

Tramp

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - NIGHT

A homeless man, JAKOB, fifties, reads a book on a bench. He's wrapped in a blanket with a large rucksack beside him.

Three TEENAGERS approach. TEENAGER #1 places a can of strong lager at Jakob's feet as he passes.

TEENAGER #1

There you are, mate. Help keep you warm tonight.

Jakob glances up, smiles, and is straight back to his book.

TEENAGER #2 (O.S.)

What'd you do that for?

TEENAGER #1 (O.S.)

It tasted like shit.

TEENAGER #3 (O.S.)

I would have drank it.

TEENAGER #2 (O.S.)

I would've chucked it rather than give it to a fuckin' bum.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - LATER

Jakob pours the can of lager down a drain and returns to his bench.

He pulls a small, serrated hunting knife from his pocket, cuts the cans head off and carefully makes slices into it vertically.

EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY

A HAND grabs an ashtray made from the lager can. A MAN throws a couple of coins into a box beside a hand written sign that reads 'Take what you want - Give what you want'.

Jakob sits in a doorway, wrapped in his blanket.

Various pieces of artwork made from recycled goods are laid out in front of him.

Among it are more weaved can ashtrays, ring pull jewelry and the stand out piece, a fish made from beer bottle caps.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - NIGHT

Jakob reads his book on a bench.

SALLY (O.S.)
I'm not a fucking slag.

BEN (O.S.)
That's not what Caleb's been saying.

SALLY (O.S.)
That's 'cause he's a prick.

BEN (O.S.)
Don't talk about my brother like that.

SALLY (O.S.)
Get off me!

Jakob glances over to the commotion.

BEN, a streak of piss in his mid twenties, has a hold of SALLY, a chavette in her late teens, by the arm.

She attempts to pull away but Ben clings on.

SALLY
Let go.

BEN
Not until you apologize.

Sally struggles briefly but soon gives up.

SALLY
I'm sorry.

BEN
What for?

SALLY
Calling your brother a prick.

Ben lets go.

BEN
Good girl. Now come on, let's go back to mine.

SALLY
I said no.

BEN
I wasn't asking.

Sally turns to walk away but Ben grabs her by the neck.

BEN
What part of I wasn't asking don't
you understand?

SALLY
Get the fuck off me.

BEN
Keep talking like that, bitch, your
jaw's gonna be too fucked to suck
my dick anyway.

Ben leans into her ear.

BEN
I'll have to fuck you in the ass
instead then.

JAKOB (O.S.)
Oi!

Ben turns to see Jakob on the bench.

Jakob puts down his book, unwraps himself from his blanket
and stands.

BEN
What?

JAKOB
I'll call the police.

BEN
You don't own a phone you silly
cunt.

Sally manages to break free and makes a run for it. Ben
watches her leave, smiles and turns back to Jakob.

BEN
Now look what you've done.

Ben laughs and begins to walk away.

BEN
I'll see you real soon, Mr. Wendal.

Jakob watches him leave.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - LATER

Jakob lies asleep on a bench. He stirs, coughs and sits up,
startled. A small newspaper fire burns below him.

He jumps to his feet, throws his blanket to the ground and
stomps on it. He looks up to the sound of laughter.

PETE, late thirties, scruffy, overweight, and CALEB, mid thirties, half the size but twice as intimidating, laugh at Jakob with Ben by their side.

Pete records Jakob on his phone.

PETE
Looked a bit cold, mate. Thought
we'd help you out.

Jakob grabs his blanket and rucksack and storms off. Pete, Caleb and Ben follow.

PETE
You not gonna say hi?

Pete shoves his phone into Jakob's face.

BEN
Probably be famous next week 'cause
of us.

JAKOB
Piss off.

CALEB
Fuck did you say?

Caleb paces in front of Jakob and turns to face him. Pete smiles as he continues to record.

CALEB
Gonna answer me then, cunt?

PETE
Don't get too close, you might
catch somethin'.

Jakob turns and walks the other way. Caleb sucks up phlegm and spits on Jakob's back.

Jakob stops. Drops his rucksack.

As he turns, Caleb delivers a powerful right jab, knocking him backwards. He follows through with a swift headbutt.

Jakob hits the deck.

Caleb and Ben take turns to stomp him. Jakob shouts and moans briefly until a powerful kick from Pete silences him.

Caleb grabs Pete's phone and turns it on himself.

PHONE FOOTAGE - Caleb speaks to the camera.

CALEB

And that kids, is why you should stay in school. Get an education so you don't end up like this worthless cunt.

The camera turns to reveal Jakob, a bloody mess on the floor. A beep signifies the end of the video.

EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY

Jakob sits in a doorway, a cut across the bridge of his nose and one eye completely swollen shut. His artwork is laid out in front of him, but not as neatly as before.

FERN, ten, adorable, admires his work.

Her mother, KAYA, early thirties, dressed in a nurses uniform, talks on a mobile behind her.

FERN

Mummy, look. A fish!

Kaya pays no attention. Fern tugs on her sleeve.

KAYA

(into phone)

Could you just hold on a moment.

(to Fern)

What is it Sweetie? Mummy's trying to make an important phone call.

FERN

There's a fish!

KAYA

We've been through this, Fern. We're not getting anymore pets.

FERN

No, not a real one, look!

Fern excitedly points at the bottle cap fish.

Kaya glances at it, then focuses on Jakob. She smiles. Jakob smiles back faintly.

FERN

Can I have it? Pleaaaase.

KAYA

I haven't got my purse on me.

FERN

Ohhhw.

Kaya leans down to speak to Fern.

KAYA

I tell you what. If you're good for daddy tomorrow, I might pop by on the way back from work and get it for you. Okay?

Fern nods.

KAYA

Come on then. We better get going.

Kaya holds Ferns hand, puts the phone back to her ear and turns to walk away.

JAKOB

Wait.

Kaya and Fern turn back.

Jakob winces as he leans forward and grabs the fish. He holds it out to Fern.

JAKOB

Take it.

Fern attempts to grab it but Kaya pulls her back.

KAYA

We couldn't.

JAKOB

Please. It would mean a lot.

Kaya hesitates a moment and lets go of Fern's hand. Fern eagerly takes the fish from Jakob.

KAYA

What do you say?

FERN

Thank you.

JAKOB

That's okay. You have a good day.
Be good for your mum.

Kaya mouths the words 'thank you' to Jakob as she leaves with Fern clutching tightly to her new favorite toy.

Jakob smiles briefly as he sits back in the doorway.

EXT. HIGH STREET - NIGHT

Jakob is huddled in the doorway, asleep. His artwork is packed up but it's the same place as before.

A BOOT taps his foot.

POLICEMAN (O.S.)

Sir.

The boot taps his foot again, this time harder.

POLICEMAN (O.S.)

(stern)

Sir.

Jakob opens his eyes. A POLICEMAN stands at his feet.

POLICEMAN

You can't stay here. I'm gonna have
to ask you to move on.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - NIGHT

Jakob stands at the entrance and scans the area. He sighs,
turns and leaves.

EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Jakob stands underneath. He's alone, but this place has
certainly seen its fair share of residents.

Empty bottles of cider, half full bin liners, scraps of tin
foil and a couple of spent needles litter the place.

Jakob drops his rucksack and blanket and clears a small area
at the edge of the bridge.

He unravels his blanket, lays it on the ground and sits. He
positions his rucksack behind him, leans his head back and
stares up at the stars.

FADE TO BLACK.

The faint sound of TRICKLING. It gets closer. Louder. And is
then muffled.

FADE FROM BLACK:

EXT. BRIDGE - LATER

A small, steady stream of fluid splashes on Jakob's face from
above. Jakob bolts upright. Spits in disgust.

He looks up to see Ben waving from the top of the bridge, his
tackle in his hand.

Pete snatches Jakob's rucksack. Jakob tries to stand but is
put to the floor by a stomp to the back from Caleb.

Pete rifles through Jakob's stuff, pulls out various pieces
of artwork and chucks them on the floor.

CALEB

Ben says he seen you talkin' to a bit of gammon earlier.

Jakob's full attention is on Pete and his rucksack.

JAKOB

Please.

He reaches out and attempts to stand, but Caleb puts his foot on Jakob's chest, clamping him to the ground.

CALEB

What'd you say to them?

Caleb presses down harder.

JAKOB

Nothing. I didn't say anything.

BEN (O.S.)

He's full of shit.

Ben walks into view, zips up his flies.

BEN

I seen them gettin' real chatty.

JAKOB

I wasn't. He just asked me to...

CALEB

You callin' my brother a liar, cunt?

Caleb presses down harder. Jakob struggles to breathe.

PETE

Look what we got here.

Pete holds up a fluffy pink teddy bear. Ben and Caleb laugh. Jakob's eyes begin to well.

CALEB

Knew there was somethin' wrong with ya. Fuckin' nonce, ain't he.

Tears stream down Jakob's face.

CALEB

Pass it here.

Pete chucks Caleb the bear who holds it in Jakob's face.

CALEB

This from one of your victims, is it?

Jakob stares at a small, open locket around the bears neck. An angelic GIRL, six, smiles back at him.

CALEB

Ben, chuck us that voddy.

Ben passes Caleb a small bottle of vodka. Caleb douses the bear with it and pulls a Zippo lighter from his pocket.

He holds the lighter to the bear and after a moment it catches light. He chucks the bear on the floor.

CALEB

Talk to the pigs again and you'll be next.

Caleb lifts his foot off of Jakob and stamps hard on his chest. Jakob wails in pain.

Ben spits at Jakob as he, Pete and Caleb leave.

With great effort Jakob turns onto his side and reaches out for the bear, but it's too late.

He watches through tearful eyes as it goes up in flames.

EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY

Jakob sits in the same doorway as before. But he's alone. No rucksack, no blanket, no artwork. Just a large bottle of gin and a small vial of pills to keep him company.

He wraps his hand around the bottle lid, cracks the seal and takes a swig. Then opens the pills and pours them inside.

KAYA (O.S.)

Go on.

Jakob looks up and quickly tucks the bottle into his lap.

Fern stands in front of him with Kaya close behind.

FERN

Here you go.

Fern holds out a five pound note. Jakob stares back, at a loss for words.

KAYA

It's out of her pocket money. She insisted.

JAKOB

I...

KAYA

Please. It would mean a lot.

Jakob hesitates, reaches out and takes the money.

JAKOB
Thank you.

Fern blushes and huddles back into her mum's arms.

KAYA
Are you okay?

Jakob nods.

KAYA
That eye of yours'll get infected
if you're not careful.

JAKOB
I'm fine. Honestly.

KAYA
I could take a look at it if you
want, it's no problem. Just another
day at the office.

Jakob considers the offer.

EXT. HIGH STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Jakob, Kaya and Fern take a gentle stroll along the pavement.

FERN
Can we still go to the park later?

KAYA
As you've been such a good girl, I
don't see why not.

FERN
Can Jakob come?

JAKOB
I'm a little too old for all that
business.

FERN
My dad says that you're only as old
as you feel.

JAKOB
Well, in that case. I'm definitely
too old.

Jakob smiles, reaches out and drops the bottle of gin into a bin as he passes.

FADE OUT.