

In Tune
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FADE IN:

INT.BANK - DAY

A small bank in a suburban mall. People line up desultorily. The tellers look bored.

SUPER - CHICAGO ILLINOIS

LUKE(23), tall with a crew cut, gets to the service window. He hands over a Social Security cheque. The TELLER is a middle aged, portly man. He gives a fake smile and takes the cheque.

LUKE

Hi there. Another nice day.
Wednesday already...week is just
flying.

TELLER

I'll bet it always flies for you.
Social Security...it's not like you
have any commitments, right?

LUKE

Sorry?

TELLER

Sorry for what? Being a burden on
society?

He taps in numbers on the keyboard. The cash till opens.

LUKE

Hey, no need to be rude. I might be
unemployed but I don't deserve this
abuse. In fact, I might make a
complaint to your boss.

He leans forward to read the teller's name badge. Nothing there.

TELLER

Oh, silly me. I forgot to put my
tag on.

He pins a 'BANK MANAGER' badge on and looks up at Luke.

TELLER

Now then, let's hear your
complaint...asshole.

Luke isn't deterred - he's used to this.

LUKE

Why are you working the windows?
Shouldn't you be sitting in your
office, drinking coffee and looking
at porn?

TELLER

Why you...for your information,
some of my rat filth staff have
called in sick. They don't rate
much higher than you on the shit
scale.

He hands over some bills.

LUKE

Thank you.

TELLER

Don't thank me, scumbag. Thank the
people in this world that work. Now
scuttle off to your video game
arcade. Spend your hard earned...

Luke pockets the cash. Suddenly, the muzak playing in the
background changes. Luke's ears prick up as he listens...

VOCALIST(O.S)

.....Been searching for the
answer...to find a better
way...someday she'll appear..take
away my troubles....I'll be free to
vanish in her smile..someday she'll
appear...

LUKE

That's a nice song. Any idea what
it is? Do you have a set list for
the background music?

People in the line behind him are restless.

ANGRY CUSTOMER(O.S)

Hey, dickhead! Move it, will ya?
Folks got business to do. The bars
are nearly open.

TELLER

You heard the man. Get lost!

Luke wanders out. That song is stuck in his head...

INT.DINER - DAY

JOEL (22), solid with a mop of black hair, sits at a table near the window. Luke walks in and sits down.

JOEL
Get the money ok?

LUKE
Yeah. Copped the usual abuse. 'No good loser, get a fucking job', blah, blah...

JOEL
Typical bank clerks. But, everyday, a total loser expects shit. Goes with the territory.

He gestures to EDDIE (50), behind the counter.

JOEL(CONT'D)
Yo, big Ed...can we have a coffee, please?

EDDIE
Sure. Just one?

JOEL
Yeah, things are tight. It's time to share, man. Do our bit for the recession.

LUKE
I've got__

JOEL
Quiet! It won't hurt us.

EDDIE
Comin' up.

He checks the time - 1015 - and turns on a small radio.

EDDIE(CONT'D)
Got a good thing running at Hollywood Park. Easy money.

He makes the boys a coffee and brings it out to them. They take turns sipping from the cup.

LUKE
Great coffee, Eddie.

EDDIE

You guys are s-o-o desperate.

JOEL

And betting on a four-legged tin of dog food isn't?

EDDIE

Ha! You guys can't be that broke, though. Didn't you say Luke's mom was paying half your rent?

LUKE

Yeah, but only because she has a crush on lover boy here.

EDDIE

Hmmm. That true, stud?

JOEL

Um, no comment at this stage.

LUKE

My mom has been a bit wayward since the divorce.

EDDIE

She must be around my age...

LUKE/JOEL

No!!

EDDIE

Hey, just asking...

JOEL

(sighs)

Look, Luke's mom is a very hot lady...

LUKE

Too much info, buddy.

JOEL

...but I have refused her advances on moral grounds.

EDDIE

Because she's your best friend's mother, right? Commendable.

JOEL

Not exactly. I'm just not keen on going anywhere near a birthing canal he slid down.

Eddie blinks and returns to his radio. Luke starts to speak as the door opens. ROBYN (24), a tall and pretty brunette, enters. She gives the boys a friendly nod.

JOEL

(whispers)

Stop the press...what a honey.

EDDIE

Hey Robyn. How goes it?

ROBYN

Good, thanks Ed. Lovely day.

EDDIE

Sure is. Coffee to go?

ROBYN

That would be great.

Eddie makes a coffee, one ear pinned to the radio. Robyn checks her mobile, as Joel and Luke check her out.

EDDIE

There you go...yes!!

ROBYN

(laughs)

My money makes you that happy?

EDDIE

Sorry...my horse just won. Made me a packet.

ROBYN

Good for you. Bye now.

She leaves, smiling again at the boys.

JOEL

Eddie, my man, who is she? Damn, what a stunner!

EDDIE

Works at the music store on the next block.

LUKE

How come we never seen her before?

EDDIE

Maybe you aren't usually awake this early.

JOEL

Ouch!

EDDIE

She's single too...

LUKE

Interesting.

JOEL

I saw her first.

EDDIE

Now boys, don't fight about it. Look, to celebrate my good fortune on the oat burners, here's a free coffee.

JOEL

Big Ed, you shouldn't spoil us.

EDDIE

I'm not. Actually, it makes me sick seeing two grown men sip from the same cup. Dammit, it's not natural.

LUKE

You're all heart, Ed.

He stands as Eddie brings the coffee out.

LUKE(CONT'D)

But my buddy here can have it. He's spilled most of the other one anyway.

JOEL

Where are you off to?

LUKE

To, uh, find a job.

EDDIE

Yeah, right.

Luke grins and leaves.

JOEL

You know, I could follow him. I've got as much chance with Robyn as him.

EDDIE

Possibly. But we both know that won't happen. Leave him be.

JOEL

I suppose...say, you got any tips for the next race?

EDDIE

Maybe. You got Luke's mom's phone number?

JOEL

Maybe...

EXT.CITY STREETS - DAY

Luke walks along the street, amongst pedestrians. The day is fine but crisp. He finds himself whistling the SONG. Suddenly, the SONG blares from a passing car.

LUKE

What is going on here?

Ahead of him, a young white guy sits a bus stop. He has a small portable CD player, and listens on earphones. As Luke passes, a bus approaches. The guy gets up quickly, and the cable pulls loose from the player. The SONG roars out!

LUKE

Hey, that's...ah, excuse me?

YOUNG GUY

Uh, yeah? Look, my bus is here...

LUKE

That song you're listening to...who sings it? Please, I need to know.

YOUNG GUY

I don't know. My brother made a mix for me. I have to go.

(under his breath)

Weirdo...

He gets on the bus and looks back at Luke as it leaves. Luke sighs.

LUKE
 Crazy...I need to get a grip.

He walks on and comes to the music store.

INT.MUSIC STORE - DAY

No one is in the shop, except for Robyn at the counter. She frowns as she checks an order, then looks up.

ROBYN
 Good morning. Anything I can help you with? Oh, hello...you were at Ed's diner before, weren't you?

LUKE
 Ah, yeah. He, um, recommended your CD's.

ROBYN
 Oh really? That was nice of him.

LUKE
 Yeah...

There is a moment of silence. A mutual attraction is evident but neither is keen to make the first move...

ROBYN
 So...is there any particular CD you're after?

LUKE
 Actually, you might be able to help me.

ROBYN
 Yes?

LUKE
 This song I've been hearing...

Suddenly, the SONG rings out over the store speakers. Robyn smiles.

ROBYN
 I just love this song...

LUKE
 Huh? That's it! That's the song I'm trying to find!

ROBYN
It's our song of the week.

LUKE
I have to know who sings it. Have
you got a copy? I'll buy it now.

He pulls out his wallet. Robyn searches on the counter
amongst paperwork.

ROBYN
We only have the one promotional
copy...somewhere. I'm doing an
order now.

LUKE
Please, I need to see the cover.
It's been driving me mad.
I'll...I'll take you out to dinner.

Robyn looks up in surprise. Luke drops his head, blushing.

ROBYN
(quietly)
I'd like that. Ah, here's the
cover.

LUKE
Yes? Who's it by?

ROBYN
I...that's odd. No group name...no
song name either. Just the record
company label.

Luke's eyes grow large. He throws his head back.

LUKE
AAAAARGH....

INT.DINER - DAY

Luke and Robyn sit at the counter holding hands. Ed puts two
coffees down.

SUPER - A FEW DAYS LATER

LUKE
...and that was it basically. All
because of the song.

EDDIE

Which you still haven't been able to track down.

ROBYN

No. A real mystery that. I've searched on the 'Net for hours. Nothing.

LUKE

Hey babe, it's ok. Things are looking up for me now. A new girl, some weekend work helping in her store...Ed's coffee. What could possibly spoil my day?

The door opens. Joel walks in with Luke's mom, TRISH (50), blonde and extremely fit. They are both slightly drunk.

JOEL

Hey, dudes!

LUKE

Well, apart from this...

TRISH

Hi, son. Ah, this must be Robyn. I've heard so much about you.

ROBYN

Ah, hi.

She glances at Luke.

EDDIE

Well, this looks interesting.

LUKE

(sighs)

Yeah...hi Mom.

EDDIE

So, Joel...?

JOEL

Wha...? Oh, Trish, this is Eddie. Champion coffee maker.

TRISH

Heard all about you too, big Ed.

EDDIE

It's all lies. Well, some of it.

Everyone except Luke laughs.

ROBYN

So, your best friend dates your mom?

LUKE

Former best friend...

ROBYN

Cool!

JOEL

Actually, Luke, old buddy, old guy. I've come here... Trish and I have come here, straight from a very good party...to ask you a favour.

LUKE

This is gonna be good...

TRISH

Let me tell him, pumpkin...

Robyn and Eddie giggle as Luke sinks further into misery.

TRISH(CONT'D)

Joel and I thought it would be a wonderful idea to fly to Vegas this afternoon...

LUKE

My life is totally ruined...

TRISH

...and be married by a Clint Eastwood celebrant.

ROBYN

Awesome!

JOEL

What do you think, Luke? Or should I say...son?

EDDIE

You'd be a great dad, Joel. Luke here is a lucky boy. Coffees are on the house!

Suddenly, the SONG comes on the radio! Luke lifts his head, a look of wonder on his face. The SONG fades out.

D.J(OS.)
 ...man, that is one brilliant tune.
 Destined to storm the charts...

LUKE
 (whispers)
 At last...something to hold on
 too...maybe I can salvage
 something...

D.J(OS.)
 ...yes, that's the debut single
 by...

Luke slips to the floor, onto his knees. He gazes at the radio with reverential awe. Robyn, Joel and Trish can only watch in silence...

LUKE
 (whispers)
 Yes...

Then the DJ is gone, replaced by...

RACE CALLER(O.S)
 And they're off in the third,
 Danish Oak away well, so too
 Rambler's Revenge...Broad Ebay
 slightly blocked...

Eddie stands at the radio, finger on the dial.

LUKE
 AAAAAAAAAAAAAARRGGH...

EDDIE
 (shrugs)
 Hey, I got another good tip. Man
 can't survive giving away coffee...

FADE OUT