

Middle of Nowhere

by

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Cast of Characters

VANCE:

28

SELENA:

25

Place

Mountainside

Time

Early afternoon

Setting: A beautiful mountainside view of a valley.

At Rise: Vance has just parked his car overlooking a valley. Selena sits beside him unimpressed.

VANCE: This is it, baby girl.

SELENA: What?

VANCE: Our future.

SELENA: What am I supposed to be looking at?

VANCE: You don't see it?

SELENA: See, what?!

VANCE: You see the trees and dirt and rocks in front of your face, right?

SELENA: And?

VANCE: It's ours.

SELENA: What do you mean, it's ours?

VANCE: We own in, baby, the whole lot. I bought the land.

SELENA: Oh, my, God.

VANCE (excited): Yeah! It's real! We own it!

SELENA: Okay, okay, we just drove three hours to get here, the entire time I'm complaining about how much I hate country life cause I love, love, love my city urban life. We get here, this exact spot and you tell me we own a bunch of rocks, trees and dirt...in the middle of nowhere, and I'm supposed to be jovial?

VANCE: We own *this!*

SELENA: I can't believe you. How much this dump cost?

VANCE: Forty-five grand.

SELENA: The same forty-five grand that we been saving?

VANCE: Yes.

SELENA: Are you fucking kidding me?! Don't tell me that shit right now, Vance. You took all our money and slapped it on land, without talking to me about it first? Are you out of your mind, boy?!

VANCE: Baby, baby, please listen, chill---

SELENA: I ain't gonna chill, you stupid bastard---

VANCE: It's a smart investment---

SELENA: Smart? How is owning land in the middle of bumblefuck a smart investment?

VANCE: They're going to build a railroad five minutes up the road, take thirty minutes to get to the city from here.

SELENA (sarcastic): Oh wow, that's amazing. Why didn't you say that to begin with?

VANCE: Selena, in ten years the value of this land and the home we will build on it is going to skyrocket in value. We are going to make back our original investment a hundred fold. I'm telling you.

SELENA: You have done it. No, this time you have really, really done it. You sell this shit land, I want my half of the money, my blood, sweat and tears money and I want it OVER with your dumb dreaming ass! OVER!!!

Vance gets out of the car and lights a smoke.

Selena talks to herself.

SELENA: I'm gonna kill this fool, I swear to God, I'm gonna kill this fool and bury him out here in the woods.

VANCE: What??

SELENA: What?

VANCE: I can't hear you!

Selena rolls down the car window.

SELENA: Wasn't talking to you, asshole.

VANCE: Come out here.

SELENA: Hell, no.

VANCE: Come out here and see it. (beat) Just drove three fucking hours, at least come out and see the damn thing.

Selena steps out of the car and slowly walks up to Vance.

VANCE (cont'd): Look at all of this...(pointing) from that pole, all the way back to the river and then all the way over to that ugly red house...and then to right here, where we're standing...all of this is yours.

SELENA: ...From that pole, to the---there's a river back there?

VANCE: A very big river that runs right through our property.

SELENA: And that ugly red house is ours?

Vance jingles a set of keys.

VANCE: It's ours. Needs major renovation but that's okay, was thinking of building a brand new house for us, make the ugly red one for guests, once it's rebuilt and all.

SELENA: And we own the land we're standing on?

VANCE: Yep.

SELENA: No way.

VANCE: Way.

SELENA: Our forty-five grand bought all this?

VANCE: It did.

SELENA: Holy shit.

VANCE: It's huge, right?

SELENA: Yeah.

VANCE: It's a whole valley. There's so much to see, so much we can build. This town is a dead zone right now but in four or five years it's gonna be booming and we bought this at just the right time. Our land is positioned perfectly, cause there's a strip that parallels the main road and I want to build a series of storefronts for different businesses and we'll make a ton just from rent alone. Once they put in the railroad, it's going to populate the area in a big way.

SELENA: How did you find out about this place?

VANCE: My cousin.

SELENA: Which cousin might that be?

VANCE: My cousin, Larson.

SELENA: Larson?! Larson sold you on this?

VANCE: He told me about it, he didn't sell me on it.

SELENA: And how did that genius find out about it?

VANCE: He read it in the papers, showed me the article and everything, but don't worry, I did my research, they are definitely building a railroad.

SELENA: What if they don't?

VANCE: They will.

SELENA: What if there's never gonna be a railroad?

VANCE: They have to.

SELENA: Who's they?

VANCE: There's a company that's managing construction...it's all legit.

SELENA: I need to see some proof.

VANCE: I'll show you the papers.

SELENA: I want proof.

VANCE: Okay.

SELENA: Your cousin is a moron, you remember that, right?

VANCE: I do.

SELENA: Why didn't you speak to me about this?

VANCE: I wanted to surprise you. I thought you'd be happy.

SELENA: You took all the money, our money, and did something with it, without my permission.

VANCE: Because I knew you'd say no.

SELENA: But you did it anyway...how's that supposed to make me feel? How am I supposed to trust you, after doing something like that? You know, when it comes to serious situations like investing in land, with all our money, what gives you the right to do such a thing?

VANCE: I wanted to do something for us on my own for once.

SELENA: Oh, yeah?

VANCE: Yeah, you're always controlling everything. I feel like I can't do shit anymore, without your permission.

SELENA: Since when?

VANCE: Since I can remember. You harp on me constantly. I have no room to breathe.

SELENA: And you rebel like some little school boy.

VANCE: And stop calling me boy, I'm a grown man.

SELENA: Who took my money.

VANCE: Our money.

SELENA: If you would have done all this with your half of the money, I would have respected you more, not with mine included.

VANCE: I couldn't get the land with half the money, Selena.

SELENA: Get *half* the land!

VANCE: It doesn't work that way---

SELENA: Don't even try to tell me how shit works. You fucked up big time on this one.

VANCE: And what if I'm right? What if in five, ten years time we're rolling in money because of this deal I made.

SELENA: What if we're not, Vance? What if you bought some bum land? What if there's no railroad, no boom, no nothing...what if when you try to sell the land it goes for even less than what you paid for it? Tell me, what then?

VANCE: I don't know.

SELENA: That's why you should have spoken to me or worked with your half of the money. (beat) I thought we had a plan, I thought we were down together, I thought we were saving up to buy a house on long island one day. We never spoke about living in the country? I'm so pissed!

VANCE: Can I drive through the valley and show you everything? You will feel differently, I promise.

SELENA: Even if I fall in love with it, you broke my trust in you and that's everything.

VANCE: Why you saying that to me?

SELENA: You can't do what you did and think it's okay! Don't you hear what I'm saying?

VANCE: It's all in your name. I signed it all over to you. You are the sole owner.

SELENA: Why'd you do that?

VANCE: Because I figured you'd want to kill me when I told you and the only way for me to have any shot at my dream with you, is to show you that I trust you with everything.

SELENA: Since when is this your dream, Vance?

VANCE: Selena, it's always been my dream to give us a good life. Don't you know that? Don't you know I work as hard as I do for us? When I fell in love with you, it became about you and me...I stopped being that selfish bachelor and started imagining our future together.

It's all I ever think about.

You changed my life. I want to be a better man because you're in my life. I want to give you everything.

When I first came out here and visited this land, something went through me...call it intuition, a feeling of some kind. I never felt this magnetic pull before with anything in my life other than wanting to be with you.

So, I walked around this valley for days and my mind opened up to all its possibilities. You may see the downside to it, but that's because you haven't opened yourself up to its potential.

There is so much we can achieve, together out here...it's insane, if you just give it a chance.

Please, let me drive through our valley, let me take you through my dream, let me show you everything I'm thinking and feeling about this place, all its possibilities, and if you don't see eye to eye with me on this, then guess what? You can sell it, we have thirty days, it's in the contract and everything's in your name like I said...you have full power over things and I did that because I need you to trust me and because I love you.

SELENA: It's in the contract?

VANCE: Yes.

SELENA: Thirty days?

VANCE: Yes, but we have twenty-seven days left to change our minds.

SELENA: Show me.

Selena goes back into the car.

Vance joins Selena in the car.

They drive off.

END OF PLAY