

SPARE

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. STREET CORNER - DAY

Everything is grey and cold. JOE (mid-40s) is homeless. He rarely lifts his head up, and when he does it is to sneer at the people who walk by without giving him the time of day.

He is sitting, cross-legged, on the ground with his head down, shaking a cup.

JOE

Spare change. Spare change.

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR - DAY

TOMMY (6) is in a stroller that he has clearly outgrown. He is being pushed by his Brazilian au pair, GIGI (50), while his mom, Gwyn (39), walks briskly in front of them both. His mom stops in front of Barneys and turns back to Gigi and Tommy.

GWYN

Gigi, stay here with Thomas. The spring line just arrived and I would like to check out the fur. I should only be a few minutes.

As she turns to go inside, she notices Joe sitting on the other side of the sidewalk. She looks at him for a second, then bends down to talk to Tommy.

GWYN (CONT'D)

Now, Thomas, see that man sitting over there? He is a dirty bum. And what has Mommy taught you about talking to dirty bums?

TOMMY

To not talk to them.

GWYN

That's a good boy! I'll see you in a little, okay?

TOMMY

Okay Mommy.

Gwyn gives Tommy a kiss on the forehead and walks into the store.

Tommy starts to survey his surroundings, wide-eyed as always. His eyes eventually fixate on Joe for a few seconds before Gigi snaps her fingers in front of his face.

GIGI

Tommy! Hey! Are you listening to me boy?

Tommy looks up for a second.

TOMMY

Yeah.

GIGI

You know, boy, you should really tell her you like to be called Tommy. I know she can be stubborn, but she would probably understand.

TOMMY

Okay. But I don't want her to be mad.

Tommy looks back over to Joe.

GIGI

I know your mother can be hot-headed sometimes, but-

Gigi cuts herself off as she notices a traffic cop writing a ticket next to the family's custom Range Rover on the other side of the street. She yells a few curse words in Portuguese.

She starts to run towards the car, but stops herself after a few feet and looks back at Tommy, still in his stroller, then at the front doors of Barneys, and then back at Tommy.

GIGI (CONT'D)

Uh... Just uh.. Stay there Tommy, okay? I just have to take care of something real fast.

She runs across the street yelling towards the cop.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

GIGI

Hey! What do you think you're doing?

POLICE OFFICER
It is illegal to park her ma'am.

GIGI
No, you don't understand. I-

CUT TO:

EXT. STRETT CORNER - DAY

Tommy watches Gigi yelling at the police officer, and looks around the street. He gets out of his stroller, stretches, and yawns.

This causes Joe to look up for a second. There is little sidewalk traffic as he sees Tommy standing there, alone. He puts his head back down, but speaks loudly enough for Tommy to hear.

JOE
Hey kid, got any change?

Tommy quickly looks away.

TOMMY
My mom says I'm not supposed to talk to people like you.

Joe looks back up to see Tommy's Ralph Lauren sweater vest and boat shoes. He gives a half-hearted chuckle and looks back down. He starts shaking his cup again.

JOE
Never mind.

Tommy looks at Joe for a few seconds, then looks into Barneys, then looks back at Joe. He takes a step forward.

TOMMY
Why are you a dirty bum?

Joe looks up.

JOE
What did you just call me?

TOMMY
Well my mom tells me not to talk to dirty bums and you are one so I just want to know why.

JOE
I swear if you call me a bum one
more time...

TOMMY
But you are one, right? You look
dirty and-

Tommy sniffs the air.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
You're very smelly.

JOE
You better get outta here, kid,
before I start getting mad.

Tommy takes another couple steps forward. He is now only a
few feet from Joe.

TOMMY
Like where is your house and your
Gigi?

JOE
My Gigi?

TOMMY
Yeah!

JOE
What the hell is that?

TOMMY
You know, like someone who cooks
you dinner and lunch sometimes and
who takes care of you when your mom
isn't home?

Joe sighs and shakes his head.

JOE
You should really leave.

TOMMY
But I'm just wo-

JOE
Hey! You deaf, kid? Get outta here!

Tommy turns around and starts to walk away. Joe lowers his
head and starts to shake his cup again.

Tommy looks over his shoulder back at Joe, then turns around, darts over to Joe and plucks a coin out of his cup. Joe looks up.

JOE (CONT'D)

What the-

Tommy starts running around Joe in little circles, laughing.

JOE (CONT'D)

That's my money you little shit!

Joe tries to get up, but winces in pain and plops back down on the ground. He starts grabbing for Tommy but can't quite reach him.

JOE (CONT'D)

Alright fine keep the fucking quarter. I don't care.

Joe grabs his cup and begins to shake it again. Tommy stands right next to Joe and giggles.

JOE (CONT'D)

What. What the fuck do you wan-

TOMMY (GIGGLING)

You said a bad word!

JOE

What? Well, yeah, but-

TOMMY

Hey wanna see a magic trick?

JOE

What?

Tommy does the classic coin trick. He pretends to grab the coin with his right hand, then, after showing that the coin was not in that hand, it seems as if he takes the coin out from behind Joe's ear with his left.

Joe looks at Tommy, who is beaming.

JOE (CONT'D)

Look, kid, you already took my money now can you just get outta here before I start gettin pissed?

TOMMY

Wanna see it again?

JOE
No! Now get the fuck-

Passers by start to look at Joe yelling at Tommy so Joe takes a deep breath and lowers his voice.

JOE (CONT'D)
Okay. I don't know what you're doing here, but I'd suggest you run back home and do your homework or somethin.

TOMMY
Gigi says if I practice my magic, I could be a magician one day.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

POLICE OFFICER
It doesn't matter, it is still illegal.

GIGI
Illegal my ass! I work and I work just to keep-

A tow truck pulls in behind the car.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Oh no you don't! You are not taking this car!

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET CORNER - DAY

Joe looks at Tommy, looks around at the people on the street, then back at Tommy.

JOE
You ain't gonna be no damn magician.

TOMMY
Why?

JOE
Because.

TOMMY

Why?

JOE

Because!

TOMMY

Because why?

JOE

Because leave me alone, that's why.

TOMMY

Why?

JOE

Kid, I swear to god-

Joe realizes that he is yelling again and takes another deep breath as he looks at the people on the street.

JOE (CONT'D)

Listen, kid, and listen carefully, cause imma give it to you straight. There are two roads in life to go down. The upper road and the lower road. The upper road is for all the rich sons of bitches and the lower road is for all the rest of us. And there aint nothing us driving down the lower road can do to get onto the upper one. Aight? Hell, I even wanted to be a singer back in the day. I was in a few bands. Mostly jazz stuff. And I worked my ass off, too. But I'm tellin ya, there's nothing we can do. We're stuck here, and not one of them on the upper road gives a shit. Forget Gigi, I haven't eaten anything in two days!

Joe puts his head down. He sniffles.

JOE (CONT'D)

Two days. You're not gonna be a god-damn magician, and if you don't get out of my way soon you're gonna wish you never asked.

Joe looks at Tommy.

JOE (CONT'D)

Sorry, kid.

TOMMY

It's okay mister. Don't be sorry.

Tommy walks a couple feet from Joe then stops in the middle of the sidewalk. Joe watches him for a second, then puts his head back down and starts shaking his cup again.

A young couple in their twenties, PETER and MAGGIE, approach TOMMY. Maggie has a baby strapped to her chest while Peter looks like he just walked out of J. Crew.

MAGGIE

Hey sweetie, is your mom or dad here?

TOMMY

Yeah, my mom is inside. I'm just waiting here.

PETER

Okay, want us to wait here with you until she comes back?

TOMMY

No that's okay. Wanna see a magic trick.

MAGGIE

Of course we do!

Tommy does the trick, much to the delight of Maggie, Peter, and the baby.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Oh, how cute are you! Looks like we have the next Harry Houdini here don't we? Can you do it again for us?

Tommy does the trick two more times, taking the coin out from behind the baby's ear the final time. By then, he had managed to garner a small crowd of about 10 people watching him do his trick. Even Joe had to stop shaking his cup and look up to see what all the commotion was about.

After a nice round of applause, the crowd disperses, all quietly mumbling with smiles on their faces.

Tommy, smiling as usual, starts to walk back to Joe.

Joe quickly puts his head back down and goes back to begging.

JOE

Spare change. Spare change.

Tommy walks right up next to him.

TOMMY

Did you see that mister?! That was awesome!

JOE

How many times do I have to tell you to get lo-

TOMMY

And look!

Tommy pulls out a small stack of money, looks to be about 10 dollars.

Joe looks up. His mouth drops slightly.

JOE

They gave you that? Those people?

Tommy nods.

JOE (CONT'D)

For what you did?

Tommy nods. Joe looks in his cup of coins, then back at Tommy's small stack of bills. He stares at Tommy and his money for a few seconds. Finally, he lowers his head.

JOE (CONT'D)

Good for you, kid.

TOMMY

You can have some if you want! Here.

Tommy starts to put a few dollars in Joe's cup but Joe suddenly grabs Tommy's arm and yanks it down towards him, causing Tommy to drop the money.

JOE

Kid. Stop.

TOMMY

Ow!

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

POLICE OFFICER

Ma'am, I understand, but I simply cannot-

GIGI

Oh you understand? You do not understand in the slightest, buddy boy. This is my life we are talking about here, and-

Gigi looks up to see Tommy getting grabbed by a man she does not know.

GIGI (CONT'D)

Hey! Tommy!

She runs towards Tommy and Joe.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET CORNER - DAY

TOMMY

Hey let me go!

GIGI

Hey! You let go of my boy!

Joe lets go immediately. He looks back down on the ground. Gigi picks Tommy up.

GIGI (CONT'D)

Are you okay, sweetie?

TOMMY

Yeah.

Gigi looks at Joe.

GIGI

Shame on you, hurting a young boy like that. I'm going to call the police immediately! At least in a jail cell you'll have a roof over your head.

TOMMY

No, it's okay! Really! He didn't hurt me. We were just talking.

GIGI

I don't care what you were doing, I want him gone. You hear me? Get up and leave! Or else I'm going to-

Gigi looks back over to the car, where the tow truck is starting to pull away with the car.

GIGI (CONT'D)

Shit! Shit shit shit!

Gigi drops Tommy and runs away, yelling after the car.

Tommy walks back up to Joe.

TOMMY

That was mean. And it did kind of hurt.

Tommy rubs his arm and begins to pick up the fallen money from the ground Joe keeps his head down.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

It's okay, though. Gigi says that you always have to put the past in the past and move on, or else I'll end up sad and alone.

Joe slowly looks up at Tommy. Tommy picks up the last bill and looks at Joe.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

You know, I can teach you the trick if you want. I bet you'd be much better at it than me. You've got a lot more coins plus you're already a grown-up!

Joe's eyes are fixated on Tommy.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

And guess what?

Tommy looks around.

TOMMY (WHISPERING) (CONT'D)

It's not really magic, ya know.

Joe does not succeed in holding back a smile. He sighs.

JOE

Alright kid, how do you do it?

Tommy smiles and holds up the coin.

TOMMY
Okay. So, first you take the coin
like-

CUT TO:

EXT. BARNEYS - DAY

Gwyn walks out of Barneys with no bags of clothes, yelling
back into the store.

GWYN
Yeah, well I'll be having a word
with your supervisor!

She then turns around and takes a deep breath.

GWYN (CONT'D)
Alright Gigi, Bloomingdales has a
better selection of fur anyway,
let's-

She looks around to see that Gigi is gone and Tommy is
talking to an unknown homeless man.

GWYN (CONT'D)
What the hell? Thomas!

She bolts off screen, towards Tommy.

CUT TO:

EXT. STRRET CORNER - DAY

TOMMY
And then you drop it-

Gwyn suddenly swoops Tommy up and away from Joe. Joe's smile
quickly fades as Gwyn takes Tommy away.

GWYN
Thomas, what have I told you about
talking to bums?

TOMMY
I'm sorry! He's not like you say at
all though! Sure, he smells bad,
but-

GWYN

Enough! I will not have my little boy meandering about with scum like this. You are grounded for a week!

TOMMY

But Mom, I promise, he's nice! And he-

GYWN

Wait. Where's the car? And where's Gigi?

She starts to walk down the street with Tommy in her arms only to see Gigi standing in front of the tow truck in the middle of the street, holding up traffic. Car horns begin to blare.

GWYN

Oh my god!

She runs with Tommy towards the scene as Tommy looks back at Joe.

Joe watches as Tommy and Gwyn run down the street and out of view. Joe then picks up his cup and looks at it for a moment. He looks at the sidewalk, takes a deep breath, and slowly stands up. He then takes all the money from the cup into his hands and throws the cup in the trash.

He walks down the street, humming a jazzy tune.

FADE TO BLACK.