

SEIZE THE INITIATIVE!

Written by

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Note: This script contains themed music suggestions; please feel free to ignore them... or check them out on YouTube!

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*Until the dialogue begins, we hear part of "Wawa Hoagies [Family Edit]" (Aaron Out, 2017) or a similar upbeat, goofy rap song.*

EXT. 7-11, 800 S NEAR 1300 E, SLC - DAY

It's July 11, another scorching day in Salt Lake City. Saul (early/mid 20s) pedals his 18-SPEED BIKE past a busy 7-11. He's wearing a backpack and awkwardly carrying three sandwich boards ("Utah Voters: Sign Here to Clean The Darn Air").

EXT. 800 S NEAR 1100 E, SLC - DAY

He pedals or pushes his bike up a steep hill. A young man on an E-BIKE zooms past, pedaling effortlessly.

SAUL  
Cheater.

EXT. UNIVERSITY OF UTAH - RED BUTTE CANYON ROAD - DAY

Saul slowly bicycles uphill, sweating in the heat.

EXT. OUTSIDE RED BUTTE GARDEN AMPHITHEATER - MID AFTERNOON

The sun beats down on a line of people waiting for the gates to open for this outdoor concert venue with amazing views. It's hot, but the people in line are making the best of it: umbrellas, camping chairs, coolers, food and drink, cards.

A steady stream of people walk by from the parking lot to join the line, which is long and wide.

Saul arrives, stopping at a PARKING LOT SIGN POLE. He puts on sunscreen, gets out signature packets and other materials, and locks his bike, backpack, and helmet to the pole.

EXT. OUTSIDE RED BUTTE GARDEN AMPHITHEATRE - LATE AFTERNOON

Saul, wearing a sandwich board and holding three packets, is gathering signatures 20 feet from the end of the line, which is growing faster than ever. Two other campaign volunteers are in the background.

LANCE (60s) passes by Saul to take a spot in line, carrying a camping chair and a COOLER. He's wearing a SEATTLE MARINERS JERSEY, a WEDDING RING, and distinctive BEAT-UP SNEAKERS. He sets up his chair and sinks into it.

GRACE (early/mid-20s, carrying a tote bag with a RED-WHITE-AND-BLUE BLANKET in it) takes a spot in line next to Lance. Her phone DINGS; she studies it, then shakes her head.

Lance opens his cooler (it's decorated with SEATTLE MARINERS STICKERS) and gets out a GREEK RESTAURANT TAKE-OUT BAG and a can of POLYGAMY PORTER, a Utah beer with a hilarious label. He eagerly opens the beer and takes a LONG DRINK.

NIKKI (mid/late-20s) searches for and finds Grace, gives her a big hug, and elaborately hands over THREE TICKETS. Grace, still holding her phone, puts the tickets in her back pocket.

NIKKI

Hey you! Happy birthday!

GRACE

Thank you! Gotta enjoy the three best things about grad school...

GRACE/NIKKI

June, July, and August!

Grace indicates her phone.

GRACE

Did you see? Samantha bailed.

NIKKI

(sourly)

This is why it didn't work out for us. What's her story this time?

GRACE

(reading from her phone)

"Too stressed out about the Presidential race."

NIKKI

In *July*?? Oh, Samantha. She takes political science way too seriously.

We hear the BAND warming up: country music, maybe Justin Champagne. It continues off-and-on throughout the scene.

Nikki fixes a tag sticking out of Grace's clothes, then notices Saul, who is reapplying sunscreen from a small bottle. A BLOB OF SUNSCREEN stays visible on his nose.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

*That guy's probably stressed out, too.*

GRACE  
No, he's *doing something*. He's  
*committed*.

NIKKI  
(skeptical)  
Not only *is* he committed, he *should*  
be committed.

Lance crumples his empty beer can and puts it on the ground by his cooler. He can't help eavesdropping.

GRACE  
Least he's wearing sunscreen.

NIKKI  
With that sandwich board, it kinda  
looks like mayonnaise.

GRACE  
(letting herself dream)  
Maybe he's a *roast beef* sandwich...

NIKKI  
Yeah, or a tuna melt.

Lance LAUGHS into the lid of his cooler as he reaches for another beer. Grace and Nikki notice and it's a bit awkward, so he quotes to them from the Polygamy Porter's label:

LANCE  
Why have just one?!

EXT. OUTSIDE RED BUTTE GARDEN AMPHITHEATRE - LATER

There are two crumpled cans on the ground by Lance; he's on beer #3. He starts to open his GREEK TAKE-OUT BAG when Saul interrupts, motioning at Lance's Mariners jersey.

SAUL  
Long way from Seattle. Utah voter?

LANCE  
Unfortunately.

Lance wipes the sweat from his brow, then rubs his nose as a hint to Saul, who rubs in his BLOB OF SUNSCREEN.

SAUL  
(giving him a line)  
If you think it's hot now, just  
wait a few decades. Wanna sign for  
clean air and climate action?

Lance, resigned, reaches out and takes a packet.

LANCE

Dude, if you need a signature, I'll give you a signature.

SAUL

I also need your name, today's date, and a date of birth.

LANCE

Too much.

Lance tries to hand back the packet; Saul resists.

SAUL

It's only thirty seconds. Can you manage?

LANCE

Abso-freakin-lutely... if you fill it out for me.

This time Saul takes back the packet.

SAUL

As long as you sign it. What's your name?

LANCE

Lance Scott.

SAUL

(writing)  
"Scott" with two "t"s... Today is July 11...

LANCE

(suddenly animated)  
Oh, crap! I missed my free Slurpee!

SAUL

I'm really sorry, sir. Maybe you can hit the Sev after the show.

(beat)  
Date of birth?

LANCE

June 6, 1960.

SAUL

6-6-60??

LANCE  
 People were born on 9-11 too.  
 (beat)  
 How much you get paid for this?

SAUL  
 I'm a volunteer.

LANCE  
 Respect. Want a beer?

Saul does, but he only has one free hand, so:

SAUL  
 (imitating Lance)  
 Abso-freakin-lutely... if you open  
 it for me.

Lance gets out a beer and opens it.

SAUL (CONT'D)  
 Want a sticker?

LANCE  
 (stone cold stare #1)  
 Dude, do I look like the kind of  
 guy who wants a sticker?

Saul shrugs. The sun glints off the MARINERS STICKERS on  
 Lance's cooler.

SAUL  
 Sign right here and you're done.

They trade: a beer for a packet. Lance signs, then tries to  
 hand back the packet... but Saul, draining the beer, holds up  
 an index finger: "Wait". Lance is annoyed, then amused, then  
 impressed. Finally they trade back.

SAUL (CONT'D)  
 Double thanks.

LANCE  
 Double welcome.

Lance crumples Saul's empty can, puts it by the other two,  
 and gets a GYRO SANDWICH from his TAKE-OUT BAG.

Meanwhile, Saul turns to Grace and Nikki.

SAUL  
 Thirty seconds for clean air?

GRACE  
 (eagerly)  
 Sure, I'll sign.

NIKKI  
 Nah, I've got to do a  
 background check on you guys.

Saul hands Grace a packet.

SAUL  
 Print your name in the first box,  
 very legibly please; then sign to  
 the right. Today is July 11...

LANCE  
 (mostly to himself)  
 Don't remind me.

SAUL  
 ...put your date of birth below  
 that and you're done.

Saul offers Nikki a packet.

SAUL (CONT'D)  
 Miss? Peer pressure?

NIKKI  
 Give it up, it's way too hot.

SAUL  
 Hey, that's my line!

NIKKI  
 Don't even try. You sound like my  
 ex...  
 (turns away, muttering)  
 Too stressed out about the  
 Presidential...

SAUL  
 (to Grace)  
 She always like that?

GRACE  
 Heartbroken.

SAUL  
 I'm sorry.

SAUL/GRACE  
 (softly, each mostly to  
 themselves)  
 Try, try again.

Grace blushes, smiles, and hands back her packet. Saul checks it, getting her name and date of birth.

SAUL

Grace Stevens, your handwriting is *beautiful*. And hey, tomorrow's your birthday! Here's a present.

STICKERS. Nikki scowls. Grace laughs and takes one.

GRACE

Thank you!

SAUL

Thank you for the signature... and for the lovely smile.

NIKKI

(appalled and dismissive)  
Are you flirting with her?

SAUL

If I wasn't working, I'd probably ask for her number.

NIKKI

If you didn't look like a BLT, she'd probably give it to you.

Grace pulls a ticket out of her back pocket.

GRACE

Lemme do you one better: extra ticket to the show. Wanna come?

Nikki pulls Grace aside, in a direction that happens to be toward Lance and his GYRO.

NIKKI

Wait, you're inviting *Jimmy John* to join us?

LANCE

(50% deep, 50% drunk)  
He could be the "gyro" she's been waiting for.

NIKKI

(to Lance, but also Grace)  
Or he could be a psycho...

LANCE

Nah.

NIKKI

...or a killer...

LANCE  
Dude, you gotta chill.

NIKKI  
...or a... *vegetarian*.

LANCE  
You might be right about that one.

Meanwhile, Saul and Grace make eyes at each other. The BAND is practicing a song like "Do the Lasso" (Justin Champagne, 2020), so Saul does the "lasso dance" and "pulls" himself over to Grace. After "You might be right..." Grace defiantly gives a ticket to Saul. He takes it in his teeth, pretending to be a killer.

SAUL  
But... can we meet up when the gates open?  
(to Nikki)  
That should give *you* enough time to do your *background check*...

An exasperated SIGH from Nikki, with an eye roll.

SAUL (CONT'D)  
...and it should give *me* enough time to finish these packets and put all this stuff away.

GRACE  
Sounds great. I *would* like to see what you look like without a sandwich board on.

SAUL  
Don't take this the wrong way, but I'd like to see what you look like with a sandwich board on. Wanna help?

Saul offers his packets to Grace, who takes them but hesitates.

GRACE  
Don't wanna take your board from you...

SAUL  
No problem!

Saul lifts up his sandwich board, revealing a SECOND SANDWICH BOARD UNDERNEATH.

NIKKI  
 (in mock amazement)  
 A triple-decker club sandwich!

Saul flashes a THIRD BOARD UNDERNEATH at Nikki.

SAUL  
 You want one, too?

NIKKI  
 I'm gluten-intolerant.

Nikki sighs and gives Grace a good-luck hug.

NIKKI (CONT'D)  
 I'll keep our place in line.

Saul takes off a sandwich board and helps Grace into it.

SAUL  
 Just follow my lead. By the way,  
 I'm Solomon; I go by Saul.

GRACE  
 I'm Grace; I go by Grace.

NIKKI  
 (to Lance)  
 I'm Nikki; I go throw up.

SAUL  
 (with an eyebrow to Nikki)  
 It's a pleasure to meet you, *Miss  
 Stevens*. And... happy birthday!

Saul and Grace head off. The BAND finishes warming up.

NIKKI  
 (to Lance)  
 I wonder how many layers of those  
 things he's got on?

LANCE  
 That dude? I think he's sandwich  
 boards all the way down.

NIKKI  
 (calling after them)  
 Hey lovebirds, come back when the  
 gates open... and don't forget to  
 pack some *condiments*!

Lance chuckles and hands Nikki a Polygamy Porter. She takes it but looks apprehensively after Saul and Grace, who are working the line a little ways off.

*We hear more of "Wawa Hoagies" (Aaron Out, 2017) and see title cards with information about the movie, plus maybe the tagline: "Some men are only after one thing." Then there's a button at the end (shorter is better, but I've included this whole bit of text with strikeouts through most of it):*

EXT. OUTSIDE RED BUTTE GARDEN AMPHITHEATRE - PAST MIDNIGHT

Saul and Grace snuggle cheek to cheek...

GRACE

I had a great time last night.

SAUL

You were amazing. Fearless. Your stamina was incredible.

GRACE

~~Didn't wanna stop.~~

SAUL

~~Me neither. It was beautiful.~~

...on the RED-WHITE-AND-BLUE BLANKET...

GRACE

~~My body was covered in sweat.~~

SAUL

~~It was hot. You know, I could hear you. I loved every sound you made.~~

GRACE

~~Thought my voice was gonna give out!~~

SAUL

~~I thought my back was gonna give out!—And if you think that was great, wait 'til we do it in Provo... at the farmers market!~~

...each of them with a signature packet nearby.

GRACE

~~What if my parents showed up? Don't care, I can't wait to do that again. Although, if we could have kept going the whole night...~~

They sit up. They're on the grass, near the mostly empty parking lot. We see Saul's BIKE, with their campaign materials tucked in by his backpack, and a Lime SCOOTER.

SAUL

~~I know, it felt like we could've  
hit the whole signature target  
right then and there!~~

GRACE

~~In the short run, I wanna live. But  
text me about tomorrow. You're not  
gonna ghost me, are you?~~

Saul moves toward his bike.

SAUL

Not after tonight!  
(half to Grace)  
Not a chance.  
(quietly, to himself)  
Seventy-five signatures...

~~Over the following, we hear part of "Don't Put Onions on Your Hamburger" (The  
Dellwoods, 1963) or a similar doo-wop song.~~

Saul rides off as Grace gets on her scooter.