

On The Corner of 5th and Maple

By

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FADE IN:

INT. CAR - DAY

DAVE (young, fit, well-dressed) is driving in his car, excessively drinking coffee out of a travel mug.

STEVE

(ON PHONE) So how much sleep did you get last night?

DAVE

Honestly, I have no idea. I stayed up as long as I physically could and barely finished everything.

STEVE

(ON PHONE) So everything IS done, right?

DAVE

Ab-so-lutely. Spick and span in every way imaginable.

Dave looks at the manila folder on the passenger seat with a questionable look in his eyes.

DAVE

(continuing) Just for the sake of discussion, how big of a deal is this presentation, really?

STEVE

Well.. it's huge alright, Davey.
(beat) Honestly, both of our jobs may be on the line here.

Dave exhales loudly and nervously taps his steering wheel. He quickly chugs a large amount of coffee from his mug.

DAVE

(nervously) Alright then, Steve. I'll see you there in a few.

He hangs up the phone and throws it on top of the manila folder. He cranks the volume control on his car but nothing happens.

He smacks his dashboard and the car starts to shake and sputter. His check engine light flashes as he pulls his car to the side of the road.

(CONTINUED)

DAVE
I don't believe this! I DON'T
BELIEVE THIS!!

He looks out the windshield and sees a sign for a garage up the road. He puts the car into neutral and starts to push it up the road.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GARAGE WAITING ROOM - DAY

Dave, sweaty and tired, walks up the desk of the garage. He is clutching his folder and cell phone in his hands

MIKE (40s, grey beard, dressed in overalls) walks out from the garage to the counter to talk to Dave.

MIKE
Uh.... Can I HELP you?

DAVE
(exhausted) My car... needs
repaired... right away.

Mike looks up and down at Dave, not knowing what to say.

MIKE
You...uh...didn't push that car up
the road, did you?

Dave, continuing to pant, reaches into his pockets and slams his car keys on the counter.

MIKE
(continuing) Because it's alright
if you did, I just need to know
what's wrong with the-

DAVE
(interrupting him) Do whatever you
have to do. I need it fixed as
quickly as possible.

MIKE
You got it, chief. Just take a seat
over there and I'll have it ready
for you as fast as I can do it.

Dave nods his head and stumbles over to the waiting area. He sits in small chair next to an OLD MAN (70s, gray hair and wrinkles, wearing a suit) who is reading a newspaper.

(CONTINUED)

Dave pulls out his phone and texts Steve.

DAVE (TEXT)
Car broke down. Might be late.
Please cover for me.

STEVE (TEXT)
For god's sake, Dave. Alright, I'll
try my best. You owe me big time.

Dave opens his folder and starts mumbling the lines to himself. The Old Man laughs to himself as Dave gives him a glare.

OLD MAN
I tell you, these cartoons have a
direct line to my funny bone!

He laughs louder as Dave gets visibly annoyed.

DAVE
Excuse me, you wouldn't mind
quieting down, would you? I'm in
the middle of some important work
here.

OLD MAN
Oh, I'm quite sorry, son. It's just
the funnies are quite good this
morning!

Dave puts his folder in front of his face and begins to mock the old man

OLD MAN
You know, I used to be like you
when I was younger.

DAVE
(clearly not caring) Oh, yeah? And
how's that?

OLD MAN
I was always caught in my work. I
never took the time to, as they
say, stop and smell the roses.

DAVE
(very frustrated) I'm sorry,
do I know you, or something?

OLD MAN
I don't believe so. I'm just making
conversation.

Dave continues looking over his folder, clearly not
listening to the Old Man.

A loud boom is heard as the two men look to see a building
being demolished across the street.

OLD MAN
Shame, is'nt it? That restaurant
used to be so popular back in my
day. I used to take my kids there
every day after church.

DAVE
Hmmm. Funny.

OLD MAN
What's that?

DAVE
My parents used to do the same
thing with me.

OLD MAN
Really, well how about that?

Dave gives the man a friendly smile, which the Old Man gives
back.

OLD MAN
They had the best steak in the
county, lemme tell you. Everytime
the server brought it out to you,
it would literally-

DAVE AND OLD MAN
(together) Bend the plate.

The two men laugh and reminsce about the restaurant.

OLD MAN
That wasn't always where it was,
you know. It used to be up the
road, on the corner of 5th and
Maple street.

DAVE
Really?

OLD MAN

Oh yes. They abandoned that place years and years ago and put a business complex in its place. That's where I spent my career working.

DAVE

You're kidding?

OLD MAN

(enthusiastically) No, sir! 48 years, that's how long I was in the rat race. I was the head of the accounting firm that resided there.

Dave looks as though his eyes almost pop out of his skull.

DAVE

YOU were the head of Hammermill Inc.?

OLD MAN

(getting through to him) Oh, so you know them?

DAVE

Know them? They're our biggest competitor!

OLD MAN

Oh, so you're a Davidson Corporation man? I should have seen that from the fancy suit!

Dave giggles and gives the Old Man a friendly smile.

OLD MAN

You know, exactly what you're doing now is exactly what I experienced in my day.

DAVE

(jokingly) Yeah, and how many times did your car break down on the way to the biggest presentation of your career?

OLD MAN

Never. I couldn't afford a car. Rode my bike everywhere. It was only until all my children

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

OLD MAN (cont'd)
graduated college that I could
afford one.

He gestures over to an old gray Oldsmobile in the garage.

OLD MAN
But even then, life isn't about how
much money you got and how much you
spend. You got any kids of your
own?

DAVE
No, no kids. Not even a wife or a
girlfriend.

OLD MAN
Hmmm. Any particular reason why?

DAVE
(sadly) I guess I never found
the time. I was..

He looks down at the folder in his hands.

DAVE
...I guess I was too caught up
in my work.

OLD MAN
Unfortunate. But it's not too late.
You're young, unlike me. You have
all the time in the world.

DAVE
Thanks. Hopefully one day I can
look back on my past the way you
look back on yours.

The Old Man gives Dave a comforting pat on the shoulder.

OLD MAN
You will, trust me.

DAVE
I'm not too sure about that. I
don't think I possess the ability
to look back on my past with "rose
colored glasses".

OLD MAN
It's not always about that.
Mistakes and regrets are as

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

OLD MAN (cont'd)
important as your successes.
Without mistakes, you'll never know
when you do something right.

The Old Man leans in close to tell Dave something.

OLD MAN
You may view them as missteps, but
the way I see it, they brought you
here today to see differently.
Sounds like a good thing to me.

Mike returns from the garage with both sets of keys in hand.

MIKE
Alright gentleman, both y'all's
cars are fixed.

Dave and the Old Man walk to the counter and grab their
keys. The Old Man pulls out his wallet to pay.

The Old Man points to a document on the counter and whispers
some words to Mike.

DAVE
I feel as though I should apologize
about my earlier rudness, I was
just anxious about my presentation.

OLD MAN
No worries, water under the bridge
as far as I'm concerned.

Mike hands the receipt and his credit card to the Old Man

OLD MAN
Thanks again. Goodbye now.

The Old Man turns to leave, but stops to tell Dave something
first.

OLD MAN
You are going to do great things,
I'm just sure of it.

He exits the waiting room and gets in his car and drives
off.

Dave pulls out his credit card to pay, but Mike stops him

MIKE

Oh, not necessary, man. He already paid for the repairs.

DAVE

You're joking, right?

Mike hands Dave the receipt.

MIKE

No sir. Paid in full.

Dave looks at the receipt in amazement. A young woman walks into the waiting room. Her and Dave lock eyes, as she gives Dave a smile in return.

MIKE

Hey chief, if you don't mind me asking, do you by chance know that guy?

Dave smiles back at the young woman, finally realizing what the Old Man was saying all along.

DAVE

You know, I think I actually do.

FADE OUT.

THE END