

Pop Reference

by

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Characters:

Amanda, ~21, She's a fast talker, who often cuts people off.

Taylor, ~23. He's usually a slow talker but uses chopped, brief sentences. There's a pause before almost every time he speaks.

Setting:

Present day Louisiana

For further understanding references, visit
<http://www.thecobrasnake.com/>

(It's NIGHT. AMANDA and TAYLOR are riding in a car. TAYLOR is driving. They on their to New Orleans.)

AMANDA

Hey, Taylor, is there something wrong?

TAYLOR

Mmm, don't think so.

AMANDA

Well, you haven't said anything to me the entire time you've been driving.

(beat)

You've been acting really weird all day. Like, *really* weird.

TAYLOR

What? No, I haven't. (beat) Have I?

AMANDA

Like, *really* weird.

TAYLOR

(beat)

There's a lot on my -

AMANDA

Oh, and you came home so late last night. Don't think I didn't notice: What were you doing? I know you weren't out drinking; the bars don't stay open that late.

TAYLOR

I was.

AMANDA

You were what? You missed the turn.

TAYLOR

Out drinking.

AMANDA

Where did you go?

TAYLOR

To Red Star.

AMANDA

Where?

TAYLOR

It's downtown. Elitist hipster joint. One of those places where everyone stares at you as soon as you walk in the door. They make you feel like you're too lame to be there, while they're almost too cool to be there themselves. No matter how many times you go there, you always get the same looks from the same people.

AMANDA

Huh. Green light.

I don't get it.

TAYLOR

I don't think we're supposed to. There was someone who thought she the female Cobrasnake that everyone was going crazy for.

AMANDA

What the hell are you talking about? What's a cobrasnake?

I stayed up for you last night.

TAYLOR

Oh... I'm s-

AMANDA

Who did you go with? Who was there?

TAYLOR

Um... don't know. Was hanging out with Brooks.

AMANDA

What? Brooks? Why?

TAYLOR

I don't know. Why not?

AMANDA

I don't know. Don't you think it's weird that you're drinking with my ex-boyfriend? I didn't know you guys were friends, that's all. *I* think it's weird. I didn't think you liked him.

TAYLOR

I don't know. S'not to like about him? *You* did at some point- there's something about him. Charming?

AMANDA

That's just weird.

TAYLOR

I mean, I didn't go with him; was there when I got there.

AMANDA

Wait, you said you went with him.

TAYLOR

What? Christ, No, I didn't.

AMANDA

(both become increasingly agitated)

Slow down. Yes, you did.

TAYLOR

No, I didn't. He was there. Look -it's not a big deal- can we talk about this when we get home?

AMANDA

No, we can't talk about this later. This is a weird story. (sigh) What time did you get home last night anyway? Slow down.

TAYLOR

I don't know. Late?

AMANDA

You're damn right, late o'clock. I freakin shaved my legs for you. I tried to look nice- I waited in bed for you, naked. Green light. (pause) Who else were you hanging out with? Will you please slow down?

TAYLOR

No one. It was pretty lame. Fucking karaoke night. The best thing that happened was someone doing "Baby Got Back". That and the Cobrasnake girl.

AMANDA

What the fuck is "cobrasnake"? You know what? I know you didn't get home before 4am last night. I got up to pee and you still weren't home. 4-freaking-AM! Did you know I called you like 5 times? I didn't want to be that crazy girlfriend but...

(beat)

So *why* did you get home so fucking late, Taylor? I know you weren't hanging out with Brooks the entire time. Were you hanging out with that photographer slut? Christine? Was she there? I swear to God, if you were with her...

(beat)

Taylor. *Taylor*. Was she there? Were you hanging out with her?

TAYLOR

Christ... No. (rolls eyes)

AMANDA

Oh my God. You were, weren't you? I cannot believe you. You told me- You promised it was over with her! Why?? Are you going to say something? - Slow the car down!

TAYLOR

Amanda, none of that happened.

AMANDA

Nonono. You told me it was over with her.

TAYLOR

Amanda, that's not-

AMANDA

Shut the fuck up you, asshole.

TAYLOR

I didn't. You're imagining things.

AMANDA

I try to be a good girlfriend. I try to not be a jealous girlfriend. But you're giving me this ridiculous story about hanging out with my ex, someone who you wouldn't ever hang out with, and going to a bar I've never heard of. I don't think any of that happened now.

You gave me this speech when I was hanging out with Brooks still -(Mocking) "You don't go home with other people.

You're not supposed to leave your girlfriend at home and fuck other people! You go out, come home, and fuck me. I don't care if you talk to another guy. I don't care if you think he's hot."

You bastard. I can't believe you cheated on me. Take me home. I want to go home. Stop the car. *Stop the car.*

TAYLOR

We're on the highway. We can't just turn around. Listen for a second, please.

AMANDA

No, I won't "listen for a second". You went back to your ex-girlfriend like some lost puppy. I hope you're happy. You just want to throw the past 8 months. Everything you told me, everything you wanted us to do. You just decided to throw it all away. With that fucking bitch! That worthless slut! She cheated on you! And now you cheat on *me* with her? I cannot believe it. I cannot believe it! Take me home! Just turn the car around. Right now! TAKE ME HOME!

TAYLOR

Okay, try to calm down.

AMANDA

No, I won't calm down! You stupid shit! AHH!!

TAYLOR

(long pause)

(calmy) Amanda, I hit someone on the way home the other night.

AMANDA

What? Shut the fuck up! No, you didn't.

TAYLOR

I was on the way home from the bar. I was pretty drunk. I was on Morning Glory and don't know what happened - someone jumped out in front of me or something.

AMANDA

You hit a pedestrian?!

TAYLOR

He came out of nowhere! Thank God I wasn't going very fast. I hit him with my front bumper.

AMANDA

What? Was he okay?

(pause)

Hey! Was he okay?!

TAYLOR

Well, He wasn't dead. When I left..

AMANDA

What?! You left? You hit him and you left?

TAYLOR

No, no. It's not like I just ran off. I pulled over as soon I could. He was slumped in the street. He was bleeding from his head and groaning. He was trying to talk but I couldn't understand him. I think he was drunk also. He might have been homeless.

AMANDA

Fucking shit! What did you do?

TAYLOR

I undid my shirt and tried to wrap his head up. There was so much blood. It was running down his face. Kind of like a dark red waterfall slowed by his eyebrows but running down

the side of his nose. Every time he breathed out, the blood would spray from the top of his mouth. It was almost better that he had been drinking; he probably would have been in more pain.

AMANDA

Oh my god. Oh my god.

TAYLOR

I tried to help him up but he started screaming. I couldn't tell if his leg or legs or hips were broken. I couldn't believe it. I was still very drunk. He was a big guy. I didn't know what to do- I tried to drag him to side of the street.

AMANDA

No, you didn't. Did you call the police??

TAYLOR

I couldn't! I was drunk! I would go to jail.

AMANDA

But -

TAYLOR

I really couldn't. I'm sorry.

AMANDA

I cannot believe this! Did you just leave him there?

TAYLOR

Well, I made sure he was far enough from the curb. I think I gave him a few dollars. He was groaning and rocking back and forth from the pain. I got into the SUV and drive home. By the time I got to the apartment, I was little more sober. I sat in my car for a long time. It felt like an hour. I couldn't believe what I just did. I wanted to call the police. Or 911- something, but I was scared it would get back to me.

AMANDA

Taylor, I don't what to say. I don't know. Do you know what happened to the guy?

TAYLOR

I don't know. I hope he's still alive. (beat) But do you know what the weirdest thing that happened?

AMANDA

What?

TAYLOR

Earlier that day, I saw Brooks leaving your apartment as I was pulling up. You said were just taking a shower. I kind of put two and two together.

AMANDA

Taylor, you're wrong-

TAYLOR

I don't care! Shut up. You've been sleeping together haven't you? You thought I've been banging Christine, but instead this whole time, you were banging Brooks. Christ. How long? How long, Amanda?

AMANDA

What do you mean how long?

TAYLOR

How long has this been going on? How long have you been fucking your ex-boyfriend Brooks?? Answer me!

AMANDA

1 weeks.

TAYLOR

What?! Just one week?

AMANDA

Two weeks.

TAYLOR

Christ, unbelievable. I cannot believe you had the nerve to think I was cheating on you, when you were doing exactly the same thing.

AMANDA

I'm sorry, Taylor-

TAYLOR

Shut up, you stupid bitch. I saw Brooks at Red Star last night. And I told him I knew. I told him I forgive him. I don't blame him. I feel people will continue to do things as long as they can get away with it. You guys would have continued fucking each other as long I didn't find out- but now that know, I don't care. I think its human nature. I drove home and hit that fucking homeless guy drunk and drove away. I almost killed him, but I'm pretty sure I got away. Christ.

AMANDA

I don't know what to say. I'm sorry.

TAYLOR

People will put up with the status quo as long as it benefits them. It's a sad thing. If I could continue to hit homeless drunks and get away with it, I would. If you could continue to fuck Brooks and date me, you would. It's human nature.

AMANDA

You're right, you're right..

TAYLOR

I've learned that lesson last night. You can continue doing whatever you want. Do you know what is the craziest thing about all this?

AMANDA

No, what?

TAYLOR

Almost everything that I told you about last was a lie. I could have gotten away with tell you a ridiculous, unbelievable lie. I did see Brooks leave your apartment. I know you two have been fucking. I went to Red Star. But I didn't see Brooks there, I didn't accidentally hit a hobo.

AMANDA

What?! I don't understand? What are you talking about?

TAYLOR

I was going to get away with this lie, but I don't want to now.

AMANDA

Taylor! What!

TAYLOR

I saw Christine last night. She was at Red Star taking photos. I went home with her. You and I have been getting away with our crappy relationship. It's over.