

Shift

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SIDEWALK - DAY

The hustle and bustle of New York City is happening all around. Taxis blaring on their horns, sidewalks crowded with fast-paced New Yorkers, billboards flashing with advertisements.

TRIPP, 26, appears to be like the rest of the businessman crowding the streets after a long day of work - tidy business suit and well kept. But his emotions are not quite what one would expect. Hopeless and distraught, Tripp is unsure where his final destination will be as he walks at a slower than average pace.

Listening to a depressing song through his headphones, Tripp passes a park that is your typical New York City park on a summer day - full of people and lots of activities.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Sound of a baseball hitting against a bat. Kids standing at the bases, playing a pick-up game of baseball.

CHRISTOPHER, 13, dirty clothing with a big smile on his face, walks up to the home plate for his turn at bat.

CHRISTOPHER

Give me all you got, man!

PITCHER

Oh, you know it Chris

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

The yelling of a group of city kids playing baseball catches Tripp's attention.

Tripp stops in his walk, turns off his music, and steps off the sidewalk into the grass where the park begins. He watches the kids play baseball with a look of great interest in his face.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASEBALL OUTFIELD - DAY

Christopher hits the ball so hard that it goes way beyond the "outfield" - or what Chris and his friends consider the outfield given the confinements of the park.

BOY IN OUTFIELD  
Holy crap man

BOY IN OUTFIELD 2  
It's a home run!

Christopher does a quick celebration and begins to run to retrieve the ball he had just hit.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

The ball that Christopher hits lands very close to where Tripp is standing.

Tripp steps forward with intentions to pick up the ball.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

As Christopher is running to retrieve the ball, Tripp comes into the picture, picking up the baseball.

Clearly uncomfortable, Tripp hands Christopher the ball.

TRIPP  
Oh, here you go

Chris reaches to grab the baseball.

CHRISTOPHER  
Hey, thanks dude.

TRIPP  
Yeah, no problem (pause)... you guys, uh, just playing a pick up game?

CHRISTOPHER  
Yeah, nothing too serious.

TRIPP  
Cool, cool.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTOPHER

Wanna join? I know you're wearing a suit and all but feel free to join.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND - DAY

Tripp is playing 2nd base, Christopher is at short stop. The game of baseball continues. Through Tripp's actions, it is clear that he is loosening up a little bit, laughing around with the kids, getting into the game, etc.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOT DOG FOOD STAND - DAY

Tripp hands Christopher a hot dog, takes another from the hot dog man.

CHRISTOPHER

Thanks Tripp.

TRIPP

No problem.

Christopher and Tripp go and sit down at a park bench and eat their hot dogs.

CHRISTOPHER

So, what do you do?

TRIPP

Ugh, I work at a financial company. I'm a financial analyst... what do you do?

CHRISTOPHER

I go to school. I'm starting high school this year.

Tripp goes to respond, but is cut off by Chris's friends.

PITCHER

Yo Chris, you coming? You gotta be back for your siblings.

CHRISTOPHER

Ugh yeah, hold up. Well, maybe I'll see you around.

(CONTINUED)

TRIPP

Yeah, have a good one.

Christopher runs off with his friends, and leaves the park.

Tripp doesn't move from his spot on the bench. Pensive, he reaches in his pocket and pulls out his wallet. He opens it up. There is a photo of him and a young boy in the clear pocket where one normally keeps their ID.

Tripp looks at the photo for a few seconds, pauses, puts his wallet back in his pocket.

Tripp stands up and walks away.

CUTS TO:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SIDEWALK - DAY

Tripp, in a different suit than yesterday, is walking at the same pace - a little slower than average.

As he walks by the park, Chris and his friends are walking out.

Christopher sees Tripp and gets his attention.

CHRISTOPHER

Hey Tripp!

Tripp looks up to see Christopher. He takes off one headphone.

CHRISTOPHER

What's up? Where ya headed?

TRIPP

Hey man. Just to the subway.

CHRISTOPHER

Us too!

CUTS TO:

INT. SUBWAY - DAY

Christopher goes and sits down next to Tripp who is already sitting.

CHRISTOPHER

So, you got any friends?

Tripp lets out a small, quiet laugh.

(CONTINUED)

TRIPP  
Yeah, yeah I do

Christopher, being persistent, continues.

CHRISTOPHER  
And (drawn out), do you ever hang  
out with them?

Tripp laughs agains.

TRIPP  
Yeah, Chris, I do. (pause) You  
wanna meet them?

An excited look appears on Christopher's face.

CHRISTOPHER  
Yeah dude! That would be awesome.

TRIPP  
We're watching the Yanks - Red Sox  
game at my apartment tonight. 100  
Warren Street. Come by.

The subway stops, Tripp daps up (high five) Christopher and  
walks off the subway car.

CUTS TO:

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

There is commotion within the room. Christopher's two  
younger brothers are messing around in front of the TV and  
his younger sister is setting the table. Christopher opens  
the oven, pulls out chicken nuggets and french fries and  
distributes them onto 3 plates.

CHRISTOPHER  
Alright guys, I gotta head out. I'm  
sorry, but I gotta go watch the  
game with a new friend.

Rushing out of the apartment, Christopher grabs his keys,  
locking the door on his way out.

INT. TRIPP'S TRIBECA APARTMENT - NIGHT

Tripp and three of his friends are huddled around the TV  
set. Picture frames of Tripp with the same young boy as his  
wallet are set on both sides of the TV. One of the photos is  
a picture of Tripp and the boy at a Yankees game.

(CONTINUED)

There is a knock on the door. Tripp gets up to open it and lets Christopher.

TRIPP  
What's up man?

Christopher walks into the apartment.

Time goes by as the five guys sit around and watch the game.

When the game is over, Christopher gets up and examines the photos. He picks up one of the photos.

CHRISTOPHER  
Hey Tripp, who is this kid? He  
looks like he's my age.

Tripp appears to be caught a little bit off guard. The smile he had is now gone.

TRIPP  
Ugh, that is (pause) I mean, was,  
my brother.

A sense of discomfort and awkwardness enters the room.

Christopher attempts to offer his condolences, very awkwardly.

CHRISTOPHER  
Oh man, I'm sorry Tripp.

TRIPP  
No worries. Yeah, his name was  
Jake. He had leukaemia. He fought,  
but it beat him in April.

Christopher is sitting on Tripp's couch with his head down.

CHRISTOPHER  
Damn man, I'm so sorry to hear  
that.

Quietness fills the room for a few moments.

CHRISTOPHER  
My dad isn't around either. He was  
shot in an armed robbery in my  
neighborhood a few years back.

Tripp, who was standing in the kitchen, begins to walk towards Christopher. He sits down next to him on the couch.

TRIPP

Wow, I'm sorry to hear that too.

CHRISTOPHER

Yeah, you know, it's life. You can't take it for granted. You never know what's coming your way. I try my best to wake up everyday happy, keep my siblings happy, and be positive. You just never know.

TRIPP

Yeah no, you're absolutely right. It's still so new for me. I'm just not sure how I'll get over it.

CHRISTOPHER

It will never fully leave you bro. But that's okay. It's good to keep the good memories close to your heart.

Fade out of Christopher and Tripp sitting on his couching having their conversation.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SIDEWALK - DAY

Tripp is walking yet again in a different business suit, headphones in. Except, this time, he is walking at a light-hearted, happy pace, and the music he is listening to is much happier.

Tripp passes the park. This time, he sees Christopher playing baseball and walks over there on his own.

Tripp walks up to Christopher, who is standing on the sidelines.

TRIPP

You ready?

A confused look comes over Christopher's face.

TRIPP REACHES IN HIS POCKET AND PULLS OUT HIS WALLET. HE OPENS IT UP. THE PICTURE OF HIM AND HIS BROTHER IS STILL THERE. HE PULLS OUT TWO TICKETS TO A YANKEES GAME FOR THAT AFTERNOON AND SHOWS THEM TO CHRISTOPHER.

A smile appears on Christopher's face.

(CONTINUED)



CHRISTOPHER

Let's go

Christopher says bye to his friend.

Christopher and Tripp leave the baseball diamond and exit the park.

FADE TO BLACK