

Change

By

Nobody Important

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INT. FREEZEE CREAM - NIGHT

A handful of change plinks into the tip tray from a CUSTOMER'S hand.

Behind the front counter, oblivious to the tip, THOMAS (15) flips the page of his Auto Trader magazine. A small desk fan by the register struggles to blow any cool air his way as the hot night forms beads of sweat down his forehead.

RING A DING!

The customer exits through the entrance and past the store's large glass window. On the outside, happy CROWDS walk past an assortment of lights and carnival rides on a pier.

All alone, Thomas flips another page.

RING A DING!

Thomas pays no attention until he peers over the top of the Auto Trader...

... and scrambles to attention. In front of the counter are cute as a button JILL (15) and her preppy boyfriend AIDEN (16). Jill gives a sheepish smile and waves at Thomas who smiles back in return.

Aiden grabs Jill close and looks up at the menu to order.

Two quick scoops on two cones. Both vanilla.

Aiden pulls out a fifty from his cash stuffed wallet.

Fifty in hand, Thomas hands back the correct change.

Happy, Jill takes a lick of her cone, and waves goodbye as she skips out the door.

The counter between them, Aiden stares Thomas down and scoops out the change from the tip tray amused with himself. Stuffs it in his back pocket, then goes to open the door for Jill, a true gentleman.

Thomas meekly retreats into his magazine.

CUT TO BLACK:

RING A DING!

INT. FREEZEE CREAM - DAY

Dressed in beach attire and facing the counter with Thomas in between on his side, Aiden orders ice cream as Jill gives Thomas a friendly wave.

Two quick scoops on two cones. Both vanilla.

Jill turns away with her cone towards the door. Upon receiving his cone, Aiden pinches the lone quarter out of the tip tray.

Thomas frowns back in a slouch.

On their way out the door, Aiden and Jill feed each other their cones.

CUT TO BLACK:

RING A DING!

INT. FREEZEE CREAM - NIGHT

In her prom dress Jill smiles at Thomas as Aiden in his tux tries a sample of mint chocolate chip. Disgusted he flicks the small spoon away.

Two quick scoops on two cones. Both vanilla.

Jill turns away to eat her cone. A large glass TIP JAR has replaced the tray. Undaunted, Aiden dips his hand into the jar. His hand swishes the change at the bottom. With all of it in his grasp he pulls his hand out to reveal Thomas' long sad face behind the glass.

CUT TO BLACK:

RING A DING!

INT. FREEZEE CREAM - NIGHT

Another slow night. The desk fan struggles to blow the heat of the night away as Thomas flips through his worn out Auto Trader behind the counter.

He slowly goes to flip the page when he does a double take out of the corner of his eye.

EXT. FUN FAIR PIER - FREEZEE CREAM - NIGHT

Alone on a bench, head in hand and teary eyed, sits Jill.

Her phone drops from her hand. The screen cracks as it hits the concrete walkway.

As Jill's hand reaches to pick it up another hand carrying an ice cream cone beats her to it.

A warm smile across his face, Thomas hands Jill back her phone and a mint chocolate ice cream cone. She smiles and takes a lick. It's like she's never tried it before, the taste is amazing.

Thomas extends his hand towards Jill. She looks up at it. Thinks.

The two of them run off. As they do, a FAMILY WITH KIDS walks up to the Freezee Cream store, it's lights off and a CLOSED sign in the window. The kids begin to cry.

EXT. FUN FAIR PIER - FERRIS WHEEL - NIGHT

Covered in bright lights against the mirrored waters of the ocean, the Ferris Wheel spins round and round.

Jill and Thomas laugh in line with other RIDERS.

EXT. FUN FAIR PIER - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

As the ferris wheel spins in the background, a convertible BMW with the top down pulls into an empty handicap space. Dressed to impress, Aiden turns off the car. Smiles at EMILY (16), his pretty new girl, seated next to him.

EXT. FUN FAIR PIER - FERRIS WHEEL - NIGHT

At the head of his line, the gym rat of a FERRIS WHEEL OPERATOR (22) collects tickets from riders as they board. Next in line, Thomas gives him a friendly fist bump. The Operator lets him on with no ticket.

Jill is impressed.

Shoulder to shoulder in the ferris wheel car, the Operator locks the front restraint. Jill nudges closer to Thomas. The car jerks...

As the car rotates around, Jill is tense and scared, refusing to look anywhere but her lap. Thomas notices and laughs as he grabs her hand and shoulder sportively. With a nudge, he helps her to look forward.

JILL'S POV: Slowly peering over her feet to reveal the blur of the pier's bright lights below.

Eyes wide and excited, Jill can't believe the sights around her. Thomas smiles and points out places of interest to her amusement. The speed of the wheel blurs the scenery lights into something magical.

The towering Ferris Wheel spins. Below, Aiden leads Emily by the hand through small corridors with the crowd.

EXT. FUN FAIR PIER - BUMPER CARS - NIGHT

Thomas and Jill wait stuck near the end of a long line for the bumper cars that crash and bash behind them.

As BUMPER CAR PASSENGERS disembark the BUMPER CAR OPERATOR catches Thomas in line out of the corner of his eye. He smiles and waves him up.

Thomas grabs Jill's hand, leads her to the ride's entrance.

EXT. FUN FAIR PIER - FREEZEE CREAM - NIGHT

Emily gives Aiden a severe stare of disappointment in front of the store's CLOSED sign. Angry, Aiden checks his watch.

EXT. BUMPER CARS - NIGHT

Bumper cars swirl around Thomas who scans for a victim.

BUMP! His car jolted forward, he turns back to find Jill laughing at him hysterically.

Thomas and Jill exit the ride and walk past Aiden and Emily at the back of the line unseen. Her arms crossed, Emily glares at Aiden oblivious on his phone.

EXT. FUN FAIR PIER - NIGHT

The lights from the pier reflect out onto the ocean water. The small silhouette of a fishing boat silently moves across the water. A large pair of fingers encroach as if they were to crush the boat.

Leaning over the rail of the pier, Jill laughs at Thomas' lame attempt to finger crush the boat. Thomas slyly waves her off then grabs her by the arm to walk further up the pier.

Disgruntled with the miserable evening, Emily walks quickly in front of Aiden down the pier.

As they walk, Jill grabs Thomas' hand in hers.

Aiden attempts to put his hand on Emily's shoulder to slow her down but she brushes it off, having none of it.

The two couples walk up to each other unknowingly. As they pass, Thomas and Aiden brush shoulders.

Simultaneously, both the boys turn around to apologize but freeze as they recognize each other.

Aiden spots Jill holding Thomas' hand. His blood boils. Fists clench. Teeth grind. Chest puffs. He steps up to Thomas threateningly but is beaten by Jill...

...who recognizes Aiden, but not the girl next to him. Enraged, she leaps towards Emily, cat claws out. Taken aback, but no less ready to fight, Emily steps up.

Aiden steps in front of Emily to protect her as Thomas jumps in front of Jill. The girls flail at each other with only the two boys between them. Hands fly from all angles.

In an attempt to hold Jill's arm back, Thomas takes a deflected right cross from Emily. The blow knocks him back onto his ass.

Back to her senses, Jill kneels to check on Thomas but he wants none of it. Embarrassed and upset, he takes off and runs down the pier into the night.

Aiden stands in front of Emily to calm her down. Tears in her eyes, Jill stands up. She looks down the pier.

JILL'S POV: The bottom of the pier. A few curious COUPLES watch on from afar but there is no sign of Thomas.

The two girls on either side of him, Aiden loosens his collar, motions for them both to calm down. Seething with anger, they both encircle him instead.

INT. FREEZEE CREAM - DAY

The small desk fan oscillates next to the empty tip jar. Behind the counter Thomas is hidden behind his Auto Trader. No customers anywhere.

RING A DING!

Thomas flips to the next page.

A handful of change falls into the bottom of the jar. He begins to lower the magazine.

A bit timid and ashamed, Jill stands in front of the counter. Wiggles her fingers in a small wave to Thomas.

Totally surprised by what he sees, Thomas smiles back, a hell of a nice shiner on his right eye.

Jill looks up at the menu. Strokes her chin as she thinks.

Two quick scoops on two cones. Both mint chocolate.

EXT. FUN FAIR PIER - FREEZEE CREAM - DAY

On the bench, Thomas and Jill enjoy their cones, happily engrossed in each others company.

A pair of ELDERLY WOMEN walk up to the store's entrance. They pull on the front door, but it won't budge. Locked.

The CLOSED sign sits on the window sill next to the door.

Upset with their luck, the women walk off as Thomas and Jill laugh side by side and take another lick of their.

FADE OUT.