

TOUCHED

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INT. MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

End credits of a film start to scroll as the AUDIENCE begins an applause. The applause erupts as -

"Screenplay by Edgar James"

Scrolls the giant screen.

A teary-eyed EDGAR JAMES, 40s, mixed race, smiles with gratitude as congratulatory hands touch and squeeze him from COURTNEY 50s Caucasian, MATTHEW 40s Asian, ALBERT 50s Black, and DONNA 40s mixed race. Edgar reciprocates with hand shakes and arm squeezes.

DONNA

Oh my god, that was so good!

COURTNEY

Wasn't it?!

MATTHEW

Well done, my friend. Happy for you!

EDGAR

Thanks. I ... I don't know. Hard to believe it was ever made.

ALBERT

You're gonna change lives with this.

EDGAR

(shrugging with a smile)

I don't know, thanks.

ALBERT

You're on your way, Edgar.

EDGAR

(a bit of a laugh)

Am I?

ALBERT

We couldn't be more proud of you.

Edgar goes to hug Albert.

EDGAR

I love you guys. Thanks so much for coming and all your support through these years.

COURTNEY

Of course! Couldn't miss your first
sold and made screenplay.

DONNA

So happy to be here and see your
work. Amazing. Simply amazing.

With flowing tears, Edgar embraces them all.

EXT. SIDEWALK OF MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Edgar and his friends exit the movie theatre, which is
dressed with signs and banners that read:

"Kansas International Film Festival"

After a short stroll, they encounter a few HOMELESS FOLKS.
One grungy, sad-looking elder guy, BOB, 70s, puts his hand
out in begging fashion.

Edgar's friends steer clear of him while Edgar simply looks
him in the eye for a moment and then gives Bob a hand
squeeze on the shoulder.

COURTNEY

Ewe, don't touch him.

MATTHEW

Watch yourself, Edgar.

Edgar continues ahead without giving it much thought.

However, Bob freezes upon Edgar's touch. His eyes widen and
"glow". Unseen by anyone, Bob breaks a subtle smile,
appearing energized.

INT. EDGAR'S HOME - NIGHT - LATER

Edgar is now in his small, comfortable home with Albert.

ALBERT

I'll say it again. You're gonna help
people with this film.

EDGAR

Yeah well ... we'll see.

ALBERT

It's engaging. You had everything:
the highs, lows, tears, joy, and
excitement. Bravo, dude.

(MORE)

ALBERT (cont'd)
I just can't believe it took this long for someone to see your great work.

EDGAR
Welcome to showbiz!

They exchange agreeing smiles.

ALBERT
But it all could have come to quick end, my friend.

EDGAR
(confused)
How so?

ALBERT
It was risky touching that homeless guy.

EDGAR
Oh, come on. He looked like he needed it. (beat) Look, we know nothing about him, his past, his experiences that led him to where he is today, right?

Albert nods in agreement.

EDGAR (cont'd)
And what did his parents and their parents go thru?

Albert shakes his head.

EDGAR (cont'd)
Probably hell. Life for some people can be crazy. It can take generations for some to resolve an issue and finally end a cycle of abuse. Maybe just being kind to someone will help in some small way. I don't know. He reached out, grant it for money, but ... so I reached out back. That's all.

Albert stares at Edgar with a bit of awe.

EDGAR (cont'd)
It's like ... humanity needs a reset of some kind, so we don't have to go through all this stuff.

ALBERT

Man-o-man, you need to stop worrying about others in need so much and take care of your own needs.

Edgar stares at him.

ALBERT (cont'd)

When was the last time you got laid?

Edgar breaks a subtle smile and shakes his head a bit.

EDGAR

I ... don't know.

ALBERT

Too long, right?

Edgar nods.

ALBERT (cont'd)

I just can't believe the universe, life, still hasn't presented you with a mate yet. You're a good guy, heart in the right place, you've taken care of your family business, you've got it together, man.

EDGAR

Yeah. (beat) I don't know about that one. I don't know what else to do.

ALBERT

Well, maybe that lovely person is finally around that mysterious corner, about to appear before your very eyes. I sure hope so, my friend. You so deserve it.

INT. EDGAR'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Lights out, Edgar is in bed pulling up the sheets. He stares for a bit, pondering, then closes his eyes.

Much later, a very clear yet quite VOICE emanates.

VOICE (V.O.)

Edgar ... Edgar.

Edgar wakes, startled!

EDGAR

Who's there?!

He looks around but no one is there. The Voice is clearly coming from within his bedroom.

VOICE

Edgar?

Edgar grabs his head. It's clear the Voice is coming from inside his head!

EDGAR

Who are you? What do you want?!

VOICE

Consider me ... the universe, life.

EDGAR

What? Really? This must be a dream. I don't believe it.

VOICE

Ok then. Move that lamp on the table across the room.

Edgar considers for a moment and then begins to rise from bed.

VOICE (cont'd)

No. From your bed. Simply will it.

EDGAR

Really? Well, if it works, this is one hell of a dream.

Edgar takes a breath, looks at the lamp, and appears to concentrate. Within seconds, the lamp on the table moves!

EDGAR (cont'd)

Shit! (beat) Can I move something else?

VOICE

Sure. Anything.

Edgar looks around. His eyes lock on his closed closet door. He stares and appears to concentrate. Suddenly the closet door opens!

EDGAR

Aye aye aye. This can't be real.
(beat) What if it's YOU moving these things?

VOICE

Well, either way, you know I'm real then, don't you?

EDGAR

This is gotta be a dream!

VOICE

I assure you, it's not. Feel free to roam about your place, touch things, do things, whatever. When you're convinced you are awake, I'll be hear waiting.

Edgar sits with this for a moment, until he accepts the Voice is real.

EDGAR

Okay, I believe you. What do you want?

VOICE

Aaah, that's more like it. I'm here to give you a gift.

EDGAR

A gift? Why, why me?

VOICE

You perform countless self-less acts of kindness, so I wanted to reward you with an incredible gift.

EDGAR

Incredible? Why would it be incredible?

VOICE

Because it's a superpower. A power almost greater than life itself. A power for you to use whenever you'd like. And ... it can be anything you like.

EDGAR

Anything?

VOICE

Anything.

Edgar's eyes widen with awe.

VOICE (cont'd)

However, you can only use it once.

EDGAR
Oh, a catch. There's always a catch.
I often write them in my scripts.

VOICE
I know.

EDGAR
Okay, a bit creepy. (beat) How do I
choose this superpower?

VOICE
Simply think of it. Take your time.

Edgar ponders for a moment until -

EDGAR
I got it!

VOICE
I see it.

EDGAR
But I didn't tell you.

VOICE
Trust me. I got it.

Edgar shows acceptance.

EDGAR
How will I know how to use it?

VOICE
Just sit. Be still. And you will
know.

INT. EDGAR'S BEDROOM - DAY - NEXT MORNING

Edgar wakes from his sleep. He looks a bit confused. He settles himself at the edge of the bed and does some deep breathing, appearing to relax.

Suddenly, he hears a scream and some wailing from outside!

He rises and looks out his window. A few people are coming out of their homes yelling, screaming, and some sobbing.

Then, a bright object in the sky grabs his attention. It looks like a massive fireball!

Edgar catches eye of a frantic NEIGHBOR from outside pointing at the object.

NEIGHBOR

The comet! This is the end, my
friends! This is it!

Edgar's eyes widen. The comet keeps getting bigger and bigger as it breaks through the Earth's atmosphere!

Then, as if remembering, Edgar sits on the floor in a meditative pose. He closes his eyes and breathes rhythmically. Edgar does his best to remain calm and then utters softly.

EDGAR

Reset humanity. Reset.

The brightness of the comet now engulfs his entire home!

EDGAR (cont'd)

Reset humanity.

IMPACT! But immediate silence! Nothing moves, shakes, or rumbles. The blinding light now completely engulfs Edgar as he sits utterly still.

Close on his shut eyes, Edgar does his best to control his shaking fear.

Suddenly, Edgar hears a bird, he thinks. He sniffs and gradually opens his eyes.

To his utter surprise, he is sitting in a field, naked! There are no buildings and the field looks odd.

And there's other naked people slowly wandering around the massive open field, touching the odd-looking vegetation.

It appears brighter than usual for a sunny day. Edgar looks up and to his shock, sees two suns!

He rises and looks around. Even the trees in the short distance don't really look like trees he's ever seen.

The tweeting birds express a sound and rhythm never heard of before.

Some people are cheering with joy while a few are fearful of their new surroundings.

Edgar grows teary-eyed with a growing smile.

EDGAR (cont'd)

We're not in Kansas anymore ... for
real.

We pull away from Edgar and the field to reveal an unknown planet.

As we pull further away, we see that the planet circles a binary star system.

Pulling further out, this new solar system contains just 7 planets.

Still further out, we see this new solar system is within our own galaxy.

Then we pan across our galaxy and zoom in on an area to see planet Earth being ripped apart and every continent glowing red from flames of fire!

Back to Edgar's teary eyes. We slowly pull away from him.

EDGAR (cont'd)
Humanity has been reset.

Edgar looks up and out.

EDGAR (cont'd)
Thank you. Thank you, whoever or
whatever you are!

Happy voices fill the field!

Then suddenly Edgar receives a big bear hug by an unknown WOMAN.

WOMAN
Isn't this great!

Edgar looks at her and she releases her hold on him.

WOMAN (cont'd)
I'm sorry. I'm just so -

EDGAR
No, it's okay. I get it. We all need
it.

They stare in each other's eyes for a moment.

Then, Edgar puts his hand out to her. She looks at it and him. Then she accepts his hand and they embrace again, laughing, crying! While hugging her, Edgar's eyes look up.

EDGAR (cont'd)
(whisper)
Thank you.

WOMAN

Thank you!

Surprised by her response, Edgar smiles as tears stream down his face.

We pull away again to see people everywhere holding and hugging each other.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END