

Cab Fare

By

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INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - 2008

MIKE, a burly jock, struts down the hallway with a few of his fellow hooligans. RYAN, a thin guy in an bold sweater vest brushes past Mike. Mike grabs Ryan's backpack, and pours the remains of his Coca-Cola can into it.

RYAN

My math homework for third quarter  
Geometry!

MIKE

(snickering)  
Just readjusting the grading curve.

Mike walks away with his friends, as Ryan stands there watching at his backpack drip brown liquid onto the floor. His glasses slide off of his nose, and splash into the puddle. The BELL RINGS.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT - 2008

Students dressed in prom attire have their eyes glued to the stage as the class president, LUKE MURPHY, holds up an envelope.

LUKE MURPHY

Well, this is a surprise...

Mike runs to the stage and grabs the microphone out of the Luke's hands.

MIKE

I figured as captain of the  
football team it would be obvious  
if I was voted prom king, but...

Luke taps on Mike's shoulder, interrupting him. Mike glares at Luke.

MIKE

What?!

LUKE MURPHY

Sorry Mike, it's not you.

MIKE

(angrily whispering)  
Oh, come on!

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LUKE MURPHY  
(nervously)  
You didn't win prom king.

Luke awkwardly grabs the microphone back and looks out into the crowd of students.

LUKE MURPHY  
This year's prom king and queen is  
Laura Kent and Ryan Getz!

MIKE  
(laughing)  
This has got to be a joke! Did the  
teachers get to vote this year?  
Ryan Getz! The kid from the chess  
team?

LUKE MURPHY  
I'm going to have to ask you to  
leave the stage now, Mike.

Mike grabs the crown out of Luke's hands and snaps it in half. Then Mike storms off the stage towards his girlfriend, LAURA.

MIKE  
Laura, let's go!

Laura's face blushes, as everyone's eyes turn to her. She looks over to the dance floor, where Luke is waiting to crown her.

MIKE  
You stay, and we are through  
Laura.

Laura turns away from Mike, and makes her way to the middle of the dance floor. The MUSIC begins to play, as Ryan nervously steps out onto the floor. The two start dancing with each other, as Mike storms out of the gym.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - FALL - 2008

Students fill the bleachers screaming as the last quarter of the state playoffs are coming to a close. There is two minutes left on the clock. The teams are huddled during a time out. Everyone on the Buffalo's team in the huddle is staring at Mike, looking for his last words. Mike is looking at Laura cheering on the sidelines.

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PLAYER 1

Mike! Focus buddy, we need this win.

Mike jolts out of his daze, and looks back at his teammates.

PLAYER 2

What is it going to be?

MIKE

Huh?

PLAYER 2

What play, Captain?!

MIKE

Oh yeah, sorry. Blue 48.

PLAYER 1

(confused)

Are you sure?

MIKE

I'm the captain!

The teams breaks their huddle. As Mike is lining up on the field, he looks over at Laura again. Laura runs over to the fence by the bleachers; Ryan gives her his sweatshirt. She smiles to herself, and hugs him tightly.

The football hits Mike in the helmet, pulling his focus back in the game. The ball bounces off his helmet, and into the arms of a player from the opposing team. The crowd gasps as the player passes off the ball to his teammate, and they score a touchdown. The BUZZER SOUNDS and the game is over. Students begin booing and throwing trash onto the field.

Mike looks over to his coach, as the talent scouts walk away from the sidelines towards the exit. Mike throws his helmet onto the field, completely enraged.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And the Pirates win the state finals! Wow, what a loss for the Ridgemont Buffalos folks.

INT. TAXI CAB - EARLY EVENING - 2014

Ryan Getz sits in the back a taxi cab dressed in a sharp suit; he looks nervous. His driver has an unshaven face and looks like his main food source is Cheetos.

RYAN

The restaurant on the corner of 5th and Broadway please!

CAB DRIVER

No problem. Hot date?

RYAN

I'm actually proposing to my girlfriend.

CAB DRIVER

Oh, I see! That's why you look so slick ha. Where'd you two meet?

RYAN

In high school, at prom. Kinda a funny story actually.

The driver rolls his eyes, and then Ryan's CELL PHONE RINGS.

RYAN

Oh hi honey, yes our reservation is for seven-thirty, Laura. Okay see you then, love you.

Ryan hangs up his cell phone. The driver looks back curiously at Ryan through his rear view mirror.

CAB DRIVER

The lucky girl is a Laura huh?

RYAN

Yep.

CAB DRIVER

(condescendingly)

High school sweethearts?

RYAN

No actually, we were total opposites. I was on the chess team and she was a cheerleader, ha. Her boyfriend was captain of the football team, but lucky for me he was a total jerk!

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The cab driver's eyes light up, as he begins to drive at a faster speed. The cab turns off the busy road and starts speeding down a side street. Ryan looks out the window worried.

RYAN

Uh sir, the restaurant is back that way.

CAB DRIVER

I know.

RYAN

(nervous)

You know?

Ryan's eyes scan to read the name of the cab driver on his photo ID, taped in the back window. The ID reads "Mike Fisher". Ryan's face drops. The cab driver pulls into a full parking lot as rain begins to bucket down. The LOCKS on the cab CLICK.

CAB DRIVER

Look familiar, Ryan?

RYAN

It's Ridgemont High School...

CAB DRIVER

Ryan Getz!

RYAN

M-Mike Fisher...this can't be happening!

Ryan jiggles the car handle, but it's locked. He looks up at Mike.

RYAN

Why are we here? I'm not paying for this!

MIKE

This is where you ruined my life.

Ryan frantically grabs his cell phone and begins to dial. Mike grabs the phone out of his hands, and takes out the battery. Mike tosses the battery in his big gulp cup, as it sinks into the warm Coca-Cola. Mike smiles at Ryan deviously.

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MIKE

Oops.

RYAN

Are you insane?!

MIKE

I'm just a jerk, Ryan.

Ryan swiftly reaches over Mike's seat and slaps the unlock button on the door. As he pulls his hand back, he knocks over the cup of Coca-Cola onto Mike's face. In a panic, Ryan runs for his life toward the school.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - 8 P.M.

Mike slams the cab door and wobbles after Ryan. Ryan stops to catch his breath up against the back of the concession stand building. Mike begins to gain on him, so Ryan takes off running toward the field.

MIKE

(shouting)

Get over here, and face me like a man!

RYAN

You are insane! How can you run so fast?! When was the last time you've seen a salad?!

Ryan runs onto the football field; Mike picks up his speed. Mike jumps up and tackles Ryan to the ground. The two begin YELLING at each other, as they throw punches back and forth on the soggy field.

RYAN

You got nerve blaming me for ruining your life! You bullied me all through high school.

MIKE

You ruined my chances at going pro in football and you stole my girlfriend!

RYAN

I don't play football! And stole?!

Suddenly, a referee walks over and blows his WHISTLE at Mike and Ryan. The two look up at the bleachers and see it is halftime during a high school football game.

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## REFEREE

What the hell is going on here!?

Mike throws a punch at Ryan and hits him in the face. The referee starts blowing his whistle repeatedly. The Buffalo mascot walks over to try and break the two up. Furious, Mike rips the mascot's head off and kicks it through the field goal post.

## ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Looks like the large man is winning folks. Our ref appears to be getting back up. Just a reminder, popcorn is now only two dollars. Go Buffaloes!

The referee runs away from the fight. A few minutes later, COP SIRENS startle the two from their fight. Ryan and Mike look up to see a cop standing over them.

## COP

I'm afraid I am going to have to take you both down to the station.

Mike lowers Ryan's dress shoe to the ground. Ryan jumps up to plead with the cop.

## RYAN

Officer, please, this is all just a big misunderstanding.

## COP

Most calls I get involve a BIG misunderstanding.

INT. PRISON CELL - 9:30 P.M.

Mike and Ryan sit in a holding cell, sitting as far away from each other as possible. Ryan looks over at the cop's desk, and dramatically crawls over to the barred cell door.

## RYAN

I don't belong here! I volunteer at cat shelters!

## MIKE

Oh shut up! They said your girlfriend was on her way over to bail you out.

Ryan angrily whips his head back to look at Mike.

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RYAN

You ruined what was supposed to be  
the happiest day of my life, so  
don't tell me to shut up you low  
life!

Mike turns away from Ryan and the room gets quiet.

RYAN

I'm sorry, that was...

MIKE

No, it's okay, you're right. Look  
at me driving cabs at twenty-four  
years old. I, I never went to  
college and it's been five years  
since I've seen a salad. It was a  
McDonald's salad, so I'm not even  
sure that counts.

RYAN

I always envied you in high school.  
I mean that dance, Mike, people  
voted for me as a joke! But you,  
everyone loved you. Everyone wanted  
to be your friend.

MIKE

I let not having everything I  
wanted ruin my chances of getting a  
football scholarship.

RYAN

Why don't you teach football?

MIKE

What?

RYAN

Judging by my mangled spine, I'd  
say you still got it, ha.

MIKE

You really think I could teach kids  
how to play football?

RYAN

Yeah, I really do.

Mike's eyes begin to tear up. Ryan reaches his arms out to hug Mike; Mike embraces him in a death grip. Just then, Laura walk into the station, and freezes in her tracks as she sees Ryan and Mike balling in a warm embrace.

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LAURA

Honey?

Ryan jumps from Mike's arms and turns to Laura.

RYAN

Laura! I'm so glad you're here!

Laura walks over to the cell door, looking confused.

LAURA

What is going on? Who is that guy?

RYAN

(overly cheery)

It's Mike Fisher, from Ridgemont!

LAURA

What?!

RYAN

Listen Laura, today was supposed to be special, but I figure now is as good a time as any.

Ryan wrestles with his dirty suit coat pocket and pulls out a muddy ring box. He gets on one knee, opens the box and sticks it through the bars.

RYAN

Laura Kent, will you marry me?

The station became silent. Everyone's attention on Laura as she covered her mouth in shock.

LAURA

Ryan! But...I mean, well yes!

Laura reaches to grab Ryan's hand but he is scooped up in the arms of Mike, like a baby. Mike begins jumping up and down.

MIKE

She said yes, buddy!

RYAN

We're getting married!

Mike and Ryan begin chanting with excitement. A officer walks into room and steps behind Laura. He stops to stare at Ryan and Mike dancing in the cell and places his hand on Laura's shoulder.

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OFFICER  
(to Laura)  
Prison changes a man. I'm sorry  
Ma'am.

SMASH TO BLACK.