything my parents have the car-

ANNIE

Can you hold the cat?

DIEGO

What?

ANNIE hands DIEGO the cat, now wrapped in her sweater.

ANNIE

I guess my place can't be too far
from here.

AUDIO: "104 Degrees" - Slaughter Beach, Dog

DIEGO

Yeah. Thanks so much...

ANNIE

Annie.

ANNIE begins walking away. DIEGO struggles to hold onto the
cat.

DIEGO

Right. Annie. I'm Diego, by the
way-

ANNIE

(O.S)

And no, you can't share the sweater
with her.

We see ANNIE and DIEGO walk off into the distance.

2: INT. ANNIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

DIEGO and ANNIE enter the apartment soaking wet from the
rain. DIEGO unwraps the cat from the Pepperdine sweater and
places her down. The apartment is messy. A pile of books on
the floor and a large book cabinet indicate that ANNIE is a
heavy reader.

Fade out "104 degrees."

DIEGO

I actually got an offer back from
Pepperdine a month ago.

DIEGO hangs up the soaking sweater.

ANNIE

Really. Well? What do you think?

DIEGO

Well, my parents seem to think its the best thing that could have ever happened to me.

ANNIE moves towards the kitchen and starts going through cabinets. She takes out eggs and tomato sauce.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

But I think I'm going to tell them no.

ANNIE

Why?

DIEGO

I just don't think I'm ready to sink four years of my life into something just yet.

ANNIE turns on the stove and pours tomato sauce and eggs into a pan to make some 'eggs in purgatory'.

ANNIE

It loses its charm, that's all I'll say. Took two years for me to realize that.

DIEGO

Not what you thought it'd turn out to be?

ANNIE

More like, there's just too much going on there. The people, the work- it gets heavy.

ANNIE stirs the pan and puts a lid over it.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

It's just nice to be home.

DIEGO

Doing what?

ANNIE

Work. Anything, really. Anything to just get away for a bit. Hungry?

DIEGO
I could eat. I'd turn the heat down
though, if I were you.

ANNIE
Why?

DIEGO walks to the kitchen and takes the pan out of ANNIE's hands.

DIEGO
Sauce burns quicker than you think.

ANNIE
Did you cook a lot in school?

DIEGO
I moonlit as a line cook for a bit
after I graduated- amongst other
things. Never could hold onto a
job, but I picked things up quick.

DIEGO takes the spatula and tries to feed the cat some of the sauce. ANNIE grabs DIEGO's hand and stops him.

ANNIE
Strays. Remember? I should have a
bag of cat food in one of those
cabinets.

DIEGO
Right. Sorry.

ANNIE takes the spatula and finishes plating the food. DIEGO pours the cat food he found into a bowl and places it next to the cat. He finally pets her successfully. ANNIE and DIEGO eat on the floor.

ANNIE
I think she's starting to warm up
to you.

DIEGO pushes the bowl towards the cat and pets her as they both eat.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
It took a week before my old cat
even let me feed her.

DIEGO
The one you mentioned?

ANNIE

Yeah. She was a stray. Ran off me a couple years back and I never saw her again.

ANNIE kneels down to pet their cat.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Its hard for strays to really call anywhere a home when they they hide in a different place everyday.

DIEGO

What was her name?

ANNIE

Catherine.

ANNIE stands and puts her bowl away.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Listen, I have work in the morning, so I need you out by 8, so I can lock the door ok?

DIEGO

Right. Can't have you running late.

ANNIE

Night.

DIEGO

Good night.

ANNIE leaves the living room. DIEGO puts away his bowl, picks up CATHERINE, and lies with her on the couch. He turns off the lamp...

WHICH CUTS TO:

3: INT. ANNIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

The same couch shot, only DIEGO is gone and ANNIE is sitting on the opposite side, wearing the Pepperdine sweater and smoking a cigarette, CATHERINE in her lap now. She checks her phone over and over. She takes a drag of the cigarette and lets out a long sigh, before standing up and heading for the door. She opens it to find:

DIEGO stands in the doorway with a bundle of cheap flowers and a bag of catnip, panting, about to knock. ANNIE smiles.

DIEGO
 Sorry. The train was running late.
 Uh- are you ready?

ANNIE
 Are those for me?

DIEGO
 I don't know. I think? What-

ANNIE laughs and exits the house, grabbing DIEGO's hand and tugging him along.

AUDIO: "Acolyte" - Slaughter Beach, Dog

4: EXT. THE GROVE - MORNING

ANNIE and DIEGO walk through the plaza. ANNIE leads DIEGO by the hand. DIEGO holds onto her purse and flowers. ANNIE stops by a store and turns to DIEGO.

ANNIE
 I'll be a minute. Find us a seat?
 I'll come find you.

DIEGO
 Text me?

ANNIE nods and goes inside the store and browses through the hangers. She picks out the sweater and takes it.

5: INT. SUBWAY - NIGHT

DIEGO and ANNIE sit side by side on a subway. DIEGO is leaning against ANNIE. ANNIE clutches a bag between her thighs, one of her hands holding a cigarette.

ANNIE
 Could you pick up some cat food
 tomorrow?

DIEGO
 Mhm.

A pause.

ANNIE
 What do you think Catherine's up
 to?

ANNIE turns to find DIEGO asleep. She takes a drag and looks out of the subway windows.

6: INT. BOOKSTORE CAFE - MORNING

ANNIE sits reading a Murakami book sipping on coffee. She checks her phone on occasion, once again waiting for DIEGO. The moment ANNIE gets back to her book, DIEGO taps on the cafe window. CUT TO ANNIE and DIEGO sitting next to each other.

ANNIE

So, there's this place on Martha Street in Cat Town that I want to fix up, and I'll run a bookstore that's also a coffee shop..

DIEGO

Like this one?

ANNIE

Just like it.

ANNIE blows on her coffee and takes a sip.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Sometimes I wonder if I should just cut my losses and do it.

DIEGO

Nothing's stopping you.

DIEGO's phone keeps buzzing with messages. He puts it on silent. ANNIE notices.

ANNIE

Hey, listen, I got you a little something.

ANNIE takes the shopping bag from The Grove from under the table and takes a sweater out of it. She hands it to DIEGO.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I didn't know your size, but hopefully it fits?

DIEGO is silent. He holds up the sweater. He smiles.

DIEGO

It's really nice, Annie.

ANNIE

Oh, good! I'm glad-

DIEGO hugs ANNIE.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
I'm glad you like it.

Fade out "Acolyte."

7: INT. ANNIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

DIEGO can be heard yelling from inside ANNIE's bedroom. ANNIE sits on the floor of the living room.

DIEGO (O.S)
It's not your choice! It's mine. I don't care about the scholarship, how many fucking times do I need to explain that? Right. Well, if you're so sure I'll end up a failure, did you ever consider asking 'how are you?' or 'do you need anything?' No. Don't lie to me. That's exactly what you think. Have you even thought to give me a chance for myself? No. No, I'm not coming home. Fine- leave dinner out on the table all you want.

DIEGO comes out of the bedroom.

ANNIE
Everything ok?

DIEGO collapses on the floor next to ANNIE and lets out a long sigh.

DIEGO
Yeah. Everything's good.

He rolls over closer to ANNIE.

ANNIE
Who was that?

DIEGO
Parents.

ANNIE
Didn't sound good.

DIEGO pets CATHERINE.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Are you-

DIEGO
Everything's good Annie.

ANNIE rests her chin in her hands and looks at CATHERINE.

ANNIE
Do you think Our Cat likes us?

DIEGO
I don't know.

DIEGO lies back down, staring at the ceiling. Top down view of ANNIE and DIEGO on her apartment floor.

DIEGO (CONT'D)
But I like to think that she does.

ANNIE
I wonder if she thinks of here as her home.

ANNIE rolls over on DIEGO.

DIEGO
Why do you think all there are so many strays in Cat Town?

ANNIE
What do you mean?

DIEGO
Big city. Why here?

ANNIE
I guess it's always been quiet here.

DIEGO
So maybe Catherine's still here. Maybe she'll run home one day and we'll have two of her.

ANNIE chuckles.

ANNIE
Or maybe she's found a home already.

Pan out.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
We're out of cat food, by the way.

DIEGO
I'll get some.

8: INT. CULVER CITY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

DIEGO waits outside the restaurant, wearing the sweater ANNIE bought him. ANNIE runs up next to him, panting.

ANNIE
Sorry- The train was running late.

DIEGO
You look really nice today.

ANNIE
Thank you- you do too.

DIEGO and ANNIE smile. CUT TO: Panning in from the restaurant window to them sitting down across from another deep in conversation and laughter.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
You can't be serious.

DIEGO
Thirty-six hours in front of a grill. Thirty-six. That was the last time I took a flier gig.

ANNIE
And it's been like this all year?

DIEGO nods. He leans back.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
School starts in a month.

DIEGO
Nervous?

ANNIE shakes her head.

ANNIE
Just surprised how fast time went by.

DIEGO
You don't have to go.

ANNIE
If only.

ANNIE chuckles and lights a cigarette. A pause. DIEGO leans forward.

DIEGO

Annie, I want you to marry me.

Silence. ANNIE tilts her head to look outside the restaurant. She takes a drag of the cigarette.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

I didn't get the chance to buy a ring but-

ANNIE

I've been thinking of quitting.

DIEGO

What?

ANNIE takes a drag.

ANNIE

Smoking.

DIEGO

So why don't you?

ANNIE

I feel like I just get used to bad habits too easily. That's college life for you, I guess. By the way, did you ever decide on Pepperdine?

DIEGO

Not yet.

ANNIE takes another drag.

ANNIE

What if you miss the deadline?

DIEGO

There's always next year. Uh- are you ready to go?

ANNIE

Yeah.

CUT TO: DIEGO and ANNIE standing outside the restaurant. ANNIE drops the cigarette and steps on it. She crosses her arms.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Listen, could you stay somewhere else tonight? I got work early in the morning tomorrow.

DIEGO

Yeah. I'll find somewhere. Let me know when you get home?

ANNIE

Did you get Catherine's cat food?

DIEGO

Not yet. I'll do that now.

ANNIE nods and leaves. DIEGO walks off in the other direction.

9: INT. PUBLIC SQUARE - NIGHT

DIEGO contemplates calling ANNIE. He holds a bag of cat food.

DIEGO

Did you get home alright?

ANNIE

Yeah. Listen-

DIEGO

Do you want to like, grab lunch tomorrow, or something?

ANNIE

I have work in the morning.

DIEGO

I can wait for you. I'm in this park near-

ANNIE

I need to buy Catherine food too.

DIEGO

I got it- the cat food- I got it.

Silence.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

I can wait for you.

Silence, again.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Please?

ANNIE hangs up. DIEGO lies down, puts the phone down and suddenly, it's...

10: EXT. PUBLIC SQUARE - MORNING

Morning, in the same square. DIEGO is sitting upright, shaking his leg, looking at his phone. People pass left and right, but not the person he's waiting for. Until there she is. ANNIE, wearing her Pepperdine sweater. DIEGO's eyes light up and he stands.

ANNIE

What do you want with me, Diego?

DIEGO

I just wanted to talk.

ANNIE

Then talk.

DIEGO

What I asked that day, I didn't think it through. I'm sorry.

ANNIE

Its ok.

ANNIE sits down. DIEGO sits down next to her.

DIEGO

I just want things to go back to the way they were.

ANNIE

Why are you even with me, Diego?

DIEGO

Because I really like you.

ANNIE

Do you like me or the idea of dating me?

DIEGO

How- how can you even ask that?

ANNIE

Because I don't know what you want Diego- you don't even know what you want!

(MORE)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

You come home every night from a different station working a different job and nobody knows where you've gone- not me, not your parents.

DIEGO

Because I'm scared, Annie.

ANNIE

Scared of what?

DIEGO

Everything!

DIEGO's exclamation turns a few heads. He lowers his tone.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

My parents used to say that I could go anywhere and do anything I wanted when I grew up. Next thing I know, they're telling me to go somewhere across the country for four years. Then they'll stop asking me to come home. And suddenly I'll have a place of my own, working the same lousy job every day. And it'll never be the same-

ANNIE

But that's life Diego.

DIEGO

Then I don't want anything to do with it.

ANNIE

You can't keep walking away from responsibility.

DIEGO

Isn't that what you wanted?

ANNIE

But right now all I am is your way of moving on, Diego, of you stabilizing your life. And I can't do that right now.

DIEGO

Why not?

ANNIE

Because I have my whole life ahead
of me. And you do too. I can't be
your world, Diego.

DIEGO

And yet you are.

ANNIE takes out a cigarette and struggles to light it. She
gives up and lets out a deep sigh.

ANNIE

I think I'm gonna go.

DIEGO

Where are you going?

ANNIE

I don't know. Back to university.
Back to Cat Town. I don't know and
I don't care. Anywhere but here.

DIEGO

What about Your Cat?

ANNIE

You can keep her.

ANNIE begins to leave.

DIEGO

Annie?

ANNIE stops.

ANNIE

Don't come home, Diego.

ANNIE leaves. DIEGO is left alone in the plaza, looking off
into the distance.

11: EXT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

DIEGO is seen carrying CATHERINE in ANNIE's Pepperdine
sweater. This is the same station where he first met ANNIE.
He crouches down and begins unwrapping CATHERINE, preparing
to release her, but hesitates. He looks down the track,
towards Cat Town, then back at CATHERINE. He stands back up
and takes out his phone. DIEGO reads over his reply to the
scholarship acceptance letter and clicks 'send'.

AUDIO: "Your Cat" - Slaughter Beach, Dog

DIEGO waits for the train, holding CATHERINE wrapped in ANNIE's Pepperdine sweater. As the train arrives, DIEGO steps on board and the camera pans to a poster stuck on the station wall showing the album cover of "Motorcycle.JPG" and zooms into the center photo.

CREDITS.