

WAYS TO GO - Erinn Feltes

After the unexpected death of her best friend, Liz Tippit decides to walk to the Grand Canyon with a shopping cart in honor of the road trip they were supposed to take after graduation. Liz was in love with her best friend but was never able to admit it before Tessa's untimely death. Along the way Liz must survive the hardships of the road and find ways to process her grief and loss.

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By Erinn Feltes

1) INT. GROCERY STORE DAY

ELIZABETH TIPPIT (18) stands in front of rows of soup cans with a grocery cart. She cries silently. A WOMAN approaches the soups but sees Liz's tearstained face and backs away. Suddenly and unprompted, Liz wheels her still empty cart out of the store.

2) EXT. GROCERY STORE DAY

A determined Liz marches the shopping cart out of the store and past the parking lot.

3) EXT. LIZ'S HOUSE DAY

Liz pulls the empty shopping cart up to the outside of her house. She goes inside and returns with various food and camping supplies. She pauses, grabs a piece of paper and starts scribbling as she walks back up to the front of the house. She sticks the paper through the mailslot.

4) EXT. BORDER OF GULCH, KANSAS DAY

Liz passes a sign that reads, "Gulch, Iowa, Population 2,135" on her way out of town.

5) EXT. IOWA ROAD NEAR GULCH DAY

Liz's parents, AMY and PAUL pull up next to Liz as she walks with her cart. They slow down to argue with her as Liz continues to walk. Liz explains that she's walking to the Grand Canyon. Her parents are concerned with her safety, they try to convince her to come back home.

Her mother asks if she'll be back in time for college orientation. Liz thinks she'll be back in time at least for the start of college. Her mother is not happy.

Liz tells them she is 18 and they cannot stop her, she's made up her mind. She promises to call them every week and ultimately, though very concerned and skeptical of her ability, her parents have no choice but to let her go.

6) EXT. SPORTS STORE PARKING LOT DAY

Liz parks her cart outside of a sports store and disappears inside, emerging with more supplies to fill her cart.

7) INT. LIZ'S BEDROOM (FLASHBACK) DAY

Liz (16) and TESSA (16) lay on Liz's bed and discuss how they want to go on a Grand Adventure after graduation. Tessa is especially sad to be headed separate ways for colleges on opposite coasts. Liz comes up with the idea of a road trip to the Grand Canyon. Excited, Tessa immediately jumps on board.

8) EXT. VARIOUS ROADS IN MISSOURI DAY

Liz walks on busy highways and empty stretches of country backroads. Some people wave to her as they pass. A young child cheers for her as they zoom by.

9) EXT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM (FLASHBACK) DAY

Liz accepts her diploma at her high school graduation. When she sits back down there is an empty seat next to her that she avoids looking at. Tessa's parents, MR and MRS TILLERSON accept an honorary diploma for their recently deceased daughter. The principal calls Tessa's recent passing a tragedy.

10) EXT. VARIOUS ROADS IN MISSOURI AND KANSAS DAY

Liz struggles with her cart over rocks in her path, potholes, and gravel roads.

11) EXT. HILL IN MISSOURI DAY

Liz finds it difficult to push her cart up a steep hill.

12) EXT. HILL IN MISSOURI DAY

Liz struggles not to let her cart get away from her as she goes down a steep incline.

13) EXT. STRANGER'S HOME IN MISSOURI NIGHT

Liz knocks on a stranger's door and asks them to camp in their yard. Skeptical, but finding no harm in it, they let her.

14) EXT. ROAD IN KANSAS DAY

Liz walks on a small road shoulder and when a car passes too close to comfort Liz overcorrects and her cart goes off the road. She mutters angrily as she struggles to maneuver back to the road.

15) EXT. ROAD IN MISSOURI DAY

An exhausted and slow moving Liz limps along. One van with a family of four stops and asks her if she needs a ride. She declines.

16) EXT. STRANGER'S HOME IN KANSAS NIGHT

A stranger allows Liz to camp in her yard and warns her about coyotes and raccoons.

17) EXT. CAMPGROUND IN KANSAS DAY

Liz wakes up to ants crawling over her body. Disgusted she shakes them off. She eats an unappealing breakfast from a packet.

18) EXT. ROAD IN KANSAS DAY

A sweet and concerned couple offers Liz a ride. She declines.

19) EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT DAY

Liz scarfs down the hot meal. She plugs in her phone and calls her parents. She lies through her teeth as she tells her parents how easy the journey is going.

20) INT. LIZ'S TENT AT CAMPGROUND NIGHT

An exhausted and dirty Liz with tangled hair takes off her shoes, wincing. She rubs her feet. Her feet are swollen and covered in massive blisters of peeling skin.

21) EXT. ROAD IN KANSAS DAY

It's a hot summer day and Liz's lips are cracked and she hums a camp song to herself as she walks.

22) EXT. CAMPGROUND IN KANSAS NIGHT

Drained and tired, Liz eats a tasteless dinner out of a can. In the distance she spies two figures in front of a campfire.

23) EXT. GIRL SCOUT CAMP CAMPFIRE (FLASHBACK) DAY

Lined up alphabetically, Liz (9) and Tessa (9) are paired off as camp "buddies". Liz is shy but eventually opens up to Tessa's warm and talkative personality.

24) INT. GIRL SCOUT CAMP ART CABIN (FLASHBACK) DAY
Shy, Liz gives Tessa a friendship bracelet. Tessa loves it, she hugs Liz and tells her they'll be best friends forever.

25) EXT. CAMPGROUND IN KANSAS NIGHT
Liz still watches the campfire. She absentmindedly rubs her bare wrist. She goes to bed after fire dies.

26) INT. TENT DAY
Sore, Liz struggles to get out of bed. She grimaces as she sniffs her armpit.

27) EXT. ROAD IN COLORADO DAY
Liz encounters a two car pile up on a highway. Visibly spooked by the smoking cars Liz tries her best to avoid them. She meets a concerned police officer who offers to drive her into the next town. He means well, but ends up implying as a woman she'll be attacked or assaulted by men on the road. Liz declines the offer of a ride.

28) EXT. PLAYGROUND IN SMALL COLORADO TOWN DAY
Liz sits on a rusty swing and closes her eyes.

29) EXT. PLAYGROUND (FLASHBACK) DAY
Tessa (11) and Liz (11) try to get on a swing at recess but the girls using the swings don't want to share. One of the girls makes fun of Liz for being quiet. Tessa stands up for Liz when Liz makes no attempt to respond. The girls leave and Tessa and Liz swing as they talk about wanting to go on a Grand Adventure when they're older. Two boys that are friends of Tessa's, run up and distract Tessa from the conversation. Liz frowns.

30) EXT. PLAYGROUND IN SMALL COLORADO TOWN DAY
Liz leaves the swing and fills up her water bottle nearby. She calls the local police station and gets the officer from before. Her tells her the best place to camp. He again expresses his concern for her safety.

31) INT. TENT NIGHT
Liz attempts to get comfortable on the hard ground.

32) INT. TESSA'S BEDROOM (FLASHBACK) NIGHT

Liz (12) and Tessa (12) play MASH under their covers, whispering so as not to alert Tessa's parents. Tessa makes plans for their future. This makes Liz happy until Tessa starts talking about the boys she got for her MASH results.

33) INT. TENT NIGHT

Wide awake, Liz pulls her blanket over her head and closes her eyes.

34) EXT. ROAD IN COLORADO DAY

A bored Liz runs through the multiplication table as she walks on an empty country back road. She has a run in with two rattlesnakes that requires her to wait out them out for a couple of hours as they get between her and her cart. It's dark by the time she retrieves her stuff.

35) EXT. ROAD IN COLORADO NIGHT

Liz encounters a creepy man on the road that offers her a ride and a place to stay for the night, mentioning that he lives near the campground. Uncomfortable by the man's presence, Liz declines. After a few tense moments, he leaves.

36) EXT. FORESTED AREA NIGHT

As Liz approaches the town she sets up camp on the edge of town, ignoring the sign towards the campground. She's on edge and unsettled.

37) EXT. ROAD IN COLORADO DAY

Liz meets a group of college kids in a broken down van. One of the kids is making a documentary about their road trip from Florida to the Grand Canyon. They film a segment of Liz. When asked why she's choosing to walk to the Grand Canyon, Liz can't really express a good reason. Liz hangs out with the group for a bit, enjoying their company but eventually has to leave. The filmographer tosses her one of their beer cans and the group wishes her good luck. She continues walking.

38) EXT. HOUSE PARTY (FLASHBACK) NIGHT

Liz (18) and Tessa (18) are about to go to a house party. Liz tries to back out but in the end Tessa convinces Liz to come with her. Tessa is excited to see the boy she might have a thing with.

39) INT. HOUSE PARTY LIVING ROOM (FLASHBACK) NIGHT

Liz sips on a beer, having a terrible time while Tessa happily dances. Tessa finally notices Liz's bad mood and drags her onto the

dance floor. Liz is resistant and self-conscious at first but in the end she lets loose and joins in. After a little while, Liz having the time of her life, notices Tessa is not with her anymore. She finds Tessa making out with a boy at the edge of the dance floor. Liz storms out.

40) EXT. HOUSE PARTY (FLASHBACK) NIGHT

Fuming, Liz sits on the porch outside the party. Tessa comes out and finds her. They fight. Liz is upset with Tessa but can't articulate a good reason why. Tessa doesn't understand why Liz is being a killjoy. They blow up at each other. Tessa asks Liz why she had such a problem with her making out with that boy. Jealous, Liz avoids the question and tells off Tessa for throwing herself at any boy that crosses her path. In the end, Tessa tells Liz she's just baggage pulling her down and Liz tells Tessa she's the class whore, throwing herself at boys and that she's glad they're not going to the same college.

41) EXT. ROAD IN COLORADO DAY

Liz kicks the beer can away and thunder rumbles in the distance. She sighs and goes to pick the can back up.

42) EXT. ROAD IN COLORADO DAY

Rain pours down on Liz as she walks. A gust of wind sends her stuff flying and she loses her tent to the wind. It starts to hail. Liz tries to find shelter under a tarp. The wind takes that too and Liz screams a curse up at the sky.

43) EXT. ROAD IN COLORADO DAY

The storm subsides somewhat and a miserable Liz huddles under a wet blanket that does little to protect her.

44) INT. LIZ'S KITCHEN (FLASHBACK) DAY

Liz (18) is practicing a phone call she wants to give Tessa. It's going poorly. She mentions "a moment" between the two of them in Tessa's yard. Liz calls Tessa but it is her mother who answers. Tessa's mother tells Liz that Tessa has died in a car accident. Tessa's mother sobs as she gives the news. Liz sinks to the ground, devastated. She painfully wails and starts sobbing as Liz's mother runs over to comfort her.

45) EXT. ROAD IN COLORADO DAY

A beat up truck pulls up in the rain and GEORGE BRENNAN (78) offers Liz a ride out of this weather. Liz hesitates, torn, but ultimately takes his offer.

46) INT. GEORGE'S CAR DAY

Liz doesn't talk much at first but eventually she warms up to George. George has a picture of him and his wife, deceased as of three years ago stuck to his dashboard. He talks to Liz about his wife and his grief over her death. Liz opens up just a tiny bit about her own grief over Tessa's death. George listens with a comforting ear. He offers Liz his covered porch for the night.

47) INT. GEORGE'S HOUSE NIGHT

Liz enjoys a home cooked meal and a shower at George's house. They both enjoy each other's company. Liz heads to bed. She gazes up at the stars through the screen of the porch.

48) EXT. TESSA'S HOUSE (FLASHBACK) NIGHT

Liz (18) rings the doorbell at Tessa's (18) house. No one answers and she turns to leave when the door opens. Liz apologizes to Tessa for her actions at the house party. Tessa is cold and unforgiving at first. Liz offers up a bottle of her parents alcohol that she stole. Tessa thaws and offers her own apology to Liz for her words. She invites Liz in.

49) EXT. TESSA'S YARD (FLASHBACK) NIGHT

Liz and Tessa are firmly drunk as they stargaze in Tessa's backyard. They play a game of MASH for old times sake. When Liz turns her head to Tessa, Tessa reaches out for Liz's hand and tension builds as they are close enough for a kiss. The pressure breaks when Tessa turns her head back to the sky to answer the question Liz asked a minute ago. Disappointed but also relieved, Liz also looks up to the sky. They still hold hands.

50) INT. GEORGE'S COVERED PORCH NIGHT

Still looking up at the stars, Liz turns her face away and goes to sleep.

51) INT. GEORGE'S FOYER DAY

In the morning George says goodbye and gives Liz his old tent and money for the road. Liz tries to decline but he won't have it. He tells her to send a postcard from the Grand Canyon and wishes her the best. Liz gives him a big hug before leaving.

52) EXT. ROAD NEAR COLORADO/UTAH BORDER DAY
It's a beautiful day and with renewed vigor Liz sets out walking. After only a moment she finds holes in her shoes.

53) EXT. PEMBERTON, COLORADO CITY EDGE DAY
Liz walks into the small city of PEMBERTON, Colorado, limping from her worn out shoes.

54) EXT. SHOE STORE PARKING LOT DAY
Liz parks her cart and slings on her large camping backpack. A couple of stores down a group of teenage hooligans bum around.

55) INT. SHOE STORE DAY
Liz finds the same pair of shoes. At the checkout counter she meets JACK (20). Jack shamelessly flirts with Liz and Liz is awkward at her attentions, yet flattered. Jack throws in an extra pair of socks. Liz tells Jack her name and leaves with a small smile on her face. She throws her old pair away.

56) EXT. SHOE STORE PARKING LOT DAY
Barefoot, Liz exits the store to find her cart is gone.

57) EXT. GROCERY STORE PARKING LOT DAY
Angrily Liz searches through the carts of the parking lot next door to the shoe store. As Jack closes up the shoe store she offers to help Liz find her cart and the rest of her stuff. Jack thinks her cousin and his group of friends had something to do with it.

58) EXT. TARGET PARKING LOT DAY
Jack drives Liz to a nearby Target and sure enough the group of teens, including Jack's cousin DEAN are there. The teens are jousting with shopping carts and Liz recognizes her cart. Jack demands Liz's stuff back but they deny taking it. Liz steps in and offers to joust them for her stuff. The boys agree but say that if they win they have to buy them alcohol. With Jack pushing the cart, Liz wins the joust. She and Jack celebrate their victory. Jack invites Liz out.

59) INT. JACK'S CAR PARKED IN DIVE BAR #1 PARKING LOT NIGHT
Jack with an extra fake ID tries to convince Liz to use it to get into the bar. Liz is afraid of getting caught with a fake.

60) EXT. DIVE BAR #1 NIGHT

A nervous Liz fumbles her way through the ID check at the bar door and ecstatic, turns to Jack to celebrate her success.

61) INT. DIVE BAR #1 NIGHT

Jack buys Liz her first drink and Liz downs it. They buy more drinks.

62) EXT. DIVE BAR #2 NIGHT

Confident and drunk, Liz gets through the bouncer at a second bar with her fake ID with no problem.

63) INT. DIVE BAR #2 NIGHT

Drunk, Liz and Jack sing an 80's ballad at the bar's karaoke night. The end the song right up in each other's personal space, smiling.

64) INT. 24/7 CONVENIENCE STORE NIGHT

Liz and Jack buy a variety of gummy snacks.

65) EXT. 24/7 CONVENIENCE STORE NIGHT

As they exit the store they try to catch the gummies in their mouths, failing miserably.

66) EXT. BACK OF JACK'S TRUCK NIGHT

Liz and Jack sit and chat in the back of Jack's truck. They talk about their respective futures. Liz talks about how this summer should have been spent preparing for college and she'll definitely miss her orientation if not the first couple weeks of school. Jack talks about how she's currently stuck in life and doesn't want to work in a shoe store forever. Jack tells Liz she should try to make her orientation and shouldn't sacrifice that for her past. Jack kisses Liz. Liz responds. After a few moments Liz breaks it off and rests her head on Jack's chest. Jack puts her arms around her.

67) EXT. BACK OF JACK'S TRUCK DAY

Jack and Liz wake up. They look a complete mess. Jack hums a snatch of the song they sang at karaoke and Liz laughs.

68) EXT. EDGE OF PEMBERTON DAY

Jack and Liz part ways. Slightly hesitant, Liz initiates a kiss. Jack offers to skip work and drive Liz the rest of the way to the Grand Canyon. Liz declines. Jack gives her a coupon for the shoe store she works at in case she walks home. Liz asks for Jack's address and tells Jack she'll send her a postcard. They say goodbye.

69) EXT. ROAD OUTSIDE OF PEMBERTON DAWN
Liz walks out of town as the sun rises in the distance.

70) EXT. VARIOUS ROADS IN COLORADO, UTAH, ARIZONA DAY
A determined and cheerful Liz walks as she hums a camp song to herself.

71) EXT. CAMPGROUND IN ARIZONA NIGHT
Liz efficiently sets up camp for the night. She falls asleep immediately.

72) EXT. TOWN IN ARIZONA NIGHT
Liz calls her parents and lets them know that she is close to the Grand Canyon. Her mother wants to know if she's going to be walking back because if so she'll miss orientation for sure. Liz makes up her mind that she wants to be at college for the early engineering orientation and tells her mom she'll handle it. Her parents express their concern.

73) EXT. VARIOUS ROADS IN ARIZONA (MONTAGE) DAY/NIGHT
Liz walks day and night. She goes to bed late and wakes up early.

74) EXT. ROAD IN ARIZONA NIGHT
Heat exhaustion hits Liz as she passes a sign for the Grand Canyon, 40 miles away. She is forced to set up camp and rest earlier than she would like.

75) INT. TENT NIGHT
Exhausted, Liz sets up camp. She goes to bed and pulls the blankets over her head.

76) INT. LIZ'S BEDROOM NIGHT
Looking like a flashback, Liz (18) and Tessa (18) whisper underneath a blanket. Close enough to kiss, their laugh trails off and an intimate silence descends between them. Looking into her eyes, Liz tells Tessa that she loves her as more than a friend. Tessa asks Liz why she didn't say that when she was alive.

77) INT. TENT NIGHT
Liz wakes up, head still under her blanket. It is early morning and still dark out but Liz is too unsettled to sleep. She packs up camp and heads out.

MASH

78) EXT. ROAD IN ARIZONA DAWN

Liz passes a sign for the Grand Canyon 15 miles away as morning breaks.

79) EXT. TICKET BOOTH AT GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK DAY

Liz walks up to the ticket station. She tells the attendant how she walked from Iowa. Impressed, the attendant lets her into the park for free.

80) EXT. GRAND CANYON EDGE DAY

Liz slowly approaches the edge of the Grand Canyon with her cart. She stares at the view for a few moments with a blank expression before abruptly turning the cart around in the opposite direction. Once she's a good distance away, Liz stops and turns back around facing the canyon. She empties her supplies out of the cart. She suddenly takes off in a run. As she nears the edge Liz SCREAMS and pushes the cart off the edge. Liz falls to the ground as she watches its descent.

81) EXT. GRAND CANYON DAY/DUSK

Liz sits overlooking the canyon all day. The sun sets in the distance as she gets up to leave.

82) EXT. GRAND CANYON SOUVENIR SHOP NIGHT

Liz calls her parents and asks if they can come pick her up. Her mother laughs and surprises her with a plane ticket, calling it their graduation gift. Liz will make it back in time for orientation with a couple of days to spare to get ready for college.

83) INT. PLANE DAY

Lize stares out of the window as the plane leaves the ground.

84) INT. THOMPSON KITCHEN DAY

Mrs. THOMPSON sorts through her mail. She finds a postcard from the Grand Canyon and calls her husband over. She cries as she reads.

85) EXT. GEORGE'S MAILBOX DAY

George opens his mailbox and finds a postcard from the Grand Canyon inside. He smiles as he reads. He hangs the postcard on his fridge.

86) INT. JACK'S LIVING ROOM DAY

JACK'S BROTHER carries the mail into Jack's house and announces the postcard from the Grand Canyon. Jack runs and grabs it out of his hands. She shoves her sibling off to the side, and grins as she reads. Liz has written her phone number in the post script.

87) INT. LIZ'S PARENT'S CAR DAY

Liz is in the car with her parents. Her mother looks back at Liz and smiles. She squeezes Liz's hands and lets go. Liz puts her forehead against the window and watches the world zoom by.