

Nomads

Written by

Sydney R. Stevens

INT. EASTWOOD HIGH - AFTERNOON

Principal Terry turns on the intercom

PRINCIPAL TERRY

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen of Eastwood High. Just a couple of quick announcements before you head on to the last class. First off, the kickoff to summer firework show is happening tonight. It's rumored that this is where the senior prank will be taking place, so beware. Have a good rest of the day and we'll see you back here 7:30 P.M. Eastern Standard time. Terry signing off.

The bell rings, Kayde leaves class and meets up with Arlo in the hallway.

KAYDE

I like how he clarifies Eastern Standard time, as if we were going to show up in a different time zone.

ARLO

Yeah. He's a rather quirky man. Anyways.. Are you ready for this?

KAYDE

I've never been more excited for a photo shoot in my life!

ARLO

I know right? This is gonna be so cool. Did you bring the sparklers?

KAYDE

Of course.

Kayde discreetly shows the sparklers then puts them back in her bag

ARLO

Good. The whole thing would be pointless without them.

KAYDE

Yeah. That would be no bueno.

Ruben passes them in the hallway

RUBEN
(Dramatically)
Oh no. The nerds are caught skipping.
What ever shall we do?

ARLO
You say that as if you didn't catch us
while also skipping class.

RUBEN
Touché.

KAYDE
And besides. We plan to be back in
time to only be a couple minutes late
to the next class.

RUBEN
What are you guys even up to anyways?

KAYDE
We're doing a photo shoot. Not that
it's any of your business.

RUBEN
Wow I didn't realize it's such a crime
for me to wonder about the whereabouts
of my favorite neighbor and his
girlfriend.

ARLO
Shut up Ruben

KAYDE
Yeah. We're not even dating, we're
literally just best friends. And you
never told us what it is that you're
doing.

RUBEN
It's none of your concern. I'll catch
you two later.

Ruben fake charmingly winks and the groups part ways

KAYDE
Well.. That was an experience.

ARLO
It always is with Ruben.

KAYDE
I can't believe you used to be friends
with him.

ARLO
Tell me about it.

EXT. EASTWOOD HIGH OUTDOOR ARENA AND SOCCER FIELD - AFTERNOON

ARLO
I think this is the spot.

KAYDE
I agree. It's perfect.

ARLO
Look at this box. It would make a cool
prop

Arlo picks up box labeled fireworks and shows it to Kayde

KAYDE
Isn't that kind of dangerous? I don't
think we should touch it.

ARLO
It's probably empty or full of duds.
It would be extremely dangerous for
them to leave a box of fireworks
unattended, at a high school soccer
field.

KAYDE
You're probably right.

ARLO
Of course I am. I'm always right.

KAYDE
You are so unbelievably cocky.

ARLO
True that. We should get started if we
ever want to get back in time

EXT. EASTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB - AFTERNOON

RUBEN
Hey Jimbo. My man. Whats crackalackin?

JIM

Ruben. I told you that you can't come back here after the last time. You're going to get us both in trouble. Shouldn't you be in school?

RUBEN

Up until the incident, I was a star employee when I worked here. The old people loved me!

JIM

You were fired for a reason.

RUBEN

Okay. How would I know that a child would come right behind me while I'm doing reverse donuts in the parking lot?

JIM

You have got to be kidding me.

RUBEN

I am. Chill out man, it's just a joke. I learned my lesson.

JIM

Good.

RUBEN

As a reward for my good behavior I was hoping to borrow a golf cart.

JIM

Absolutely not.

RUBEN

Come on man! I need it for the senior prank tonight. Everyone's counting on me.

JIM

Sorry kiddo. No can do. Oh man, look at the time. I am so late. And everyone else has already gone home. Could you lock up for me please?

RUBEN

Of course.

JIM
 Alright. I'm trusting you with this.
 Don't make me regret it.

RUBEN
 I won't.

Jim tosses the keys to Ruben and heads on his way

RUBEN
 (in disbelief)
 This man did not just give me the keys
 to everything at this golf course

EXT. EASTWOOD HIGH OUTDOOR ARENA AND SOCCER FIELD - AFTERNOON

KAYDE
 Let's take one more picture then head
 back to class.

ARLO
 You should do a cartwheel while
 holding a sparkler.

KAYDE
 Bet.

Kayde cartwheels with sparkler in hand

ARLO
 Do that again but this time I'll make
 it a live photo.

KAYDE
 Good idea.

Kayde cartwheels and the sparkler lands on the box labeled
 "fireworks"

KAYDE
 Uh oh.

ARLO
 It's fine, just pour some water on it.

KAYDE
 I drank it all.

Arlo looks at Kayde and blinks

The box starts sizzling as it goes up in flames. Kayde and

Arlo make a run for it.

EXT. EASTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB - AFTERNOON

Ruben is sitting in a golf cart

RUBEN

(to himself)

Alright. I'm just gonna take it on a test drive and see how fast it can go. As long as no one sees me I'll be fine.

Ruben races the cart from one end of the parking lot to the other

RUBEN

12 miles per hour. Not too shabby.

Ruben drives back to park the golf cart. He reverses, the cart slamming into the one behind it. The impact causes a line of five cars to go backward down the hill where they meet the waters edge. The waters edge is a steep drop off. All five cars become submerged in the water.

Ruben stares at the water in disbelief.

RUBEN

(sarcastic panic)

Nice. Absolutely perfect. Nothing to see here anyone. It's not like I'm responsible for the loss of five golf carts or anything. ARGH

Ruben kicks a cart and storms home

INT. ARLO'S BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

KAYDE

ARLO! Do you realize how much trouble we'll be in? How does one accidentally ignite a box of fireworks. That'll be really hard to explain considering that nothing even remotely flammable is allowed on school grounds. We're done for.

ARLO

Can you relax for a second? You're gonna burst a blood vessel. I'll figure something out.

KAYDE

I knew that using that box as a prop was a bad idea. Why couldn't you just have listened to me? Now we're going to go to jail and rot in a cell for the rest of our lives.

ARLO

K.

Kayde glares at Arlo

Ruben throws a rock at Arlo's window from his room

RUBEN

Open up nerd.

Arlo opens his window

ARLO

What do you want, Ruben? Now is not the time.

RUBEN

No kidding man. I just sunk five golf carts at a country club I'm not even supposed to be at.

KAYDE

Yeah well we just became accidental arsonist by setting fire to a box of explosives!

ARLO

Well. Looks like we've all learned our lesson about skipping class.

KAYDE

(shouting)

There are better ways to learn a lesson than becoming a felon!

RUBEN

Chill out lady.

KAYDE

(Still shouting)

Bruh, we are going to jail.

ARLO

You are acting like a lunatic.

Everything will be fine.

A high frequency sound is played from Arlo's television as the regularly scheduled programming is interrupted by breaking news

NEWS REPORTER

Breaking news. A massive fire burns a local high school to the ground. Everyone is accounted for besides three students.

KAYDE

Do you think there's any chance that it could be a coincidence that our school burns down minutes after we accidentally set a box of fireworks on fire?

RUBEN

No way. Turn it up I can't hear from over here.

ARLO

Ruben come over. Hurry up before the segments over.

Ruben runs next door and up the stairs to Arlo's room

NEWS REPORTER

The three students have been identified as Kayde Smith, Ruben Edwards, and Arlo Jameson. Though the bodies have not been recovered, they are presumed dead as everything in the building has virtually been incinerated. Other than this, everyone else has miraculously survived and there are no injuries. Now returning to the regularly scheduled programming.

Everyone is sitting there in shock until Arlo breaks the silence

ARLO

We are legally dead.

KAYDE

We have to go to the police station and tell them that we're alive; tell

them that this has all been a huge misunderstanding

RUBEN

No way. This is such a game changer.

ARLO

Ruben's right. We've all just gotten into a load of trouble right before this. Now everyone thinks we're dead. Dead people don't get charged with crimes.

KAYDE

What are you getting at?

RUBEN

We have two options. Either we report ourselves alive and face consequences or we can go under the radar and live on the road.

KAYDE

No. You have got to be kidding me. I am usually down for adventure but this is too far.

ARLO

It's really the only option.

KAYDE

Arlo. I cannot believe you're considering this.

ARLO

What other choice do we have? If people find out that we are likely responsible for burning down our school, all hopes we have for the future are ruined.

RUBEN

I didn't have many plans for the future so this isn't that bad for me. As for you two, this couldn't possibly gone any worse.

KAYDE

(Sarcastically)

Really? Thanks for letting me know. I didn't realize that life as we know it

has literally, gone up in flames.

ARLO

So what's the plan now?

RUBEN

Simple. We travel across the country in my van, doing whatever we want.

ARLO

Won't your dad notice your missing van?

RUBEN

No. He never comes around anymore.

ARLO

Oh. Sorry.

KAYDE

Ruben why would you get involved in this. The loss of a few golf carts is no big deal. You can just report yourself alive and continue your normal life after a little bit of community service time.

RUBEN

I have nothing keeping me here. After the previous events at the golf course, I am considered a juvenile delinquent. This would be the cherry on top of my cake of crimes. With everything added up I would go to jail. Real jail; I'm 18 as of two weeks ago. I would be tried as an adult, convicted, and then sentenced to jail. Why would I do jail time when I could live on the road with my two besties instead.

ARLO

We are not besties.

RUBEN

Yeah well we might as well be. As of now, we are all we have.

KAYDE

Unfortunately, you're right. If this is going to work then we have to work

as a team.

RUBEN

Right. So we'll put all of our money together to pay for food and gas. You two will go get our first stash of food while I wipe our cell phones so they will be untraceable, but still functioning. Then go home and gather your belongings. Bring a suitcase of clothes, a sleeping bag and anything else you need. Meet me in my garage in three hours. I'll have everything ready by then.

ARLO

Alright. See you then.

Ruben leaves Arlo's house and heads back home to make preparations

KAYDE

I can't believe this is real. It all seems like just a bad dream.

ARLO

We are living a nightmare.

KAYDE

No kidding.

ARLO

Alright I'm gonna pack up my stuff. You should do the same. Meet me back here in half an hour then we will go to the store together.

KAYDE

I don't think I can do this. How are we supposed to just leave everything behind?

ARLO

I honestly don't know. But it's like the only option we have. Unless you're ready to face the consequences.

KAYDE

Definitely not. I just wish there was another way.

ARLO

Me too. But as of now there's not. So you should just go get ready.

Kayde goes home and packs a suitcase of clothes and a box of CD's, games, and art supplies. She brings a sleeping bag and a large tent. She says goodbye to her dog and heads back over to Arlo's house. Arlo has packed clothes, a sleeping bag and his ukulele. They get in his car and drive to the store.

EXT. MARKET BASKET PARKING LOT - EVENING

KAYDE

We can't just go in there if we are supposedly dead.

ARLO

There's probably not many people in there since it's getting kind of late. But put your hood up and wear sunglasses just in case.

KAYDE

(sarcastic)

That's definitely not suspicious.

ARLO

Whatever. Let's just go in.

Kayde and Arlo go into the store

ARLO

I don't know what we should get. What would last a while?

KAYDE

We need things that require little preparation and don't need to be frozen.

ARLO

Alright, let's get some bread and peanut butter.

KAYDE

I think we should also get some bananas and apples.

ARLO

Good idea. I'll get the stuff for sandwiches and you go get the fruit.

KAYDE

K. I'm also gonna get some Cheez Its
and some M&M's.

ARLO

Ok. See you in a few.

They go collect the food items then meet up to check out
together

ARLO

Here. Let's get in this line, it's the
shortest.

Kayde grabs him by the arm

KAYDE

No! What are you doing? The cashier is
someone from school. Are you trying to
get us caught?

ARLO

Sorry. I didn't realize.

KAYDE

Let's just pay and get out of here.

They pay and go back to Arlo's house

INT. ARLO'S HOUSE - NIGHT TIME

ARLO

Okay so you have a tent, a sleeping
bag, clothes and entertainment stuff.
I have clothes, a sleeping bag, and my
ukulele. I think that's everything.

KAYDE

We should bring a cooler or something
to store food in.

ARLO

There's one in my basement that we can
use.

KAYDE

Ok good.

ARLO

I also have a gallon of gas that we
can give to Ruben for the van.

KAYDE

That was nice.

ARLO

I guess. It's kind of the least we could do since he's letting us live in his vehicle.

KAYDE

True. Are you ready to go over?

ARLO

I think so. I can't think of anything else we would need.

Kayde and Arlo grab their things and go to Ruben's garage

INT. RUBEN'S GARAGE - NIGHT TIME

RUBEN

Hi guys. How was the store?

KAYDE

It was good. We got fruit, snacks, and stuff for sandwiches.

ARLO

I also have a gallon of gas for you

Arlo hands Ruben the gas can

RUBEN

Oh thanks. That's helpful.

ARLO

No problem. Are the phones almost ready?

RUBEN

Yup. It's as if they're brand new. I set them up under new accounts and they have new phone numbers. The only thing I've put on there is contact info so we can still talk to each other if we split up for some reason.

KAYDE

Smart.

ARLO

Do you have all your things packed?

RUBEN

Yeah. I have a suitcase, my sleeping bag, my guitar, and a mini camping stove.

ARLO

Oh I forgot you had the mini stove. We didn't get any food that needs to be cooked.

KAYDE

Well now we have more options of things we can buy next time we go to the store.

RUBEN

Are you guys ready for this?

KAYDE

Ready as I'll ever be

ARLO

Not really but there's no other options.

RUBEN

Yeah. Let's go pack the van.

The kids bring all the stuff to the van and load everything in. Ruben locks his house and starts the car. They head down the bumpy road, leaving behind their hometown and life as they know it.