

3 Passenger Lane

Written by

Noah Balan

JANE - NATALIE
CLAUDIA - DANAYA
OFFICER REYNOLDS - WILL MANNING
OFFICER JOHNSON -
SD - KAYLA

INT. COP CAR- DAY

We open on two police officers driving down the highway. OFFICER REYNOLDS, a woman in her late 30's, carefully scans the road as she drives. But fails to notice that OFFICER JOHNSON, in the passenger seat is completely glued to his phone screen.

Officer Johnson shoots up from his phone screen and a look of shock falls upon his face

OFFICER JOHNSON
GODDAMNIT! I didn't cone off the
HOV lane, their doing construction.

OFFICER REYNOLDS
JOHNSON! You had ONE job!

OFFICER JOHNSON
Should we go back?

OFFICER REYNOLDS
We don't have time, we're slated
for patrol in 10 minutes. No one
uses that lane anyway, it's fine.

~~As the officers discuss the situation,~~ they fail to notice JANE, a woman in her mid to late 20's, standing on the side of the road, atop a brokendown car, screaming, and waving her hands frantically at them. After they are far gone, she gives up.

EXT. HIGHWAY I-95, NEW YORK - DAY

Jane stares down at the service indicator on her phone screen. It's empty. She sighs. She slides down from the hood of the car and starts to walk up the highway.

She looks back, at the vehicle. The sun is so hot the metal of the car has a haze around it. She continues to walk away from the broken down car.

EXT. HIGHWAY I-95, NEW YORK- LATER

As she continues up the highway she feels her phone buzz.

JANE
I have service!

She quickly pulls out her phone and dials a number.

CUT TO:

Jane pulls out her phone and begins to text something to her friend.

JANE (SARCASTICALLY) (TEXTING TO HER FRIEND)

Sarah, Claudia just pulled up. If I die, you know what to tell the cops.

Jane hesitantly steps into the car.

CLAUDIA

So where were ya headed?

JANE

Oh it doesn't matter, you can just drop me off back in town and I'll call an Uber.

CLAUDIA

It's fine. I'll drive you.

JANE

I was just headed home from work.

CLAUDIA

Oh yeah, that teaching degree's serving you well.

JANE

Wait, how did you know I was a teacher?

CLAUDIA

I always look up my friends from high school, just to see what they're up to, y'know? It's helpful now because I know where you live.

JANE

Oh... coooooool...

CLAUDIA

Y'know what. We should go to dinner.

JANE

Oh, I'm pretty busy nowadays.

CLAUDIA

No, seriously. We should go to dinner.

Jane gives a fake smile and looks out the window at the street lights flickering on as the sun sets. She grimaces.

Claudia checks her mirrors and pull's into an HOV lane.

JANE

Oh, this is the HOV lane. You have to have 3 passengers.

CLAUDIA

I know. But no one's around to see!

JANE

You could get a ticket! And look, I think that was a construction sign.

CLAUDIA

Seriously, no one's here, it's fine.

Claudia gestures towards the back seat. Jane slowly turns towards the back to look out the back window. Lying in the back seat is a A ROLLED UP CARPET COVERED IN RED STAINS. It looks as if there is a BODY inside.

JANE

Is that a-

CLAUDIA

Yes, we already established that there was a construction sign. But it's fine. Look around, we're all alone.

Jane stutters then whips out her phone and discreetly types a message to her friend.

JANE (TEXTING TO HER FRIEND)

I was joking about dying before but now I'm dead serious.

CLAUDIA

What are you doing?

Jane quickly re-pockets her phone.

JANE

Nothing!

CLAUDIA

Alright, well we need to get big guy to the water front.

She points to the carpet. Jane shutters.

JANE

W-why do you need me?

CLAUDIA

I need help moving this outta the car.

JANE

You seem strong enough, you should just let me out right here.

CLAUDIA

Look out the window, it's so dark out! You'll get lost. So you're pretty much stuck with me.

JANE

O-Okay...

Jane wipes a sweat drop from her forehead and removes her phone from her pocket. She goes to type a message to her friend but it slips out of her hand and into the crack between the seat and center console.

JANE (CONT'D)

Shit!

CLAUDIA

What?

JANE

NOTHING!!

Jane reaches her arm down into the opening and fumbles around. She grabs a rectangular object and pulls it up from the crack. It's a wallet. She opens it and looks at the ID. It reads Ronald Oddenfield.

CLAUDIA

Oh don't worry about that.

Claudia grabs the wallet and throws it into the backseat.

Jane's heartbeat is higher than ever and she reaches back in, grabs her phone and puts it back in her pocket.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Is it just me or are speedlimits getting lower and lower

JANE

Uhhh, I haven't noticed.

CLAUDIA
I don't have time for this.

She jams down on the pedal. Janes head slams back against the headrest and then sways forward.

JANE
Maybe you shouldn't be going over the speed limit with... that in the back!

CLAUDIA
We'll be fine. Don't worry. I don't think there's any speed traps down this stretch.

CUT TO:

INT. COP CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Two cops sit in their car on the side of the I-95. OFFICER JOHNSON is fumbling around on his phone while OFFICER REYNOLDS intently watches the radar gun.

OFFICER JOHNSON
Don't you ever get bored?

OFFICER REYNOLDS
What?

OFFICER JOHNSON
Y'know

He gestures towards the radar gun and then towards his phone.

OFFICER REYNOLDS
This is the job that I signed up for. Don't you ever feel guilty doing that?

She gestures towards his phone, mocking his actions seconds before.

OFFICER JOHNSON
Not really. Besides, it's past rush hour, what's gonna happen?

OFFICER REYNOLDS
Yeah, I guess you're righ-

A car wizzes by, almost too fast to process.

They look at each other and then back at the road.

CUT TO:

INT. CLAUDIAS CAR - CONTINUOUS

JANE
OH MY GOD! It's the cops!

Jane peers out the window at the red and blue lights as the seirens blare.

CLAUDIA
Goddamn it!

INT. COP CAR - CONTINUOUS

OFFICER JOHNSON
Looks like they've got only 2
passengers in that car.

OFFICER REYNOLDS
But it's the HOV lane...
Despicable.

OFFICER JOHNSON
Well call us a raffall, because
we're gonna be handing out some
tickets.

OFFICER REYNOLDS
That's stupid, don't say shit like
that. Also the raffall takes
tickets.

OFFICER JOHNSON
Yeah sorry...

INT. CLAUDIAS CAR - CONTINUOUS

JANE
My life is over! I'm never gonna be
able to teach again!

CLAUDIA
I don't think speeding is that
serious.

JANE
NO! Because of the body in the
back!

CLAUDIA

What body?

JANE

That one! Y'know "Ronald". I found his ID before.

CLAUDIA

Okay, don't tell anyone, but that's my ex-boyfriend, Ronald's ID. He forgot his wallet a week ago and I haven't seen him since. Now, what "body".

JANE

WHAT THE FUCK DO YOU MEAN? THE BODY IN THAT CARPET!

CLAUDIA

That carpet has nothing in it.

Jane pauses and a look of utter shock falls upon her face.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Yeah, it's a carpet for my house.

JANE

Okay wait wait wait, it's for your HOUSE?! What about the water front then?

CLAUDIA

That's where I LIV-

Claudia pauses as the car runs over a stray pipe from the construction. It pops the tire and the car screams to a halt as sparks fly. The police car pulls to a stop not far behind as the officers disembark from the car.

OFFICER REYNOLDS

GET OUTTA THE CAR AND PUT YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE 'EM.

OFFICER JOHNSON

You have the right to remain silent!

Jane and Claudia slowly step out of the car and put their hands in the air.

JANE

Officers, we can explain. My friend here was just trying to get home. She really didn't mean any harm.

OFFICER REYNOLDS

Ma'am, you were going 80 miles per hour and evading arrest. We're gonna need to search your car.

CLAUDIA

What? You don't need to do that.

Officer Reynolds nods at Officer Johnson, who slowly approaches the car. He opens the door and stares down at the carpet. He stares back up at Jane and Claudia and gives them a look of disapproval.

OFFICER JOHNSON

What is this?

JANE

It's-It's a carpet, for her house!

Claudia waves her hands at Jane and mouths "stop".

Officer Johnson opens the carpet and a body slides out. A matching ID lies next to it.

OFFICER REYNOLDS

Doesn't look like nothing to me.

JANE

OH MY GOD CLAUDIA!

OFFICER REYNOLDS

Okay, we're takin' you two in.

CLAUDIA

Wait, take me, not her! She wasn't with me when he died. I didn't mean to kill him. He just sprinted in front of my car while i was driving away and-

OFFICER JOHNSON

Sorry miss, but we have no evidence that you were alone during this crime.

CLAUDIA

I have a dash cam in the car!

OFFICER JOHNSON

Dash cam's face outward. You can't see the passengers in the footage.

CLAUDIA

Oh...

OFFICER JOHNSON
Honestly, I don't really wan't to
deal with all the paperwork for
arresting 2 people.

OFFICER REYNOLDS
Listen, I know you're a rookie, but
haven't you ever seen like law and
order? Plus that guy's been missing
for a week.

She point's to the body.

OFFICER JOHNSON
Can't we just let this one slide?
You do have a kid at home.

OFFICER REYNOLDS
Fine, I guess just this once. But
we're still taking this one in.

Officer Reynolds glares at Claudia and then glances at Jane.

OFFICER REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
Have a good night miss.

The officers usher Claudia into the back of the police car.

CLAUDIA
Hey Jane, maybe after I get out of
prison, we can have that dinner?

JANE
I'll probably be busy.

CLAUDIA
But you don't know when I get out.

JANE
I'm usually busy everyday.

CLAUDIA
We'll see.

The officers slam the door behind her and enter the front of
the car. They drive away.

Jane looks around, She realizes that she is now alone, with a
broken down car, and no signal, on the side of the I-95.

JANE
MOTHERFUCKER!

THE END.

