

THE NEXT STOP

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FADE IN:

We hear cars speeding by.

EXT. BUS STOP- DAY

It's a rainy day. There is a glass bus stop that has "quit smoking" advertisements all over it. Lilian, 78, a pale old woman that seems to never smile, is standing waiting for the bus on the curb. She is holding yellow daisies that are drenched because of the rain.

She checks her tiny gold watch on her veiny arm, which takes her close to a minute to read.

Cars are flying by and a black stretch limo splashes Lilian causing her to panic. She checks her hand to confirm that her wedding ring is still on her wrinkly finger.

ANGLE on the people behind her waiting inside the bus stop giggling about what had just happened.

Lilian wipes the water off of herself while angrily shaking her head. She checks her watch again.

The bus pulls in and everyone from inside the bus stop rushes to the bus door. Lilian ends up at the back of the line and slowly walks to the front while watching teenagers cut the line. She looks around to see if other people are as mad as she is.

Just before it was her turn to walk onto the bus... Jason, a high school kid with shaggy dark hair and fair skin, slips in front of Lilian. He walks onto the bus before her and does not look back.

INT. BUS- DAY

Lilian bitterly walks on the bus. She makes eye contact with the bus driver, 56, who constantly smiles really big that it just comes off as creepy.

BUS DRIVER

Hi Ms. Lilian.

Lilian nods, pays her fare and begins to search for a seat.

She walks behind Jason who is carrying a dirty black

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backpack that he keeps checking to see if it's shut. Lilian's legs are getting tired so she begins to walk slower and slower.

She sees one spot in the back and continues to walk towards it.

As she walks, she constantly rubs her wedding ring back and forth.

We see an old married couple holding hands and smiling at each other. Lilian stares longingly and mumbles something under her breath then whips her head in the other direction.

We now see a young couple where the girl is not paying attention to the boy. She has a miserable look on her face while the boy is attempting to engage in conversation. Lilian shakes her head and continues to walk behind Jason with her head down.

Just as she was going to sit in the last open spot on the bus... yet again it's Jason beating her to it.

She can't catch a break.

Lilian glances at Jason with a disgusted face but Jason turns his head and stares out the window.

Lilian grasps onto the yellow grimy pole and bitterly stands next to Jason. She stands there and doesn't let a minute go by without making an angry sigh.

She looks forward and notices all the non-smoking advertisements. There are STOP SMOKING advertisements on the windows as well as SMOKING KILLS advertisements on the sides next to the bus maps.

While she was thoroughly analyzing the advertisements, the bus made a harsh stop.

Lilian falls forward and drops her daisies.

SWISH PAN the bus.

Once she regained balance she goes to pick up her already wet daisies that had now been stepped on.

She grabs her flowers on the ground and returns to where she

was standing. There is almost fire coming out from her ears. She glares at Jason.

Jason looks up at her with a blank face then reaches in his backpack to get his phone. As he unzips the backpack, Lilian spots there are bottles that could potentially be graffiti cans. Lilian begins looking around to see if anyone else sees what she sees. It's just her. She is silently freaking out.

Jason is on his Iphone scrolling through text messages. We see messages from his Mom saying "Where are you J. Come home now." He begins typing to her then deletes his message.

CLOSE UP on the sign saying NEXT STOP: FAIRFIELD LANE. Lilian looks around to see where the nearest STOP button is.

She watches Jason pull down the yellow string. He gets up, nods his head at Lilian and walks towards the front of the bus.

She takes a deep breath and closes her eyes for a second.

BUS DRIVER

(yelling into the microphone)

OK FOLKS, WE ARE HERE AT FAIRFIELD
LANE. HOPE NOT TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE
GETTING OFF HERE.

Lilian walks to the front of the bus and lines up to get off. She's behind Jason, yet again. She looks down and sees that his shoelace is undone. Right when they reach the front of the line, he bends down to tie it.

Lilian tries to get around him but he stands back up and knocks Lilian's daisies out of her hand. She runs to gather the daisies as quickly as she can. However, she stands up and suddenly realizes that the bus is moving.

Through the windows on the doors, she spots Jason outside walking away. Lilian rolls her eyes and starts to take very angry deep breaths.

She heatedly waits for the next stop.

CLOSE UP on NEXT STOP: GRENICH BOULEVARD lit up in red.

The bus comes to a harsh stop again. Lilian keeps her

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balance this time and squeezes her destroyed flowers.

The doors gradually open and Lilian stomps out.

EXT. SIDEWALK-DAY

She begins walking on the wet polluted sidewalk. She looks up and it seems as if the sidewalk goes on forever.

She looks back down and fiddles with her wedding ring...again. This time her wedding ring flies off her hand and lands in a puddle. She angrily mumbles to herself while picking it up and puts the ring in her pocket.

We see a short, steep stair case ahead that leads to a grassy area.

At the bottom of the stairs she stops and takes a deep breath. She puts one hand on the decrepit railing and the other hand holds what were once her beautiful daisies.

She walks up the stairs with her head down and her hair covering her face however we hear sniffing.

Once she reaches the top of the stairs she looks up and we see countless tombstones and no one in the distance.

EXT. CEMETERY-DAY

We follow Lilian slowly walk on the gravel pathway.

We see her black, wet boots with leaves stuck to the bottom of them. She turns into a particular non-paved path and puts her head down. She begins walking between tombstones like she knows her way around this place.

She finally arrives to a large dark grey tombstone.

PAN UP from her shoes to the tombstone.

She stands there staring and not blinking. It's dead silent.

From a distance, we suddenly hear crinkling leaves. Lilian turns to see what it is. It's Jason.

There is Jason sobbing on his knees in front of a tombstone.

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CLOSE UP on Jason and the tombstone revealing that it was his father, who was a street artist, died recently.

Jason looks up at the tombstone and sees something in his peripheral vision. He turns to see Lilian standing there looking at him.

There is a still moment of them staring at each other.

Jason looks back at his father's tombstone and continues to sob into his hands. Lilian gradually walks over and puts her hand on his back.

He looks up at Lilian and she holds out her daisies for him to take one.

Jason stands up and they immediately hug. For a moment Lilian stares at the tombstone and sees that the graffiti bottles she once saw were placed beside the tombstone.

LILIAN

I'm sorry.

We see a high angle shot of Lilian and Jason hugging in an empty cemetery.

THE END.