

CONCORD

LOGLINE: A vacationing father and daughter become stranded in a cheap car rental agency with its kind, enigmatic owner. But something's not quite right...

INT. AIRPORT TERMINAL - NIGHT

A man - disheveled, confident - passes baggage carousels, pulling a suitcase behind him. At his side, a young girl. She carries a stuffed rabbit and wears a bright pink-and-purple miniature backpack.

The man (WILLIAM, mid 40s) is talking on his phone.

WILLIAM  
A rental? I -

The girl (MIA, 10) trips on the carpet and falls, dropping her bunny. As she looks up, a hand reaches out. Her eyes are puffy.

The hand is not William's, but a friendly-looking POLICE OFFICER. He helps her up.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
(still on call)  
I gotta go. Buh-bye.

The officer holds out Mia's toy.

POLICE OFFICER  
Looks like you dropped somebody.

She takes it. Stares at the floor.

WILLIAM  
What do you say?

Silence.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
She's a bit shy.

POLICE OFFICER  
Seems she's been crying.

WILLIAM  
(lightheartedly)  
Yeah. Had to take that little bunny away on the flight. Little devil kept kicking the seat in front of her.

He scratches her head playfully.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
Anyway, we gotta go. Thanks so much. Come on, Mia.

She follows him towards the exit. The officer watches them leave with a small smile, and a tinge of empathy.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

An airport shuttle slows to a stop. Door pops opens, William and Mia shuffle out. It's getting dark, the sky filled with gray clouds. A light rain.

They pass a sign reading: "Hoffman's Cheap Auto Rental" - "best prices in metropolitan Orlando."

INT. HOFFMAN'S CHEAP AUTO RENTAL - NIGHT

They enter, William first. A soft bell chimes as he pushes through the glass door.

VOICE (O.S.)  
Welcome, travelers.

William approaches the counter. An elderly man (GENE, 70s) stands behind it.

WILLIAM  
Hey, man. I need a car.

The rainfall has picked up. Mia takes a seat in the back, placing her backpack next to her.

GENE  
It's my lucky day. Plants were getting dry.  
(beat)  
Yessir. Need a valid license -

BOOM! Thunder. Bright flash. It's dark now.

GENE (CONT'D)  
Guess I renounce my words. Nasty storm. If you folks would rather wait it out -

WILLIAM  
We aren't going far, thanks.

William holds out his license. Gene takes it and begins an examination.

CRACK! CRASH! In the back, Mia is startled.

GENE  
Excuse me.

He walks around the counter. Towards a rear window.

GENE (CONT'D)  
Woah! Ain't that unfortunate? Looks like y'all are forced to keep me company after all.

William peers out the window. A utility pole has fallen, directly blocking the parking lot's exit.

WILLIAM  
Are you serious? That's the only exit?

GENE  
Yessir.

Gene approaches Mia, who's been sitting quietly.

GENE (CONT'D)  
And what's your name, Miss? That's a fine bunny rabbit there.

WILLIAM  
Her name's Mia.

Gene glances at the backpack on the adjacent seat.

GENE  
And a gorgeous bag, too. If I were a bettin' man I'd say those were your favorite colors.

She says nothing. Stares at the rabbit.

GENE (CONT'D)  
Now, what brings you to Orlando?

Mia looks up. Directly at William.

WILLIAM  
Go ahead.

MIA  
(softly, timidly)  
We're going to...Disney World.

GENE  
Well then! Have you ever been?

She shakes her head.

GENE (CONT'D)  
Wonderful! I'll tell you what -

EVERYTHING IS DARK.

GENE (CONT'D)  
Dang! There goes the power.

WILLIAM  
Perfect.

GENE  
 Suppose I'll get the generator  
 powered up. You wouldn't mind  
 giving me a hand there, would you?

WILLIAM  
 (apathetically)  
 Why not. Stay here, Mia.

William follows Gene out of the building.

EXT. BACK OF BUILDING - NIGHT

The wind HOWLS as rain smashes against the pavement. William  
 pushes the generator, Gene beside him.

GENE  
 So where are you folks from?!

WILLIAM  
 Huh?!

GENE  
 I said, where are you two from?!

WILLIAM  
 Oh! Minneapolis!

He stops pushing the generator.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
 Is this where you wanted it?!  
 (a beat)  
 Sir?!

GENE  
 Great! You can go on back inside  
 now! Thing is so old it'll take a  
 few minutes to get cookin'!

WILLIAM  
 Don't have to tell me twice!

William heads back towards the building. Gene watches,  
 contemplating.

INT. HOFFMAN'S CHEAP AUTO RENTAL - NIGHT

William shuts the door behind him, drenched. He stops. Turns  
 and looks out through the glass. After a beat -

WILLIAM  
 (sternly)  
 We're leaving. Now.

Mia gathers her belongings and follows him into the storm.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The pair trudge through the pouring rain. Then - a silhouette appears ahead of them.

GENE  
Y'all should head back inside! Just got the generator running!

WILLIAM  
We're actually just going to walk to the hotel! We'd feel more comfortable!

GENE  
I'd feel more comfortable if you stayed here!

Suddenly - Mia BREAKS INTO SOBS.

WILLIAM  
Sir, we are leaving!

GENE  
I can't let you do that!

WILLIAM  
Get out of the way!

GENE  
I will not!

WILLIAM  
(stepping forward)  
MOVE!

He SHOVES GENE. Hard. Gene stumbles back. Falls to the pavement. William stands over him, seething.

Then - SIRENS. Blue and red FLASHING LIGHTS.

POLICE OFFICER (O.S.)  
FREEZE!! SHOW ME YOUR HANDS!!

William looks around, breathing heavily.

POLICE OFFICER (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
NOW!!!

He complies. Three police officers instantly rush him. Two push him to the ground while the other cuffs him. William stares up at Gene with resolute hatred.

Mia continues to wail, clutching the rabbit. We PUSH IN on her tiny backpack. A small tag reads: If lost, please return to 98 Simmons St., **Concord, NH.**

CUT TO BLACK.