

RIDESHARE 2020: L.A. APOCALYPSE

by

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ET30 - DRAFT SCREENPLAY

SCENE 1. INT. DAVID GARDENER'S BATHROOM. EARLY MORNING. 5-5:15 AM. JULY 4TH, 2020.

Sound of showering running. Mr. Gardener is getting ready for his morning commute as an UBER LYFT driver. He emerges from the bathroom, having showered quickly.

He puts on black ADIDAS sweats, white stripes and a black silk-screen T-shirt with a graphic of Hal 9000 from Kubrick's 2001 emblazoned on it. He looks tired and a bit weary. He pops back into the bathroom and clips his nails and combs his hair.

He puts on a grey hoodie and the camera pans to his smartphone. It is 5:20 am, 20 minutes later after the smartphone alarm first went off. He glances at his partner sleeping in the bed next to him and pops his head into his son's bedroom ever so briefly. He smiles but only for a second or two.

Mr. Gardener looks at his wallet. He tucks away \$12 dollars beneath fold of its bill fold. He sighs.

Mr. Gardener leaves the house and strolls up to a maroon 2015 Honda Civic. The license plate cover says "Proudly Leased by Xchange Leasing, a Uber Subsidiary".

He locks the door to his house and presses a button on his keychain to open his Honda Civic. Background music is playing. New Americana.

The lyrics play as he goes through the routine of gearing up his UBER Driver Phone app and preparing his self-made tip box (he pops a \$5 dollar bill and two \$1 bills inside it). Music plays and he closes his eyes listening to Halsey's "New Americana" (music from Badlands CD):

Lyrics (PARTIAL):

*"Cigarettes and tiny liquor bottles, just what you'd expect
inside her new Balenciaga
Bad romance, turned dreams into an empire
Self-made success now she rose with Rockafellas*

*Survival of the richest, the city's ours until the fall
They're Monaco & Hamptons bound but we don't feel like
outsiders at all*

*We are the new Americana
High on legal marijuana
Raised on Biggie and Nirvana
We are the new Americana*

*Young James Dean, some say he looks just like his father, but
he could never love somebody's daughter
Football team loved more than just the game so he vowed to be
his husband at the altar
Survival of the richest, the city's ours until the fall ..."*

A SUPER PETROL independent gas station with a Chevron (or Mobile) gas station across the street charging much higher prices -beaten sign above driveway reads, "Low Prices Here". Honking and traffic murmur in background. Street noises in background.

ALONG THE STREETS OF WILSHIRE are blocks of cars beginning their morning routine. Lots of silence in the air peppered by random sounds of car beeps from time to time.

Mr. Gardener's 2015 Honda Civic is weaving in and around Los Angeles streets looking for fares with the music playing in the background (30 seconds)... Mr. Gardener's hands regularly fidget with his smartphone attached to a dashboard display mount on his Civic.

SCENE 2. IT IS HOT SUMMER AT LAX AIRPORT. DAVID GARDENER'S MAROON HONDA CIVIC (2015) IS IN THE DESIGNATED RIDESHARE SECTION OF THE PARKING LOT AT THE AIRPORT.

UBER drivers are queued up and either sitting in their cars or standing just outside. They are waiting in LAX parking lot for their next fare. Several of the drivers are napping in their cars. Others are smartphone browsing. A few -- mostly foreigners with a handful of local Americans -- are outside their cars and engaged in chatter with each other. Topics being discussed include UBER, rideshare tips, and local as well as DC politics.

DAVID GARDENER is in his Honda Civic waiting patiently for a pickup call. The time is 11 am. Gardener's car is a clean organized invitation for drivers to give him '5' star ratings and to tip. He has towels displayed allowing passengers to wipe their sweaty brows and both IPHONE and ANDROID Phone charger cables readily accessible for his passengers.

Mr. Gardener stares at his smartphone. The phone buzzes with a flash pickup message "Party of 2 / Gulf Airlines, Terminal

7".

Mr. Gardener drives from the designated Rideshare passenger waiting area to Terminal 7 to pick up his fare which comes up with only "DonnerFamily".

Car arrives at terminal 7. A middle-age man and his wife and daughter approach Mr. Gardener's car. Mr. Gardner gets out of the car and helps them put their suitcases into the back trunk of the car.

He glances through the door at a nearby Starbucks adjacent to what is an international food court and sees four abandoned dark grey suitcases surrounded by a stream of recently arrived passengers on a flight from Turkey.

SCENE 3. GULF AIR PICKUP TERMINAL

David Gardener's visibly shaken and terrified face is covered with blood and his left leg aching with the piercing of a small piece of metal shrapnel. At least fourteen bodies lie motionless on the airport pickup area that he is parked by. There are two separate concentrated areas of wreckage at the terminal.

One of Mr. Gardener's passengers points to a security guard pounding on his window shouting something to him about arriving ambulances needing him to move his vehicle. Mr. Gardener looks at the guard, rolls down his window. The guard is shouting that the ambulances need to be able to park.

Terrified LAX personnel and passengers are everywhere. They are covered in blood. Some are still frantically running.

The speakers overhead keep repeating that three explosions have occurred sending 'shockwaves' throughout the terminal 7 building. There is destruction and wisps of smoke everywhere.

Two men in black jackets and blue jeans rush to a black Nissan Sentra car without license plates about 100 feet away from Mr. Gardener. Mr. Gardener witnesses a firefight between police and the black Nissan Sentra speeding away. Three male figures are barely visible inside as the windows are tinted.

Police cars and Airport Security Personnel swarm the area.

Hundreds of heavily armored police personnel and several groups of military soldiers are walking the grounds at airport terminal 7. Photographers and Journalists are everywhere.

Gardener looks at his car. It is untouched. The family he picked up is in the car, unhurt. The father is on his phone and the mother busy soothing her 6 year old daughter who is still crying. Gardener looks at his watch. It is now 11:40 am.

FADE IN

1. EXT. TERMINAL 7. THREADS OF TWO TATTERED AMERICAN FLAG WAVE ABOVE ENTRANCE. CAR WRECKAGE AND CRUMPLED BODIES EVERYWHERE. DAVID GARDENER IS HUNCHED OVER HIS DUST COVERED 2015 MAROON HONDA CIVIC IN THE LAX RIDESHARE PICKUP AREA IN FRONT OF TERMINAL 7. A POLICEMAN, WITH HIS FACE COVERED IN BLOODY SWEAT, BROWS FURROWED AND LIPS TIGHTLY PRESSED IS SEEN APPROACHING GARDENER'S CAR.

LAPD OFFICER

Hey, You. You driving the maroon Civic.
Come here. I need to ask you some questions.

GARDENER

(Shouts out to officer who called him)
Just a second. Coming over.

Gardener motions to his three rideshare customers.

GARDENER (CONT'D)

You three stay here in the car. He just wants to ask me some questions. Stay inside.

Gardener rushes down terminal 7's sidewalk to meet the man.

2. EXT. TERMINAL 8. LAPD POLICE ELITE COMMAND VAN UNIT.

Gardener is panting. He glances at the officer's gold name name-plate badge which reads in black lettering "MARTINEZ".

GARDENER

Hi. I've got a family pickup waiting for me and they're still in shock. What's going on?

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Your name? I need to ask you a couple of questions.

GARDENER

David. David Gardener. I'm an Uber driver.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

It looks like 3 bombs went off but I can't give more information than that right now. Based on the most recent body count, it looks like at least 43 people are dead with 170 plus injured. Maybe half of those critical. Based on recent threats, we strongly suspect either Turkish or Iranian terrorists might have planted the bombs that went off. OK, that said we are trying to find out what people saw before the bombs actually went off. Did you see any suspicious activity before the bombs went off? Don't omit details.

GARDENER

Yeah, I did. I saw the black Nissan Sentra driving away with 3 men in it. The one that you guys were shooting at. I saw the guys get in the car just before they drove off and before the bombs went off. They had camouflage style dufflebags and at least one of them was black. The others looked more "Mid-East" to me.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Please describe them. And please be precise.

GARDENER

OK. Understood. One of the two guys had a bright red Hollywood Logo emblazoned brown leather jacket on. The others two were clean cut and more conservatively dressed. Just jeans and T-shirts. They were dressed normally and were pretty calm. Nothing that unusual. I don't really remember much more than that. I saw them get into a Black Nissan Sentra driven by a woman. A brunette, I think. Just as they were 2 minutes out and leaving the bombs went off. Then they floored it and sped off. Anything you want to know specifically?

OFFICER MARTINEZ

How old do you think they were?

GARDENER

Thirties to late forties. I'm not sure. Why would they do this? How bad is it?

Recognizing Gardener's look of concern, Officer Martinez smiles reassuringly and waves his hand along the length of the terminal.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

The Secretary of Defense was arriving back from a Greek Islands wedding on a return civilian flight and he was one of those killed. That's all I can tell you. Please check in with that lady in the orange vest over there and have your passengers check in with her too before you guys leave. Aright, thanks for your time. Do you have your luggage and are you able to leave?

GARDENER

(Nodding his head and motioning at Terminal 7)
Yeah. We're fine. The bombs went off just as we were leaving. Unfuckingbelievable. All these innocent lives taken away.