

Of Nothing PREVIEW

by

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EXT. OUTSIDE OF A CHURCH - DAY

A young woman in her early twenties stands outside of the church in the early hours of a cold morning in Hobart. Her name is SARAH. She has been waiting for it to open as she is homeless and in need of shelter and some food. Coming around the corner is an older in his late fourties man named DEAN who is in the same situation. Dean and Sarah have never met before.

DEAN

It's closed, I just went around the block and a few of the others are also. How can a church be closed?

SARAH

I know. I tried the one up near the park.

DEAN

Which one?

SARAH

I think its the one with guy on the horse statue.

DEAN

Yeah, Collins street church. They closed up early. Do you smoke?

SARAH

No, sorry.

DEAN

No thats fine, I was only asking if you wanted one.

SARAH

Thanks, I don't smoke anymore.

DEAN

Right.

DEAN

I can spot a tourist. How long have you been out here?

SARAH

A few days.

DEAN

I'm over it. I just need,

A bus pulls up the road.

DEAN

Bus is warm.

SARAH

It is. Where is it going?

They both walk towards the bus.

DEAN
Just to North Hobart.

SARAH
Where's that?.

DEAN
Up.

SARAH
Ha. Do you have the time? I should probably be off.

Dean pulls out a really flash phone and checks the time.

DEAN
Ten to six.

SARAH
Woolworths isn't even open.

Dean stands near the bus door finishing his smoke . Sarah keeps walking. Dean looks up the road at her walking away.

DEAN
Have a good one.

SARAH
Yeah, you too. Whats in North Hobart?

DEAN
Nothing. I was only going to see if the Salvos is open.

BUS DRIVER
I'm about to go mate.

DEAN
No worries.

Dean puts his ciggarette out and gets on the bus. The bus pulls away and takes off only down to the lights.

BUS DRIVER
Does your friend want to get on or not?

Sarah is walking fast back towards the bus.

DEAN
Can you let her on?

BUS DRIVER
Not really.

DEAN
Come on mate it's Christmas.

BUS DRIVER
It's September, she can get on.

He opens the door.

DEAN
Lift still availble.

SARAH
Cheers, sorry about that.

Sarah gets on the bus and sits across from Dean.

SARAH
North Hobart then.

DEAN
Yeah, the salvos might have something.

SARAH
Oh its warm on here.

DEAN
Yep. It goes to the top of lenah valley and goes through to glenorchy.

SARAH
You catch a lot buses.

DEAN
I do.

They sit in silence for a moment. The bus pulls over and picks a man up who is wearing a business suit and talking on a mobile phone. He sits on the back of the bus.

DEAN
He has the same phone as me.

SARAH
It's a nice phone.

DEAN
Yeah.

SARAH
Where did you...

DEAN
It does the job. What do you have?

SARAH
I don't have a phone.

DEAN

You don't have a phone? I thought all kids had phones these days.

SARAH

I've had a few, but no one to call so whats the point.

DEAN

True. I only use this one for emergencies.

SARAH

It's a nice phone.

DEAN

Yeah, it has a wifi. So I can use the internet.

SARAH

I haven't checked my facebook in that long.

DEAN

I hate facebook. But it is good to stay in touch with people.

SARAH

Yeah. I got sick of it, people always hassling you for this and that. Better off without it.

DEAN

True, but its good for seeing whats on.

Sarah nods.

SARAH

I went to the salvos the other day near home, they had moldy bread and tinned beetroot. I hate tinned beetroot.

DEAN

I will eat anything. Moldy bread and beetroot sandwiches.

SARAH

Ergh!

DEAN

You can't be picky. That said I wouldn't mind a mcmuffin. I don't even like maccas. I just like the mcmuffin.

SARAH

Yeah, I use to like going to there near home and getting receipts and taking them in and carrying on they forgot something you keep carrying on and they give you something eventually.

DEAN

Yeah right, that works?

SARAH

Yeah.

DEAN

Where did you get the receipts?

SARAH

Either keep them or...

DEAN

This is our stop I think.

SARAH

That wasn't far.

DEAN

Better than walking.

SARAH

Where's the salvos?

DEAN

Just up here.

The bus pulls over.

DEAN

Oh, I don't wanna get off.

SARAH

Me either. It's so cold out there.

They both get off the bus and walk up the road.

DEAN

I'm Dean by the way. But everyone calls me Diesel.

SARAH

Can I call you Dean?

DEAN

Yeah I suppose.

SARAH

I'm Sarah.

DEAN
You're not from here?

SARAH
Yeah, I'm from Launceston.

DEAN
Launnie girl aye? Why are you in
Hobart?

SARAH
Just having a look. I like it here.

DEAN
Where in Launceston are you from?

SARAH
North.

DEAN
What?

Sarah starts laughing at her own joke. Dean looks confused but shakes it off.

DEAN
Hopefully they aren't packed here.
Last time they had that many people
you could barely move.

They approach the salvos. They pass some workers who are cleaning the roads and emptying bins.

SARAH
Everthing is so clean down here.

DEAN
You reckon? They keep the nice
areas clean. Go out to Glenorchy
and its filthy. I was there seeing
a mate the other day and we saw a
rat the size of a possum.

SARAH
How do you know it wasn't a possum?

DEAN
It was rat.

SARAH
Could have been a possum.

DEAN
I doubt it. Here we go look at
this.

Outside the salvos there are a few people huddled around near a bin smoking. Dean and Sarah enter the Salvos.

DEAN

Oh its a bit warmer in here.

Dean and Sarah walk over to a shelf with some food items on them.

SARAH

Oh they have bread. Thats a good start.

DEAN

It's not moldy down here, we send the moldy stuff up to Launceston.

SARAH

Do you want a coffee?

DEAN

Just a tea. No milk. One sugar.

Sarah walks over to the drinks area and Dean grabs a loaf bread and puts it in his bag along with a tin of fruit and some small packs of butter and jams. He grabs a few for Sarah aswell. Dean sits down at a table and Sarah brings over the drinks.

DEAN

I'll grabbed you a few tins of beetroot ha!.

SARAH

Yeah thanks. Oh they have apples.

She runs over and grabs a few and puts them in her bag along with the bread and other things Dean grabbed her . She starts eating one. Dean butters a slice of bread.

DEAN

You were going to Woolworths.

SARAH

Yeah, I was going to get something to eat.

DEAN

What if you got caught.

SARAH

Caught doing my shopping?

DEAN

Oh sorry. I didn't mean it like that.

SARAH

I've never been caught shopping.

DEAN

Well you know what I meant

SARAH
Do you go shopping?

DEAN
What do you mean?

SARAH
Shopping. You know stealing.

DEAN
Oh, nah I can't even take a grape
without being paranoid.

SARAH
Do you get money?

DEAN
Only if I'm busking. I do alright
near the waterfront near Salamanca

SARAH
Busking? Where's your guitar?

DEAN
It was stolen.

SARAH
Oh, that sucks.

DEAN
It does.

SARAH
So you don't get any money.

DEAN
Not at the moment.

SARAH
You should get another guitar.

DEAN
I should.

SARAH
What music do you play?

DEAN
Anything and everything.

SARAH
Can you play any songs by
Nickleback?

DEAN
Nickleback. I don't know. I could
if I heard one of there songs.

SARAH
I like nickleback, taylor swift and
the bee gees.

DEAN
The Bee Gees?

SARAH
Yeah.

DEAN
I thought they would have been too
old for you.

SARAH
It doesn't matter how old you are.
I like old music.

DEAN
I don't really like the bee gees.
Disco.

SARAH
Were you a punk Dean?

DEAN
I wouldnt say punk.

SARAH
Then what? You've had your ears
pierced.

DEAN
I like punk music and had pierced
ears.

SARAH
Did you put saftey pins through
them.

DEAN
Yeah.

SARAH
Did you go to pubs and get spat on?

DEAN
I see where your going..

SARAH
Kind of funny that punks would put
saftey pins through their ears.
Saftey isn't really punk is it.

DEAN
I never use to clip mine, I was
hardcore.

SARAH

I could imagine. I tried piercing my nose when I was fourteen.

DEAN

You still look fourteen.

SARAH

I got the pin halfway through and it just bled and bled.

DEAN

That was stupid.

SARAH

I know, did you pierce yours?

DEAN

I got this one done at a tattoo shop.

SARAH

How punk of you.

DEAN

I had to beg my mum and she came with me on my birthday. It cost twenty bucks. My dad saw it and he said he wanted one. Next day he went in and got one too.

SARAH

My dad would have freaked out.

DEAN

He thought was the coolest thing. All his mates called him a poof but he didn't care.

SARAH

Well what about the other ear?

DEAN

I did that one myself.

SARAH

Did it hurt?

DEAN

I was too drunk to care. I woke up and my mates were laughing at me saying how much blood there was and how I was carrying on about wanting to look perfect. It ended up getting infected and it hurt so much, I remember walking down the street and every step rocked my ear and it hurt so bad.

SARAH

Moral of the story is don't drink.

DEAN

Moral of the story is stay drunk.

SARAH

I don't drink.

DEAN

You're drinking now.

SARAH

Yeah a coffee. Not vodka or.. I remember drinking goon when I was at a friends house. I drunk that much of it I passed out on his couch and woke up. Spewed everywhere. I had to clean it up. It was the worst.

DEAN

So you don't drink or smoke. Are you a christian?

SARAH

Ha, no.

DEAN

Are you sure? You were trying to go to church a moment ago.

SARAH

Trust me I don't believe in god.

DEAN

You might wanna keep that to yourself in here. The salvation army will be on to you.

SARAH

Send in their army. Convert me to believe in a spaghetti monster.

DEAN

What? Spaghetti Monster?

SARAH

Yeah. Aww. Don't worry. The churches are nice though. Especially down here.

DEAN

I like that one you were talking about. The one near the park. I'm not religious or anything, but I like going into them sometimes even when theres nothing on.

SARAH

Yeah same.

DEAN

I might go there today actually.

SARAH

Oh really?

DEAN

You can tag along if you like.

SARAH

I haven't got anything on.

DEAN

Alright then. I'm just going to the toilet and I will be out in a minute.

Sarah sits by herself. Nearby a really old homeless man walks by he is really rough looking but frail and goes to the shelf where the food is. He starts creating a fuss.

OLD MAN

The marmalade. Its rubbish. Its bloody rubbish. I wanted plum or bloody vegemite. Its not good enough is it. Is it!

A lady who is a volunteer walks over to try and help the man.

LADY

Are you alright sir?

OLD MAN

No, No Its not good.

LADY

Okay. Well do you want me to get you a cup.

OLD MAN

No, no its not good. Marmalade.

LADY

Okay, well we have peanut butter and some packs of honey

OLD MAN

Its not good. Jam. I want jam.

The old man pushes the lady. Sarah stands up and grabs a handful of jam packets.

SARAH

Hey, don't touch her.

LADY
Its fine sweetheart.

SARAH
I didn't mean to take them all. You
can take them all.

OLD MAN
Plum, or strawberry.

SARAH
Take them all.

OLD MAN
Yeah. Yeah. Good.

LADY
Are you okay sir?

The old man walks off.

SARAH
Are you okay?

LADY
I will be fine. Happens a lot
around here. He is a regular. Are
you okay darling?

SARAH
Yeah I'm okay.

LADY
Thats good. That other man you are
with, whats his name again?

SARAH
Dean.

LADY
Dean? Hmmm he's a regular too.
Keeps to himself mostly.

SARAH
He is a nice man.

LADY
He is. Now do you have enough?

Dean walks back in.

LADY
Hello.

DEAN
Hello.

LADY
I was just asking if you have
enough.

DEAN
I'm alright.

SARAH
Um, ...no its okay

LADY
What is it?

DEAN
You alright?

SARAH
Dean, I will be out in a minute.

DEAN
Okay...

Dean goes outside.

LADY
Whats wrong?

SARAH
I'm from launceston, I don't know
my way around Hobart. Could you
tell me where the nearest pharmacy
is?

LADY
Oh. Well the nearest one would be
near the mall back down at
elizabeth street. You are after the
clinic?

SARAH
Yes.

LADY
Okay, well we can organise a lift
to there if you like. Gregg is
taking a van to go to the bakery
for some more bread. Does your
friend need to go?

SARAH
Um. I might just walk down.

LADY
Okay. Its a fair walk about 30
minutes. It opens at eight.

SARAH
Thanks. Sorry about the jam.

LADY

I will be fine. It will take a bit more than a shove to hurt me.

SARAH

Bye

LADY

Bye

Sarah walks outside Dean is having a smoke.

DEAN

All good?

SARAH

Yeah. Oh man, Its not gonna warm up is it?

DEAN

Doesn't look like it.

They start walking.

DEAN

Next bus isnt for a bit. We could just walk?

SARAH

Sure. How far is the church?

DEAN

Not far.

SARAH

You didnt see what happened?

DEAN

I heard it. That was old Pat. He use to be a cop, I remember him when I was kid.

SARAH

A cop? Really?

DEAN

Yep. You wouldnt believe it would you.

SARAH

What happened to him?

DEAN

Don't know. Someone told me he was hit on the head while he was trying to arrest a drunk. He got brain damage lost his job.

SARAH
That's unreal.

DEAN
It can happen to anyone. Poor
bloke.

SARAH
Yeah. I don't like cops but that's
bad.

DEAN
You don't like cops?

SARAH
You do?

DEAN
I haven't been in trouble with the
cops.

SARAH
Ever?

DEAN
Ever. I just keep my head down.

SARAH
But you must have had run ins.

DEAN
Never been arrested. What about
you?

SARAH
I was arrested the other night for
hitting a girl.

DEAN
Whoa, you were in a fight?

SARAH
I didn't say fight. I hit her.

DEAN
What happened?

SARAH
She was in my face and I hit her.

DEAN
Fair enough.

SARAH
I got her good too. A few of her
friends got a cop and he arrested
me. I was so angry.

DEAN

You don't look like someone who would do that.

SARAH

Well... She was in my face.

DEAN

Yeah, but still.

SARAH

She was making fun of me. It was late. I was in a park up home, group of girls walk by. All drunk. Being loud and annoying. They come sit right down next to me. I was cool. Whatever. They start talking about me like I'm not there and the big fat one starts touching my leg. I tell her to stop it. She start braggin about being with girls. She goes to kiss me and I punched her. Really really hard.

DEAN

Yeah. Well I can understand that.

SARAH

Her friends run off screaming out of the park. I grabbed my bag ran to the other end of the park and theres a cop waiting for me. I tell him what happened. The other girls said I attacked them for no reason. He puts me in handcuffs and the girl says she wants to press charges. The cop says yes to everything she was saying because he had the hots for her and then tells me I could go to jail. I give him a bogey name.

DEAN

What name?

SARAH

The same name I always use.

DEAN

Yeah?

SARAH

Jill Dickey.

DEAN

You didn't?

SARAH

Haha. I did. That's my go to fake name.

DEAN

Jill Dickey is the worst name I've ever heard.

SARAH

It's not that bad. Jill Dickey is a bad bitch.

DEAN

Jill Dickey. So Jill gets charged?

SARAH

I told them I was only fifteen. They held me for the night and let me go in the morning. Now I'm in Hobart.

DEAN

Well, I feel scared now.

SARAH

Scared?

DEAN

I'm hanging around a regular thug.

SARAH

Oh, well keep yourself in line and I won't have to hurt you. Do you get dickheads down here?

DEAN

Oh yeah. They know to stay away from me.

SARAH

Is that right?

DEAN

Yep. I'm a black belt in origami.

SARAH

Ha! But really do you get along alright down here?

DEAN

I haven't had any trouble. Like I said, I keep my head down.

SARAH

Well I know its quiet in Tasmania, but there are some scary people.

DEAN

Oh yeah. I remember a few years back this old timer...

Dean trails off thinking about it.

SARAH

What?

DEAN

Well, this old bloke use to sleep near the park neat the fountain, one night some kids beat him up, they poured petrol on him, and set him a light. Evil

SARAH

Wow, thats horrible.

DEAN

It is. He tried jumping in the fountain. But it was too late.

SARAH

Thats so sad.

DEAN

I saw him around a bit too. He was a nice enough bloke. He died and made page two of the mercury.

SARAH

What happened? Did they get the kids?

DEAN

Yeah, they got one. He wouldn't dob in the others though. I remember every church being open and helping out. Food vans everywhere. The mayor was out talking about it and going out and about looking good for the news, he served me a bowl of soup when the cameras were on. Then a week goes by and its back to normal.

SARAH

I thought that kind of stuff happened in Sydney.

DEAN

Happens everywhere.

SARAH

Scary isn't it.

DEAN

It is.

SARAH

I don't even like getting a sunburn.

DEAN

Really?

SARAH

What? I wasn't joking. I have low pain threshold. If that girl punched me back I would be in hospital I reckon.

DEAN

So you aren't the tough Jill Dickey I thought you were.

SARAH

I'm a big baby. But I can skits out.

DEAN

Skits out. So don't get in your face.

SARAH

Don't get in my face.

DEAN

Noted.

SARAH

What about you. Been in a fight?

DEAN

I have.

SARAH

Well go on.

DEAN

I don't wanna talk about fighting.

SARAH

Oh go on. I'm sure you punks would go bash some mods.

DEAN

I was stupid kid with saftey pins in my ear. I use to get beat up regulary in school. One day I stood up for myself.

SARAH

Same, I loved going to school. I just couldn't stand the other kids they were all so mean. I got picked on all the time.

DEAN

Tell me about it. I left in grade nine.

SARAH

I finished school but I wagged that much I should have just dropped out.

DEAN

I liked going to school too.

SARAH

What were you good at?

DEAN

Music. But I wanted to be a scientist.

SARAH

Wow, A scientist? What would you have done as a Scientist?

DEAN

When I was about seven or eight I use to tell my dad was going to be a scientist and make gold and buy him anything he wanted.

SARAH

Awww, thats so cute.

DEAN

Yeah. Wish I did become a scientist.

SARAH

I wanted to be a chef.

DEAN

Well you can be still.

SARAH

I don't think thats gonna happen.

DEAN