

STAY WARM

By

STEVEN BURTON

INT. COMPUTER SCREEN

An email message reads, "We really like your website design for us! Let's go ahead with our plans.

Thank you,

Jerome".

The message clicks off.

An email message opens to read, "Hi Jack. My dearest sympathy's are with you. The wonderful memories of Mary live on. Please, let us know if there is anything we can do.

Love, Jenny."

INT. DESK

JACK in deep thought closes the computer and then gets up.

INT. LOFT

Jack slowly walks through a sparsely decorated room.

He stops to look at something on a wall.

INT. FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH

Jack, MARY, his wife, and their young son MICHAEL are pictured.

FLASHBACK on Mary at a street corner as she looks to cross the street.

The walk sign appears.

Mary quickly looks both ways and then begins to walk across the street.

Car brakes screech.

An ambulance races down a street.

Back to the present.

Jack sadly walks away.

INT. FRONT DOOR AREA

Jack wraps a scarf around his neck, puts on a heavy jacket, and then a knit cap.

He takes leather gloves out of the jacket pocket and then opens the front door.

EXT. SIDEWALK - WINTER DAY

Jack walks among others, the cell phone rings, and then he pulls it out of the pocket to answer.

JACK

Oh, hi. What's going on?

Listens.

That's good news, congratulations!

We'll have to celebrate.

Listens.

I'm out for a walk.

Listens.

Yes, it's cold, but this is to cool off a meltdown.

Listens.

I know it will be up and down for awhile.

This is just one of the downs.

Listens.

Thanks, as always.

Jack puts the phone back in the pocket as he continues to walk.

EXT. PIER ENTRANCE

Jack passes a woman who stands alone to look out towards the Pier.

FLASH on an image of Mary.

EXT. PIER

He reaches the end on a large River where park tables and chairs sit vacant to stare out over the river.

The woman from before walks up nearby.

She stands to look out over the river.

They subtly acknowledge each other, but maintain their privacy a safe distance away.

The woman slowly walks back towards the Pier entrance.

Jack walks back towards the pier entrance.

EXT. PIER ENTRANCE

Jack walks away on a sidewalk.

EXT. SIDEWALK

Jack notices something and then turns.

EXT. PARK

It is a small section with a docked ship in the background.

Jack walks up to the railing to look out.

After a while, he turns to leave and then surprised by something.

EXT. CONCRETE WALL

Without notice of Jack, a YOUNG MAN adjusts a makeshift cardboard tent and a sleeping bag along with other things.

He organizes his things with order and energy.

He gets into the sleeping bag under the tent to settle in out of view.

Jack passes the young man a safe distance away as he notices with fascination the things that surround him.

EXT. SIDEWALK

Jack walks in a faster pace with more intention.

EXT. GRADE SCHOOL

Jack goes inside surrounded by other kids and parents.

INT. GRADE SCHOOL HALLWAY

Jack acknowledges the other kids and parents as he approaches his son MICHAEL with a hug and kiss.

They move towards the exit.

JACK

What did you do today champ?

MICHAEL

Here.

Michael shows him a colorful drawing of a flower with "Mommy" crudely written on it.

Jack is taken aback, but quickly recovers.

JACK

That's beautiful. Just like her.

MICHAEL

I'm going to do more too.

JACK

That's great.

Jack puts his arm around Michael as they walk away.

EXT. SIDEWALK

Jack walks with Michael.

MICHAEL

I showed the picture to Johnny and he
said mommy is gone. I said no.

JACK

That's right. She is still with us in our
hearts.

MICHAEL

Then, why did he say that?

JACK

Because, he doesn't know what we know.
Look, you may not understand this now,
but others may say things that hurt.

MICHAEL

Why?

JACK

I don't know, but it happens. The most
important thing is to ignore it and know
what is true. Mom will always be with us
as long as we remember our love.

MICHAEL

But, I just want her here again.

Jack stops to hug Michael.

JACK

So do I.

INT. APARTMENT

Jack walks in with Michael.

INT. KITCHEN TABLE

Michael eats a snack of yogurt, cookies, and a glass of milk with Jack.

Jack has a thought and then looks away.

JACK

Are you OK?

MICHAEL

Yes.

JACK

I have to get something.

INT. BEDROOM

Jack opens a closet door to look inside.

INT. CLOSET

Jack focuses on some pushed aside clothes of Mary's on a rack.

He looks at some of his clothes on hangers nearby, sorts through to find a long over coat and then takes it off the hanger.

He looks the coat over, and then puts it on.

INT. BEDROOM

In a mirror, Jack looks at himself in the rumpled coat.

He takes it off to check all the inner and outer pockets for things inside, folds the coat over his arm and then walks away.

EXT. LIVING AREA

Jack approaches Michael as he plays with a toy.

JACK

Let's go on an adventure.

MICHAEL

Where?

JACK

It's a surprise.

INT. DOOR

Jack and Michael are bundled up to go outside.

Jack carries the coat over his arm.

EXT. SIDEWALK

Jack walks closely with Michael when he thinks of something.

JACK (OS)

Damn, I only have four bucks on me.

EXT. STREET CORNER

Jack focuses on the walk sign.

FLASH on Mary in a crosswalk.

Back to the street corner where Jack stands in thought.

MICHAEL

Are we going?

JACK

Oh, yes.

FLASH on the wait street signal.

JACK

When the light turns.

EXT. CROSSWALK

Jack holds Michael's hand as they quickly walk across the street.

EXT. PARK

Jack enters the area from before with the tent and the young man.

He stops Michael a short distance away from the tent.

JACK

Just wait here while I go over there.

I'll be right back. This is the surprise I told you about.

MICHAEL

What?

JACK

Don't worry. I'll tell you about it when I get back.

EXT. TENT AREA

Jack approaches with the young man inside, as Michael looks on.

JACK

Excuse me?

No response.

JACK

Excuse me?

After a rustle, the young man gets up to look out from the sleeping bag in a daze.

YOUNG MAN

Yes?

JACK

I have this coat for you.

YOUNG MAN

Oh, well I have enough for now.

He refers to his jacket.

JACK

But, you might need more. It's going to get colder. This is heavy wool and you could just wrap it around.

YOUNG MAN

Well, I really don't need it, but I might know someone who could use it.

JACK

Ok., I'll just leave it here as a backup or whatever.

YOUNG MAN

Good.

Jack puts the coat down next to the sleeping bag.

YOUNG MAN

Don't worry, I won't throw it away.
I'll find somebody who could use it.

JACK

Great. You take care and stay warm.

YOUNG MAN

I will and thank you.

JACK

You're welcome.

Jack begins to walk away.

YOUNG MAN

Do you know what time it is?

Jack pulls up his sleeve to realize no watch, but seems to know.

JACK

It's about four thirty.

YOUNG MAN

Thanks. I have to be somewhere at eight.

The young man goes back down into his sleeping bag to cover up.

Jack walks away towards Michael.

EXT. SIDEWALK

Jack and Michael walk together.

JACK

Maybe, we helped this guy.

MICHAEL

Why is he out there?

JACK

I don't know, but hopefully he will be all right as we will be. Come on, let's go get a treat.

MICHAEL

Ok.

They continue to walk together.

FADE OUT