

FRIES BEFORE GUYS

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1 EXT. STREET LEADING UP TO A CARL'S JR. - EARLY MORNING 1

AVA, 18, who looks kind and pretty but worn down, walks sluggishly towards Better Burgers. She is wearing her work clothes: a Better Burgers uniform. She sees a cute couple walking down the street holding hands. Ava stares at the couple and doesn't notice a stick in front of her. She trips and falls. Her wallet slips out of her back pocket. She doesn't notice. She stands up, sighing, wipes her hands on her pants, and continues on.

2 EXT. STREET LEADING UP TO CARL'S JR. - MORNING 2

CARLOS, 19, a college student, incredibly attractive but doesn't know it, walks out of his apartment, and on his way to his car he notices Ava's wallet on ground.

He bends down, picks it up, and looks side to side to see if anyone dropped in recently. When he sees that no one is around, he opens it.

Inside the wallet is Ava's ID, a small amount of money, and her work schedule. It is labeled "Better Burgers" He takes a closer look at the schedule and notices that on her schedule she is marked to work from 8-1pm. He checks his watch. It is 12pm, so he gets into his car and heads over.

3 INT. CARL'S JR. DRIVE THROUGH WINDOW AND LOBBY - MORNING 3

Ava arrives, waves at her MANAGER, a 40 year-old who looks tired, and starts putting on her hat.

MANAGER

Get to work. Customers are waiting.

Ava sighs and glances at CARLA, a 25 year-old server who is a motherly figure with kind eyes and a warm smile.

Carla rolls her eyes and silently pretends to be the manager by putting her hands on her hips and shaking her finger.

Ava stifles a giggles.

She looks up as she hears the "ding" of the drive up.

AVA

(Annoyed)

Hi, welcome to Better Burgers, "You drive up and we bring it out" How can I help you today? Sigh.

CARLOS

(nervously)
 Hey, I'm not here to actually order anything, I'm just here to drop off someone's wallet I found. I think they work here.

Ava reaches to her pocket and realizes her wallet is gone.

AVA
 I think it might be mine, thanks!
 Pull into spot #1 and I'll come out to you.

4 INT/EXT. THE WINDOW. - MORNING, CONT.

4

Carlos pulls up to the spot.

Ava comes out of the door on her roller skates.

Carlos rolls down his window.

AVA
 (jokingly)
 That'll be uh- \$2.19.

Ava sees Carlos and does a double take as she takes her wallet.

Ava, smiles but avoids eye contact. Then she realizes she should say something.

AVA
 Wow, thank you so much. I really appreciate it. Can I get you anything on me?

CARLOS
 Just a water would be great, thanks!

Ava skates back inside, glowing.

CARLA
 Oohh, why are you smiling like that?

She walks over and begins filling a cup with ice.

AVA
 There's the cutest guy sitting out there. And he returned my wallet!

Ava points through the window at Carlos. He's in his car listening to music.

The manager is washing windows outside.

CARLA
He's so cuuute!

Ava blushes and heads back outside.

Ava leans down and holds out the water cup.

They make lingering eye contact, her hand still sticking through the window with the cup.

Carlos shakes himself back into reality and takes the cup.

CARLOS
(unsure of himself)
Haha, Maybe you should lose your
wallet again tomorrow-

He trails off as he notices the manager watching them.

The manager notices her lingering, and begins stalking towards them.

MANAGER
Hurry Up!

Ava is startled, she almost slips and grabs the open window of Carlos' car to support herself.

She pulls her self up, completely embarrassed.

CARLOS
(sarcastically)
Wow, he must be fun.

Ava laughs awkwardly, rubbing her head.

Carlos and Ava share eye contact again, but Ava gets embarrassed and looks away.

AVA
Umm, gotta go.

She starts skating away.

Carlos pulls away, looking back over his shoulder.

Ava looks after him, glowing.

Carla comes out holding a tray.

Ava and Carla share an excited look, squealing.

The manager glares and clears his throat.

5 INT/EXT. THE WINDOW - DAY

5

Carlos' car pulls up.

The "ding" of the drive-up is heard.

AVA
(friendly)
Hello, what can I get for you today?

CARLOS
Uhh... can I get a coke or
something?

Ava flips the mic up on her headset and turns towards Carla.

AVA
(unsure/nervous)
Ahh! It's him! What should I do?

Carla runs over and smooths Ava's uniform and straightens her hat.

CARLA
You've got this, ohh you gotta make
your move!

Carla walks back behind the kitchen counter and gives her a thumbs up, then motions for her to keep talking.

Ava flips her microphone back down.

AVA
Uh, sorry about that! Of course,
what size would you like?

CARLOS
Small is great, thank you!

AVA
Pull up to spot #2 and I will be
right out.

Ava skates over to make his drink, and looks at Carla the whole time, her eyes wide with excitement.

Ava skates out, visibly nervous. She is holding the coke on a plastic serving tray.

Carlos gives her a small smile and a shy wave.

Ava forgets she is holding the tray and lifts one of her hands off to wave back.

The drink falls and splashes everywhere.

Carlos jumps out of his car and helps her clean up. He grabs a napkin off her tray and wipes coke off of her skates.

AVA

Ahh, I'm so sorry, thank you, thank you, ahh.

They continue to clean it up together.

AVA

I'll go get you a new one, so sorry.

CARLOS

No, no, don't worry about it.

Carla comes out on her skates, holding a coke. She hands it to Ava, and motions for her to give it to Carlos.

All three of them awkwardly stare at each other for a minute.

MANAGER

Hmm, hmm, why is everyone standing around doing nothing? This is unacceptable.

Ava wrings her hands in distress.

Carla pulls Ava, and Ava waves goodbye Carlos.

The manager stalks away.

Carla and Ava skate back to the entrance.

CARLA

Don't mind him, he's so over dramatic.

AVA

I can't wait to get out of this place.

CARLA

Keep saving, it'll be worth it. Soon you'll have enough for college and you won't have to worry about this place.

Carla gestures around.

AVA
 Hopefully.

CARLA
 (sing-songingly)
 But hey, it's not all bad you're
 stuck here. After all, you get to
 see you-know-who!

6 6 INT. MONTAGE - CARL'S JR. DRIVE THROUGH WINDOW - DAY 6 6

Clock strikes 12pm. Carlos shows up.

He orders a small drink.

They awkwardly laugh. She turns bright red.

Ava skates outside.

Carlos is excited to see Ava, and waves hesitantly.

The clock strikes 12.

He orders a single cookie.

Carlos smiles and they talk.

This time, she give him a water.

The clock strikes 12.

There are many cars in the drive-thru honking at them.

The Manager glares and begins to walk over.

Carlos notices and drives away.

The clock strikes 12pm.

Manager starts walking over threateningly. Carlos drives
 away.

7 INT. CARL'S JR.- MORNING 7

Ava scooters up to Better Burgers with lots of gusto. She
 rushes inside.

Valentine's day decorations are on the wall.

There is a cute tear-off calendar by the cash register that reads "Feb. 14th".

CARLA
 (teasing lovingly)
 It's Valentine's day, Ava. Is anyone
 special going to be coming around
 today?

Carla winks.

Ava blushes and laughs.

Ava pulls out a card from her pocket.

Ava holds up the homemade valentine's day card. It has a drawing of fries with huge eyes and is lettered:

I only have FRIES for you.

Inside the card is written: I like you more than you like fast food.

AVA
 Can't wait to give him this!

Ava looks at the clock. It's 9am.

Ava hides the card next to the cash register and checks the clock again and again throughout the day.

8 INT.

8

She clears tables, wipes down counters, and takes out the trash.

Finally, the clock strikes 12pm.

Ava shuffles around nervously, and looks out the window trying to spot his car.

There are only boring white cars.

She helps the next person, but is distracted.

She drops their bag of food on her way out of the restaurant.

The manager glares at her.

MANAGER
 Pull yourself together.

Carla shakes her head.

Ava looks at the clock again. It's 4pm.

Ava hears another "ding" and doesn't perk up.

AVA

Hey, what can I get for you?

CARLOS

(through the speaker)

I'm not getting anything today, I
actually have something for you.

Ava giggles, grabs her card next to the cash register, and
hides it behind her back.

Carlos parks and is holding a bouquet of red roses, smiling.

He gets out of the car and hesitates before closing the door,
he is visibly nervous.

Ava begins to skate towards him, smiling.

She hears footsteps behind her, and turns around.

Manager marches aggressively over to Ava.

Ava looks at Carlos again.

Carlos does not see the manager coming towards her.

Ava shakes her head at Carlos and gestures to stop.

Carlos looks confused, and reaches towards the door.

Ava keeps shaking her head, and mouths, "No!"

Carlos gets in his car and places down the roses, defeated.

He begins to drive away.

Ava shoves the note in her pocket, and looks after him.

Before she can call after him, the manager comes up directly
to her.

Ava runs to the window to look out, and sees Carlos throw
away the flowers.

She looks at Carla with questioning eyes.

CARLA

Well, what are you waiting for? Go
get him!

Ava pulls out the card and looks at it.

Ava tucks the card into her pocket and looks back out the window. Carlos is still slowly driving away. He turns on this blinker to pull out of the parking lot.

Ava looks up and sees a couple sharing a milkshake in a booth. She snaps back into reality.

She starts running towards the door.

MANAGER

Don't you even think about it!

Ava continues running.

MANAGER

You're fired!

Ava looks back at Carla and smiles.

CARLA

Good luck, honey!

9 EXT. CARL'S JR PARKING LOT AND STREET - AFTERNOON

9

Carlos' car is pulling away.

Ava glances at the car and skates towards the curb.

She glances around in distress. Ava sits down and starts frantically unlacing her skates.

Carlos is driving away when he hits a red light right outside the parking lot.

She finally pulls off her skates and throws them aside.

She looks around for a second, and then starts running after his car in her socks.

Carlos looks in his rear view mirror and sees her running towards him.

Carlos makes a confused face.

Ava reaches the car and halts. She frantically knocks on Carlos' window.

AVA
Wait, wait!

Carlos rolls slowly down the window, confused. He glances at her socks.

Ava, out of breath, gestures around with her hands unsure of what to say.

Carlos raises his eyebrows.

Ava takes a deep breath and pulls her Valentines day card out of her pocket and hands it to Carlos.

Carlos reads the card.

Ava waits in anticipation.

 CARLOS
I never liked fast food, I just
liked you!

Ava laughs.

Ava and Carlos lean towards each other, and kiss.

The light turns green.

Cars behind them start honking.