

Ride Share
by
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Digital Sky Ep #2

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SOUND: Street traffic.

NARRATOR

Once upon a time, not so long ago, people who needed to drive somewhere without access to their own car would call a TAXI. These yellow chariots could be waved down in a city or called for from somewhere in town or outside a bar. Cabs were often messy, smelly and a little broken down, but people felt pretty secure traveling in a bonded vehicle driven by a vetted driver, backed by a company and sent by a professional dispatcher holding the line. If people needed a free ride they might use their thumb for hitch-hiking, but it was quite dangerous getting into the vehicle of a stranger. Today if a ride is needed there is a much more convenient system to get from one location to another.

EXT. THE STRIP

SOUND: Night party scene with drunken people wandering the strip, and waiting in lines, as the bass of the music coming from inside is pumping.

NARRATOR

Picture in your mind, the West Hollywood Sunset strip. World famous for its trendy boutiques and chic cafe's, but mostly for the nightlife scene where the hip crowd of wealth and celebrity meet to party at legendary clubs like the Viper Room, the Roxy and Whiskey a Go-Go.

MUSIC: Intro music for our main character.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Stepping out of one of the finest clubs on the Strip is Kieth, a tall, fit, man in his late 20's looking cool in his designer jeans and tailored shirt. He puts on his glasses so he can look at the ride share app on the phone.

SOUND: PING as he turns on the Ride Share APP

KIETH

(reading to himself)

...and enter. Let's see. Tonight do I want a) Luxury \$17.57 b) Standard \$9.45 or c) Shared only \$7.28 That seems like a good deal.

SOUND: Taps the screen. PING

SOUND: Slow traffic goes by.

SOUND: The APP chimes to represent it's progress.

RIDE SHARE APP VOICE

Your driver Denny has arrived in a red Ford Focus. Please be sure to check the licence plate before getting into the vehicle.

NARRATOR

DENNY, a 28 year old, bald and muscular man with tats and facial piercing's, sticks his head out of the window.

DENNY

Kieth!?

KIETH

Denny?

DENNY

Jump on in mah man.

SOUND: The door Unlocks. The Car door opens.

KIETH

That was fast.

DENNY

I was just around the corner when the app caught me. Amazing, huh. I don't get how these big companies figure this stuff out.

KIETH

I know what you mean, they put together a bunch of ones and zeroes and suddenly it's a thing.

DENNY

I ain't complaining. It's not a bad way to make money.

KIETH

Yeah. Business good?

DENNY

Pretty good. This is the perfect job for me. A lot of people drive for a side hustle. Not me. I just don't want to be trapped in a job where I don't get to make my own hours. Know what I mean?

KIETH

Got to live free...

DENNY

Never know what tomorrow's going to bring. So how's your night been so far?

KIETH

Good thanks. So how does this work? I've never shared one of these rides before.

DENNY

Pretty simple. My next passenger is going the same direction. I pick them up and drop you first.

KIETH

Sounds good to me.

DENNY

I don't know why most people don't choose the share option, the passengers get to save and the driver makes more money.

KIETH

I guess most people don't want to get stuck in a car with a stranger.

DENNY

(laughs)

I'm a stranger, Keith.

KIETH

Yeah, but I don't have to talk to you.

DENNY

Shit! That hurt.

KIETH

I'm sorry. I didn't mean it that way...

DENNY

Yeah I know. Cause I'm just the driver
and you pay me to shut up if you want.
I'll shut up.

They share an uncomfortable laugh.

KIETH

I just mean, your cool but the other
passengers aren't vetted like the
drivers.

DENNY

We're not really "vetted" much. Our cars
are. Drivers just need a current state
licence and a pledge to stay sober and
wear clothes.

KIETH

I assume you are both those things.

DENNY

Well, yeah... pretty much.
(laughs)

PAUSE

So what's your team?

KIETH

Team?

DENNY

Sports team? You a Dodger fan?

KIETH

I'm not really into sports.

DENNY

That's cool. I waste too much time
watching myself. But I love it. Do you
play any sports?

KIETH

I play poker.

DENNY

I mean sports, sports. I played
linebacker in junior college. Always felt
good to get out there and hit some
people, know what I mean?

KIETH

Ummm...

DENNY

I was also on the wrestling team. Now I just lift weights like a mad man.

PAUSE

DENNY (CONT'D)

I'm not really supposed to ask, but what do you do for work?

KIETH

Car business.

DENNY

Oh yeah. Making them? Selling them?

KIETH

Auto parts. So when do we pick up the next person?

DENNY

Why, you tired of talking to me already?

KIETH

I wasn't-

DENNY

I'm just messing with you, Kieth. You're a really good guy.

KIETH

You're a good guy too, Denny.

DENNY

That should be them on the corner.

KIETH

They look pretty wasted.

DENNY

She looks pretty hot.

SOUND: Car pulling over.

DENNY (CONT'D)

Alex!

ALEX

(fairly wasted)

Yeah, bro.

DENNY

Jump on in!

NARRATOR

An attractive young couple approaches the car. Nicole wearing a beautiful black party dress gets into the car next to Kieth. Alex, dressed in trendy designer clothes goes in on the other side, leaving Keith to sit between them.

SOUND: Door unlocks. Doors open on both sides. Putting Keith in the middle.

KEITH

I would be happy to moveover.

ALEX

It's fine. We'll let you have the middle seat.

NOTE: Nicole and Alex are a little loose from drinking, but not heavily drunk.

NICOLE

I'm Nicole. He's Alex. Who are you?

KIETH

(awkward)

Um... Keith. I'm Keith.

NICOLE

So great to be sharing this ride with you, Kieth.

ALEX

What's up, bro?

SOUND: Alex and Kieth fist bump.

KIETH

Hey, Alex.

(beat)

I like your amulet.

SOUND: Alex taps his Talisman.

ALEX

Yeah, thanks. But it's not an amulet, it's a talisman.

KIETH

What's the difference?

ALEX

Amulet's are meant to protect the person wearing it from evil.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

A talisman brings power to it's wearer.
And it's made of pure gold, bro.

DENNY

That's really cool.

ALEX

(talking to Denny)
Sup Vin Diesel!?

NICOLE

Are you fast and furious?

DENNY

When I have to be. But you can just call
me, Denny.

NICOLE

Oh my god! We need to go to Denny's for a
Moons Over My Hammy!

ALEX

Yeah! Let's go to Denny's with Denny!

DENNY

All right, everyone buckle up!

SOUND: Denny guns the engine. VROOOM . Cars are honking
and PEOPLE are SWEARING at him while he maneuvers around
traffic, not even letting the side walk stop him.

NICOLE

Denny. You are so crazy, awesome!

Alex and Nicole bounce up and down whooping like cowboys.

DENNY

Yeah baby!

KIETH

(squirms)
Um... we're not really going to Denny's
now are we?
(reacting to horn blare)
Would you mind slowing down.

DENNY

Aren't you hungry, Keith?

KIETH

Please drop me off first.

NICOLE

Keith, I have a sense that it's more than just the grand slam breakfast getting in your way... something deeper is going on with you. I can feel it.

ALEX

Nicole has an eerie gift to see right into people's souls.

NICOLE

Give me your hand, Kieth?

KIETH

Ummm...

ALEX

Don't bother saying "no" to her bro.

NICOLE

It's okay, Kieth. I just want to read your palm.

SOUND: Nicole takes his hands. Slight touching of skin and shirt sleeves.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Wow. Look at your heart line. There is a peculiar break that crosses at a 45 degree angle... right here.

ALEX

Let me... oh yeah. Denny, check this out.

SOUND: Denny shifts in his seat, turning back.

DENNY

That's so weird. I've never seen a heart line do that before.

SOUND: Blaring horn and tires skidding.

KIETH

(abrupt)

Denny, watch the road!

DENNY

(ratzo)

Hey... I'm driving here!

NICOLE

Somebody hurt you really bad, Keith... very recently. Am I right?

KIETH
(let's out breath)
You can see that?

ALEX
Uncanny, huh Kieth?

NICOLE
It's okay to open up to us, Kieth. Give
your feelings permission to come out.

KIETH
I'm not really... ready to talk about-

ALEX
(gasp, big idea)
Ahhh, you know what we should do. The
four of us should just fuck it all and go
to Vegas! You can't be sad in Vegas.

NICOLE
Oh my god, Alex! That's an awesome idea!

DENNY
(big laugh)
Ya know what! Why the hell not!? I make
my own hours.

KIETH
I just don't think it's something I can
do right now.

ALEX
Can't do? Or won't do, Kieth?

DENNY
Come on Kieth! Sometimes you just got to
grab life by the ball sac, and just go
for it.

KIETH
I have a really important meeting
tomorrow.

ALEX
What could be more important then being
with friends, Kieth?

KIETH
(careful)
We just met.

NICOLE

A powerful force in the universe brought us all together for a reason. You can't deny it.

KIETH

A ride share app brought us together!

DENNY

Keith, you got to admit we hit it off the second you first got into my car.

KIETH

(sigh)
Yeah... we did.

SOUND: Alex grabs Kieth's hand and slaps it on his talisman.

ALEX

Here, put your hand on my Talisman. Feel the force between us. We are like Jedi Knights.

DENNY

Let's go Power Rangers. It's morphin' time!

KIETH

Well, I would have to see if I-

NICOLE

Holey shit! We're really going to do this thing!!

SOUND: Nicole throws herself back against the car seat.

Suddenly Denny pulls a U-TURN - SCRRREEECCH

KIETH

What are you doing?!

DENNY

Vegas baby!

KIETH

You guys are... great and all, but I wasn't prepared for this.

NICOLE

Keith, don't you see? You need this right now! You need to be with people who really care about you.

ALEX

Yeah, bro.

KIETH

Please Denny. Just drop me off at my stop.

DENNY

No more stops on this ride.

NICOLE

Except to pee right?

DENNY

Yeah, and to get gas and snacks on the way, of course.

ALEX

We're going to need rolling papers and
(shouts)
Pabst Blue Ribbon!

KIETH

Okay look. If I can make just one quick stop, maybe I can go. I mean, why not.

DENNY

Yes!! That's what we're talking about!

NICOLE

(choking up)
I seriously love everyone in this car.

ALEX

I couldn't imagine going on this adventure with anyone other than you guys.

Pause

KIETH

Ya know what. Why not!

The gang celebrates loudly.

KEITH

We just got to go to my stop so I can pick something up.

PAUSE

DENNY
 (big laugh)
 Okay, just don't ditch us once we get there.

ALEX
 That definitely would not be cool.

NICOLE
 Come on guys. Keith wouldn't do that to us. Right Kieth?

KIETH
 No. I'm totally down. I just need to do this thing for work so I don't get fired... and then I swear I'll be right back in the car.

PAUSE

NICOLE
 I believe you, Keith.

ALEX
 Me too.

DENNY
 Me three.

SOUND: Denny steps on the gas. Tires SCREECH. Including Keith, they all whoop and holler

RIDE SHARE VOICE APP
 You are arriving at your first drop off point.

SOUND: Denny pulls up to a deserted parking lot.

DENNY
 What are we doing in an empty parking lot? This is a weird place to do business isn't it?

KIETH
 I know, so weird, huh? Just pull up and park in one of those spaces.

Sound: Denny pulls up in a space, parks, but doesn't turn off the engine.

KEITH
 Okay. Now lets all get of the car.

NICOLE

Wait! Is this a drug deal going down?

Keith opens the door.

ALEX

It's cool if it is. Nobody's judging you.

DENNY

Lets just be careful, we don't need to get busted before we even start our trip.

KIETH

Play it cool, guys. Just come out for a minute, so the people I'm meeting see I have friends with me.

SOUND: Alex and Nicole get out of the car. Denny stays in the drivers seat.

DENNY

It's fine. I'll just wait here in case we need to drive away in a hurry.

KIETH

Don't worry, Denny. You are not going to have to do that.

SOUND: Keith pulls out a gun. His demeanor shifts. He is cool and confident.

NICOLE

Kieth, what do you need a gun for!?

SOUND: Nose of the gun taps on Denny's window.

KIETH

Let's go Denny. Out of the car.

SOUND: Denny tries to shift out of park. Keith pounds the hood of the car.

KEITH

I said get out!

ALEX

What the fuck, bro!?

Nicole screams.

KEITH

Scream away! No one can hear you out here. I chose the perfect spot.

(beat)

(MORE)

KEITH (CONT'D)

And don't try running. I'm a really, really good shot.

NICOLE

You couldn't shoot us Keith. No matter what heartbreak you're going through, It's not who you are.

KIETH

Need some change?

ALEX

Huh?

SOUND: Keith fires at a PARING METER - It EXPLODES, CHANGE flies everywhere.

KIETH

Parking meter, first! Whoever runs is next!

ALEX

Not cool, bro.

KIETH

You're right, Nicole. I don't want to 'have' to hurt you...

SOUND: Keith BANGS on the drivers window again.

KEITH

Come on Denny. Time to get out of the car. NOW!

SOUND: Denny unlocks. Keith opens the car door and pulls Denny out. He shoves him back against the car.

DENNY

Why are you doing this Keith?

KIETH

Nothing personal, Denny. I just want your car and all your stuff. That's why I picked the share ride option. More people, more stuff.

PAUSE

ALEX

Maybe we can do this some other way?

KIETH

What did u have in mind?

ALEX
(offering)
Nicole.

SOUND: She punches him.

NICOLE
What!?! Are you serious Alex!

ALEX
Oww. You seemed to like him.

KIETH
No thank you. I'm good with just the car
and all your stuff.

ALEX
Can I at least keep my talisman?

KIETH
You said it was solid gold, right?

ALEX
What if I lied?

KIETH
Did you lie?

ALEX
(defeated)
No...

SOUND: Denny grunts and charges at Kieth, trying to take away the gun. Keith quickly puts Denny in a headlock.

KIETH
Chill out, Denny!

DENNY
You're choking me.

ALEX
Run, Nicole run!

SOUND: Gun SHOT Another parking meter explodes right in front of them.

KIETH
Come on guys! That's the last parking
meter I'm going to kill tonight.

SOUND: Denny is trying to exert himself, but getting nowhere.

KEITH

If you guys just calm down this will be over soon.

NICOLE

Alex, aren't you going to help Denny!?

ALEX

Which one's, Denny?

SOUND: Nicole Screams and charges toward Kieth. She tries to get Denny free.

SOUND: Finally Alex screams and charges into the fight. A lot of action, hits and grunts from Denny, Alex and Nicole. Which turns into groaning in pain coming from Denny, Alex and Nicole.

KIETH

Come on Jedi Power Rangers. All your stuff. Throw it in the car. Wallets, watches, idiotic amulets.

SOUND: Keith opens the passenger door.

NICOLE

We tried to be your friend.

KIETH

We are friends. That's why I'm letting you live?

SOUND: Keith opens the car door.

DENNY

Real smart Keith. The ride share app is going to track down your identity through your phone.

KIETH

(laughs)

Come on, Denny, seriously!? I stole this phone from someone else.

KEITH

You guys should still go to Vegas together. Your lucks gotta change.

DENNY

You really turned out to be a dick, you know that, Keith?

KEITH

Nope. You just shouldn't have trusted a stranger.

SOUND: Keith takes the phone out of his jacket, tap, tap, tap, wipe.

KEITH (CONT'D)

Lets see. 5 stars. Hundred dollar tip. Wipe for finger prints. Here Denny, take this Keith guys phone and use the ride share app to get home.

SOUND: Denny catches Keith's toss.

DENNY

Um... thanks...

NICOLE

(emotional)

Remember Ke... um whatever your name is, karma is a bitch.

KIETH

Yeah. Well, I'll be waiting for her when she comes.

(beat)

Hey guys, in the future, please be more careful who you get in the car with.

SOUND: The fake Keith drives off.

END

SHOW CREDITS

POST CREDIT BONUS SCENE

INT/EXT SOUND: DENNY'S Car. (Kieth) SINGS to a SONG on the Radio.

The RIDE Share App DINGS.

KEITH

Look at that. Somebody needs a ride to Beverly Hills.

SOUND: Ding of (Keith) accepting the ride.

KIETH

Accept.

SOUND: Car makes a sharp right.

KEITH

Richard?

RICHARD

(outside the car)

Yes. That's me. You Denny?

KIETH

Hop in the car mah man.

SOUND: DOOR CLOSES from the inside. Car pulls away.

RICHARD

Car's right, but you look kind of different from the guy in the picture.

KIETH

Yeah. Shaved and lost the face jewelry. Finished the look with a new pair of glasses and a hat. Tips got better after that.

RICHARD

True. Presentation is everything in business.

KIETH

What kind of business are you in, if you don't mind me asking?

RICHARD

Not at all. I'm a financial advisor.

KIETH

Wow. That sound like important stuff.

RICHARD

Yeah. People trust me with their money..
(arrogant giggle)
And I make their money work for me. And it's perfectly legal.

KIETH

That's cool, man.

RICHARD

It's not like I screw anyone. Believe me, they'd do a lot worse without me.

KIETH

So, how was your night?

RICHARD

Not great. I'm seeing this smoking hot model, but I don't care how good looking she is, she was acting like a bitch so I left her there.

KIETH

Good for you, man. Hot girls think they can get away with anything just 'cause they're hot girls.

RICHARD

She doesn't know that one day she's going to lose those looks and realize she forgot to get a personality.

KIETH

Yup. Beauty is only skin deep.

RICHARD

Good thing there will never be a shortage of hot girls coming to LA.

KIETH

That's why I drive the strip.

Richard and (Kieth) share a good laugh.

KEITH

Which side of the street?

RICHARD

Just pull left into the driveway and I'll get out.

KIETH

You got it.

SOUND: Shakes hand.

RICHARD

Really good meeting you, man.

KIETH

Hey, I'm really not supposed to do this.
But can I ask you a big favor?

RICHARD

Umm... what is it?

KIETH

I really have to pee, and I don't want to
wait till I get back to the strip.

PAUSE

KEITH

I'd go find a bush somewhere, but it
doesn't seem right doing that in such a
nice neighborhood.

RICHARD

Sure. You seem like a good guy. Come on
in and you can do your thing.

SOUND: Car Parking. The two guys opening the door and
walking toward the house.

KIETH

Woahh. This a really beautiful place,
Richard! You have it all to yourself?

RICHARD

Yup. Business is good.

The guys laugh.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Wait. Let me just turn my alarm off.

NEXT EPISODE PROMO:

NARRATOR

On the next episode of Digital Sky...