

Metropolitan redemption

by

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**OVER BLACK:**

SUPER: Based on a true story.

**FADE IN:**

**INT. MOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT**

A dirty carpet with holes. A narrow, steep staircase in the middle. On the right, a RECEPTIONIST (mid-50s), massive body, wears glasses, sits in a glazed cabin booth.

FEDERICO (20s), European, short and skinny, looks dirty, walks downstairs. The Receptionist looks up at him.

RECEPTIONIST

Hey, Federico how are you? Going out?

FEDERICO

(with an eastern Europe accent)

Yeah, going to work.

RECEPTIONIST

(looking over his glasses)

Yeah, work...it's forty dollars for the room tonight. The cash by tomorrow morning or else I'll give the room to one of your...co-worker.

FEDERICO

I will get you that in few hours, sir.

RECEPTIONIST

And please don't pay me with all that money change. It takes forever to count.

Federico nods and exits.

**EXT. URBAN STREET - NIGHT**

Empty area. Federico walks by several condemned and crumbled houses.

In the distance, Manhattan sparkles from the lights of its skyscrapers.

He stops, contemplates the view and grabs a cigarette. The pack carries an ad for a Broadway show.

He smokes and keeps walking. He gets to a metro station and takes the stairs.

**INT. METRO STATION/PLATFORM - NIGHT**

Federico stops at the turnstiles and waits. A woman tries to exit with a stroller through an emergency exit. Federico jumps at the door and holds it.

FEDERICO

I got you, let me hold this.

The woman nods and exits while Federico enters through the door. A woman going through the turnstile gives him a look.

A train approaches and stops. The doors open, Federico steps in.

He looks around and sees empty seats everywhere. He sits near the door.

**INT. TRAIN (MOVING) - NIGHT**

Federico reads on his smartphone. The device is big, old, with a broken screen.

**EXT. TRAIN (MOVING) - NIGHT**

The train slowly and loudly crosses the Williamsburg bridge, going toward Manhattan.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. MANHATTAN STREET - NIGHT**

Federico panhandles before the metro entrance. He sits on the floor with a McDonald's cup, a couple of dollars emerge from it.

People walk around him, not paying attention.

FEDERICO

Please, folks, somebody for a dollar or a quarter? Please, I'm hungry.

People walk.

FEDERICO (CONT'D)  
Hey sir, could you help me,  
please? I try to pay for my bus  
ticket to get back to Connecticut.

A guy on his phone keeps walking without looking up.

After one minute, Federico stands up and grabs his cup. He enters the metro station.

**CUT TO:**

**INT. TRAIN (MOVING) - NIGHT**

Federico stands at the beginning of a metro car.

FEDERICO  
(loud with a stronger  
accent)  
Hi, my name is Chris, can someone  
help me? I don't do drugs, I don't  
smoke. I just need the money to  
take care of my kids. Please help  
me with a quarter, an MTA card or  
even a coupon. Thanks.

Federico walks through the car. Nobody cares, except a woman who puts a dollar in his cup, without looking at him.

Federico nods and keeps walking.

The metro stops, he exits.

**INT. METRO PLATFORM - NIGHT**

Federico walks toward a small snack stand.

The train closes its doors and leaves the station.

Federico is now in front of a dozen candy bars. He collects change from the bottom of his cup, grabs a chocolate bar and hands over money to the store guy.

Federico eats the snack. At distance, two young girls look at a New York map and pass the turnstiles.

They now walk on the platform and Federico observes one of the girls putting a wallet back in the rear pocket of her backpack.

Federico collects the remaining change from the McDonald's cup, throws it and gets close to the girls. He stands there and waits.

A train arrives, Federico gets into the car with the girls, through the same door.

**INT. METRO CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT**

A crowded train, people squeezed against each other. Federico stands right behind the girl who carries her backpack low, beneath people's sight.

The girl is chatting with excitement in a foreign language about Time Square and Broadway.

Federico stares at one advertisement upward. It says "*New York MTA safety for everyone: if you see something, say something!*".

He has one hand at the handle bar and the other grabs the zip of the girl's rear pocket. He still looks upward as he opens the rear pocket slowly but firmly, with a deadpan facial expression.

He furtively glances at the pocket. A wallet is in sight.

The metro stops, doors open. Federico quickly removes his hand and moves aside to let people pass. The doors close and the train moves.

Federico gets closer to the girl and put his hand back into the pocket. He quickly extracts a wallet. He closes the zip and puts the wallet in his pocket.

On the side, a teenager stares at him with bewilderment. Federico looks into the teenager's eyes with an impassible face.

The metro stops and he gets off.

**INT. METRO PLATFORM - NIGHT**

Federico moves away from the platform's edge with excitement. He waits for the train and the few people to leave the area.

He sits on a bench at the end of the platform, nobody around. He opens the wallet with shaking hands.

Federico's face shows disappointment. No cash in the wallet, just a foreign ID, store cards and a bunch of folded papers.

Federico unfolds the paper and finds a ticket for a show "Cats on Broadway". He compares with the Broadway ad on his cigarette pack. It's not the same show.

He puts the ticket back in the wallet.

Federico stands up and walks to the closest bin which shows an ad saying "*If you see something, say something!*". Federico throws the wallet into it.

He looks up and sees an Asian lady who watches him. She turns back and slowly moves further away.

Federico comes back on the bench. He plunges his hand into his pocket and sticks out a bunch of dollars. He counts twenty-three dollars, plus coins.

A panel on the platform shows 8.35 pm.

He put his arms on his knees and his head into his arms.

**CUT TO BLACK:**

**FADE IN:**

**INT. METRO PLATFORM - NIGHT**

A train is approaching, loudly. Federico wakes up and grabs his phone. It shows 10.20 pm. The train stops and Federico gets in.

**CUT TO:**

**INT. METRO PLATFORM (ANOTHER) - NIGHT**

A train stops and opens its doors. Federico stands at the car's entrance and hesitates to get off. A sound announces the closing of the doors.

Federico spontaneously jumps out of the train. He walks to the turnstiles and takes the exit.

He stands right before the entrance and talks indistinctively to people exiting the platform through the turnstiles.

FEDERICO

Can you give me your MTA card,  
ma'am? Hey, can someone give his  
card?

He turns and talks to DARRYL's back (40s), massive black guy, wearing a blue jacket and a blue hat. Darryl is searching for something in his backpack.

FEDERICO (CONT'D)

Hey, do you still need your metro card?

Darryl turns back. An MTA logo on his hat and a "Metropolitan Transportation Authority STAFF" on his jacket.

DARRYL

(with authority)

Hey you, what are you doing? You can't do that here. Please move, sir. Move.

Federico walks fast and takes the stairs up to the street.

Darryl grabs his keys and opens the door of an MTA cabin, still looking in Federico's direction with an annoyed face.

**EXT. MANHATTAN STREET - NIGHT**

One female and one male are chatting next to the metro entrance. RODRIGUEZ (30s), Hispanic, very well dressed with a high pose, gives a hug to the girl.

RODRIGUEZ

Again thank you so much for introducing me to the manager, it really helps. I hope it works out. Thanks and see you soon I hope. Take care, bye.

The girl waves her hand and walks along the street. Rodriguez takes the stairs down to the metro station.

Federico crosses the street, walks one block away and takes the stairs to another metro entrance.

**INT. METRO STATION - NIGHT**

Federico arrives at the same platform, from a different access. He looks around and sees no one.

He jumps over the turnstile.

**INT. MTA CABIN ROOM - NIGHT**

Darryl is watching a small screen broadcasting a CCTV of the platform.

The screen shows Federico jumping the turnstile.

Darryl continues to stare at the camera, he looks angry.

**INT. METRO PLATFORM - NIGHT**

Federico walks over Rodriguez who is deeply looking at his phone.

FEDERICO  
Sorry to bother, man, do you have  
a dollar by any chance?

Rodriguez looks up.

RODRIGUEZ  
(waving his hand)  
No tengo nada mi amigo! Avanzar,  
avanzar.

Federico's face shows incomprehension. He keeps walking.  
Rodriguez gets back to his phone.

At the end of the platform, GARRETT (20s), white boy, wears  
a white shirt, a dressed pant and black shoes, sits in the  
middle of a three-seat bench.

He is doubled, with his head in his arms.

Federico walks in his direction.

Garrett is immobile, head and arms laying on his knees.

Federico is now closer. He notices vomit on Garrett's pant  
and shoes. He sits on his right.

FEDERICO  
(quietly)  
Hey buddy...what's up? Are you  
okay? Too much drinking or what?

Garrett shows no reaction.

Federico touches Garrett, shakes him softly, touches his  
right pocket furtively.

Garrett keeps his head in his arms, grumbles something  
inaudible.

Federico extracts a wallet from Garrett's pocket. A stack  
of folded dollars emerges from it. Federico puts the wallet  
in his jacket, stands up and sits on the boy's left.

He looks at Garrett's pocket and sees a rectangular shape.



FEDERICO (CONT'D)  
(quietly)  
Hey, don't worry buddy...it's  
gonna be all right...

He inserts two fingers and removes a smartphone. The device looks nice and new.

Garrett is not moving and breaths heavily, huddling on himself.

**INT. MTA CABIN ROOM - NIGHT**

Darryl is looking at a screen which shows Federico sitting on a bench and removing a device from Garrett's pocket.

DARRYL  
(to himself)  
Fuck me...

Darryl grabs his desk phone, dials numbers.

**INT. METRO PLATFORM - NIGHT**

Federico stands up and quickly moves away from the bench. He passes Rodriguez, still on his phone, and keeps walking in the opposite direction.

Garrett looks up slowly from his knees, eyes almost closed. With his arms still crossed, he stands up and struggles to maintain his balance.

He walks slowly and hardly toward the edge of the platform. He lurches, making small and irregular steps while moving with his arms crossed.

Rodriguez looks up and sees Garrett walking like a crab toward the edge.

**INT. MTA CABIN ROOM - NIGHT**

Darryl is holding a phone and keeps staring at the CCTV.

DARRYL  
(on the phone)  
Yeah, officer, it's the 23rd  
Street metro station...he just did  
it, yeah...approximately  
22-year-old, he wears a black  
sports pant and...

Darryl's face shows greater attention to the screen.

The CCTV screen displays Garrett standing on the edge of the platform, arms crossed, head looking down.

On the bottom right, it shows Rodriguez from his back, clearly looking in Garrett's direction.

Garrett steps forward and disappears into the tracks.

Darryl stops talking and his face shows stupefaction. His hand, carrying the phone, slowly slumps toward the desk.

The CCTV screen shows Rodriguez still looking at Garrett's last location. Rodriguez looks around him, quickly looks at his phone and looks again around him.

He turns back and starts walking slowly in the opposite direction. He looks deadpan. He gets out of sight from the CCTV.

Darryl looks at the screen, put the phone back at this mouth and yells.

DARRYL (CONT'D)

(on the phone)

Oh my god that's crazy! Hey!  
There's a situation here! A guy  
just fell on the tracks...yeah I'm  
serious! ...I don't know he was  
drunk or something! ...can you  
call an ambulance right now?!

#### **INT. METRO PLATFORM - NIGHT**

Rodriguez walks down the platform and joins a black woman and a white woman chatting.

Rodriguez looks panicked and points at the location where Garrett fell. He seems agitated and clearly has the women's attention.

Nobody moves. They keep looking at the area where Garrett fell and then to each other, repetitively.

The sound of a train resonates. In a dark tunnel, two yellow light spots approach with a sound increasing gradually.

#### **INT. MTA CABIN ROOM - NIGHT**

Darryl is on the phone and looks at the screen.

The CCTV shows an empty portion of the platform. On the top left corner of the screen, an immobile body shape lays on the tracks.

Suddenly, the screen shows a man running fast along the edge of the platform. It's Federico.

**INT. PLATFORM - NIGHT**

Federico runs vigorously, waving his arms.

He stops at the middle of the platform, near the edge, and turns back to face the approaching train.

He waves his arms stronger and yells.

FEDERICO  
STOP! HEY STOP THE TRAIN!

The train passes Federico and stops few yards before Garrett.

Federico starts running again toward the end of the platform and passes Rodriguez and the two women.

He reaches Garrett who looks lost and stands on the tracks holding his head.

Federico offers his both hands and pulls Garrett out of the tracks with difficulty.

They both fall on the edge of the platform.

Rodriguez and the two women walk in their direction.

**INT. MTA CABIN ROOM - NIGHT**

Darryl drops the phone, grab his keys and rushes out of his cabin, slamming the door.

**INT. PLATFORM - NIGHT**

Darryl opens the emergency exit door.

He tries to walk fast on the platform but his massive body slows him down.

He encounters Federico who walks in the opposite direction.

Their eyes meet.

Federico keeps walking and passes behind Darryl. Darryl doesn't stop but keeps looking at Federico over his shoulder.

Darryl's face expresses stupefaction.

The train's operator pokes his head out to see what is happening.

Darryl arrives at Garrett. He is still on the ground, holding his head in his hands.

Rodriguez and the two women are around him. They gently touch his shoulder and reassure him.

Darryl gives a bad look to Rodriguez. Then speaks to Garret.

DARRYL  
Are you okay? I called an  
ambulance already. Can you walk?

He then speaks to the women.

DARRYL (CONT'D)  
Did you see what happened? Oh my  
god that was insane. And this  
other guy...did you see what he  
did?

The women and Rodriguez are confused, they look down and seem embarrassed.

Darryl glances in the direction of the platform's exit, looking for Federico but he is gone already.

He looks back at Garret and glances at the ground.

He sees a wallet and a phone on the floor.

THE END