

1. Day -1:

"I've already told you a thousand times that it isn't around here," Didi said exasperatedly. It was the fifth time they had to ask how they got to their uncle Brand's town.

"If you had brought the map as you said you would, maybe we wouldn't be going around like idiots" Frank replied.

"I have to justify myself again? I didn't bring it because you said you knew where to go." Didi argued.

"I will not have this conversation with you again," Frank said.

Frank was athletic, attractive, socially successful, and captain of the high school soccer team, but no girl seemed to be interested. He was not interested in school and he never really did well, but it was not a priority for him right now. He felt happy with his life; he was grateful because he thought very highly of himself, and behaved as such around others, especially with his cousin Didi.

Conversely, Didi was the complete opposite. She had an unimpressive body, not at all thin, with glasses, hair in a ponytail, and hardly any feminine attributes worth mentioning. She devoted all her effort to her studies. She only had 3 friends and almost no social life. She went through school unnoticed, which she had gotten used to, but she really appreciated the quietness. However, she did feel lonely, and many nights she went to sleep crying thinking about what things would be like if they were different. In private, she always yearned for the popularity and social success of other girls her age.

Their relationship was strained. They saw each other more often than they would have liked. Didi despised her cousin's focus on aesthetics and thought Frank was "basic". She thought he was too dedicated to his social life and didn't worry enough about school. He had a very simple personality, and seemed indistinguishable from every other guy at school. His attractiveness compensated for his shallow personality. Didi hated this type of people, unable to appreciate anything more than themselves.

For his part, Frank always saw Didi as his unique cousin who was more interested in books than people. He thought she was a social misfit and moody, and he would get annoyed when they were seen together, worried that his reputation would be hurt by association.

Now they were in a car, almost lost on the way to a small town in the middle of the mountains without completely knowing how to get there. Their uncle's grandfather was turning 100 years old and his children had invited the entire extended family to celebrate in style. Frank's parents had gone on a trip, as they often did, and Frank didn't mind as he enjoyed his independence. His parents would meet them there, and Frank would make his own way with his brand new car.

Didi's father had passed away 10 years previous, and her mother recently caught pneumonia for the third time in a year. The doctor recommended that her mother remain at

home. Her mother was very close to Didi's great-uncle, and since he really wanted as much of his family to attend that could, she encouraged Didi to go in her stead. She did not have a driver's licence and with limited other options, she turned to Frank, who reluctantly agreed to take her with him.

And so began a somewhat strange journey.

The problem was that Frank could not admit to an unattractive girl like Didi that he was wrong. He was too proud, and if word got around he would lose some of the social prestige he worked so hard to gain. But she was right, and Didi always wound up being right.

It was 9:00 p.m. and they still were not sure where they were going. Didi, analyzing the situation, proposed that the best thing would be to spend the night in a roadside motel, and reach their destination town tomorrow. They still had more than 4 hours of driving to go, and the two were tired, not only of the trip, but of being cramped together in such a small space.

Frank agreed, since he was quite tired, and the idea of being away from Didi for a few hours seemed very attractive.

So, in the middle of a very long and lonely road, surrounded by pastures, they found a motel with a gas station located basically in the middle of nowhere. As they had no idea when they would come across another place to stay, the two agreed not to miss the opportunity, and stop here to rest. The site was really lonely. A couple of old vehicles were in the parking lot, the gas station was empty and the lights were off. The motel itself was open, based on the half-lit sign. They parked, picked up their bags and entered the motel. A small counter in the middle of a corridor was the only thing present to receive guests, and a very old man was there as if he had not moved from his place for decades. Frank asked for two rooms for the night, and the man silently completed the booking and gave Frank the keys. Without asking any more questions they went to find their rooms.

Since they had been eating snacks and other junk food during the trip, they were not hungry for dinner, and fighting their fatigue would be a losing battle. Frank told Didi they would be leaving at 8 am sharp, and joked that if she was late she would have to walk home on her own..

It was getting late, so each went to their respective rooms, where they changed and went to sleep.