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LOGAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA

MATTHEW REDSTONE, 32, WIDOWER, FATHER and SELF EMPLOYED  
Trucker with four drivers.

PAUL REDSTONE, 9, Matthew's only son

FRANK REDSTONE, 35, Matthew brother and a warehouse worker

Matthew, Frank and Paul are residing in a house they bought together after Matthew's wife died. Frank fills in to take care of Paul when ever Matthew goes away on business, which is often, missing birthdays and school events. With Paul getting older, it has now become a problem only Matthew can solve.

FADE IN:

EXT: PUBLIC FISHING LAKE - DAY

SUPER : Twenty-five years earlier - A father/son moment

Matthew and Paul are sitting in a small fishing boat, waiting patiently for a bite.

PAUL

Dad, this fishing trip is really neat, but where are the fish?

MATTHEW

You have to be patient Paul..you'll get a bite, soon.

PAUL

I know..I know..I just don't won't this day to end.

MATTHEW

Neither do I. I'm going to try and be home more.

PAUL

Well, you missed my birthday last month and all the kids at school think Uncle Frank is my real Dad.

MATTHEW

It pains me to be absent so much but I need to be a alternate driver until I can get some help.

PAUL

I know..I just wish we could spend more days together like this.

MATTHEW

Since your Mom died, living with your Uncle Frank is the best I can do right now.

PAUL

(sigh)

Dad, Mom died three years ago...

MATTHEW

I really miss her. When she suddenly got sick, I thought we could save her but she was too far gone..GOD, I miss her!

PAUL

I miss her too Dad. I'm not complaining about your traveling, I just wanted to let you know how I felt.

MATTHEW

Believe me, I know. Your Uncle Frank and I have had plenty of conversations about this subject.

PAUL

So, what are you going to do about it?

MATTHEW

You're not going to let this subject go, are you?

PAUL

Nope..I want to know and Uncle Frank wants to know too.

MATTHEW

Your Uncle Frank put you up to this, did he?

PAUL

Nope..Uncle Frank didn't ask me to say anything..we both need you here.

MATTHEW

Well, I've been talking to someone about driving one of the trucks.

PAUL

All right..sounds like a plan.

MATTHEW

I always want you to remember.. "money and power doesn't make a man a good father, love does"..don't ever forget it.

PAUL

That sounds like you're leaving us again..how long will you be gone this time?

MATTHEW

About four days..I leave tonight.

PAUL

Since this will be your last trip for a while, four days will be a breeze.

Paul gets a TUG on his on his line and REELS in his catch.

EXT. HIGHWAY - RAINY NIGHT- LATER

SUPER - SECOND DAY INTO TRIP

After contacting home, Matthew is driving with the radio BLARING. As he drives under an overpass, a loose piece of concrete debris CRASHES into his windshield.

He SWERVES and lose control. As his truck OVERTURNS several times down a rocky embankment, Matthew, fortunately is THROWN free and lands unconscious after HITTING his head against a small boulder.

The truck EXPLODES into a FIERY, FLAMING, FIREBALL. A MOTORIST, 45, who witnessed the accident finds him.

The Motorist, assuming that Matthew is dead or close to death, steals his personal papers, money and disappears into the night.

EXT. ACCIDENT SCENE - LATER

Highway Patrol is surveying the wreckage.

CAPTAIN ANTHONY EGAN, HIGHWAY PATROL 42, on the force for fifteen years and LEAD INVESTIGATOR is on the scene with several of his OFFICERS.

Matthew is treated at the scene by a Medical Unit and taken to a local hospital.

CAPTAIN EGAN

Not only was he a robbery victim,  
look at that wreckage. If he  
survives, God just wasn't ready for  
him.

A PATROLMAN, 24, surveying the damaged cargo, summons him.

PATROLMAN

Sir, take a look at this..it smells  
like he was hauling something  
flammable.

CAPTAIN EGAN

I'm not taking any chances..  
Call the Bio- Unit and seal this  
area off.

Patrolman exits.

INT. REDSTONE RESIDENCE- NIGHT

Kitchen -

SUPER: Two days later

Uncle Frank is standing looking out the window. Paul, in his pajamas, enters.

PAUL

What's the matter Uncle Frank..why aren't you in bed?

UNCLE FRANK

The company who hired your father just called and said he never showed up with the delivery.

PAUL

Maybe he got delayed or something.

UNCLE FRANK

I've been trying to call him but his cell keeps going to voice mail.

Telephone RINGS

UNCLE FRANK (cont'd)

That's probably Matt calling now..hello.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION - CAPTAIN EGAN and UNCLE FRANK-

CAPTAIN EGAN

Good evening, I'm Captain Egan from the Virginia Highway Patrol, is this the Redstone residence?

UNCLE FRANK

Yes, it is..I'm Frank Redstone..what can I do for you?

CAPTAIN EGAN

There was an accident on the highway just south of my location and a fingerprint analysis was done on the driver and came we up with the name Matthew Redstone and this telephone number.

UNCLE FRANK

Matthew Redstone is my brother. What is this about? Is he okay?

CAPTAIN EGAN

His truck overturned off the highway and he's been taken to Saint Joseph's Hospital.

Paul notices a SHOCKING expression on Uncle Frank's face.

UNCLE FRANK

How bad is he?

CAPTAIN EGAN

I don't know all the details but  
you can contact the Hospital at  
this number.. 555-3847.

UNCLE FRANK

Captain Egan, my brother always  
carried identification. Why did you  
use his fingerprints?

CAPTAIN EGAN

At the scene, we found him  
unconscious with his pockets turned  
inside out..no ID or nothing.

UNCLE FRANK

My God..that's why he hasn't  
called.

CAPTAIN EGAN

Just give the hospital a call right  
away Mr. Redstone.

UNCLE FRANK

Thank you for calling..good night  
Captain Egan.

OFFICER EGAN

Good night Mr. Redstone.

END OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION-

PAUL

Uncle Frank, who was that on the  
telephone?

UNCLE FRANK

That was the police. They said your  
father was in an accident and he's  
been in the hospital all this time.

PAUL

Hospital, oh no.

UNCLE FRANK  
He's alive. Thank God.

PAUL  
What happened?

UNCLE FRANK  
His truck overturned and went down  
a hill.

PAUL  
Let's go to the hospital and see  
him!

UNCLE FRANK  
We'll see him soon enough. Thank  
goodness you don't have school  
tomorrow.

PAUL  
Uncle Frank, God is going to keep  
my Dad safe. I know it, because I  
talk to him all the time.

UNCLE FRANK  
That's good Paul. Matt needs all  
the help he can get, now go back to  
bed.

INT. SAINT JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL - NIGHT/SAME

Matthew's Bedside -

Matthew is awake and staring expressionless at the walls of  
his room. He see another patient in a bed next to his asleep  
and heavily medicated. DOCTOR SIDNEY OSGOOD, 57, a  
bespectacled PSYCHIATRIST on staff for twenty years enters.

DOCTOR OSGOOD  
Thank God you're awake..you sir,  
are a very lucky man.

Matthew GRUMBLES.

DOCTOR OSGOOD (cont'd)  
My name is Doctor Osgood..can you  
tell me yours?

No response.

DOCTOR OSGOOD (cont'd)  
Do you know where you are?

MATTHEW  
Where am I? Who am I?

DOCTOR OSGOOD  
You're in Saint Joseph's  
Hospital..can you tell me your  
name?

MATTHEW  
My name? I don't know Doc'.. I  
don't know.

DOCTOR OSGOOD  
Don't worry, your family has been  
notified and they will be here soon  
and they can help you recall some  
things.

MATTHEW  
I can't remember anything. What's  
wrong with me?

DOCTOR OSGOOD  
You were in a trucking accident and  
suffered a concussion.

MATTHEW  
I need to get out of this  
place..these walls..they're closing  
in on me.

DOCTOR OSGOOD  
Let's discuss these walls..talk to  
me about these walls. What do you  
see?

MATTHEW  
Its so dark and gloomy in  
here..like its dead all over.

DOCTOR OSGOOD  
Tell me, how can I make it better  
for you?

MATTHEW

Everything in here seems to be moving around.. can you stop these walls from closing in on me?

DOCTOR OSGOOD

That's the medication you're on that is making you hallucinate, but you're on track to be just fine.

MATTHEW

I don't know Doc'..I can't remember nothing.

DOCTOR OSGOOD

Don't worry about that right now. Our main purpose is to get you well.

MATTHEW

What am I going to do? I don't want to stay here.

DOCTOR OSGOOD

Your fingerprints was taken and the results came back with your true identity.

MATTHEW

My head hurts, my body hurts..I hurt all over.

DOCTOR OSGOOD

Looking at your chart here, I see you aren't due for another dose of pain medicine for another hour.

MATTHEW

Why am I here?

DOCTOR OSGOOD

You're really lucky to be alive. My Staff even named you "Jake Diamond"..tough exterior..get it?.

MATTHEW

Jake Diamond? What kind of name is that?

DOCTOR OSGOOD

It's just a little nick name they  
came up with..but your real name  
is..

As Dr. Osgood is about to tell Matthew his real name, a  
FEMALE STAFF NURSE, 28, rush in and interrupt him in mid-  
sentence with an urgent request to accompany her to the  
Emergency Room.

DOCTOR OSGOOD (cont'd)

We'll finish our conversation  
later.

En-route to the Emergency Room, Doctor Osgood stops by the  
Nurses Station and give orders for pain medication and to  
monitor Matthew closely until he returns.

INT. MATTHEW'S BEDSIDE- LATER

With the Nurses pre-occupied with medical charts and  
visitors, Matthew manages to steal clothing from the sedated  
patient and slips out unnoticed among the visitors and into  
the woods adjacent to the hospital.

INT. REDSTONE RESIDENCE-SAME

Uncle Frank is on the telephone again with Captain Egan  
discussing the cargo Matthew was carrying.

REDSTONE'S BEDROOM/CAPTAIN EGAN'S OFFICE-

UNCLE FRANK

Yes, my brother is licensed to  
carry flammables.

CAPTAIN EGAN

I've been in touch with your  
brother's employers and they've  
been very helpful.

UNCLE FRANK

A Representative from the company  
is meeting us at the hospital  
tomorrow if you have any more  
questions.

CAPTAIN EGAN

How is he doing?

UNCLE FRANK

I've talked to his Attending Physician and he said that he was awake, but still needs some care.

CAPTAIN EGAN

Sounds good Mr. Redstone. I'll be in touch.

UNCLE FRANK

Good night, Captain Egan.

Uncle Frank hangs up the telephone and Paul re-enters.

PAUL

Uncle Frank you've been on the telephone all night. When are you going to bed?

UNCLE FRANK

Soon..don't worry about me little man, why are you up again?

PAUL

I'm not sleepy. I'm worried about my Dad.

UNCLE FRANK

We both are..your Dad is getting the best care available and we have a long drive ahead of us.

PAUL

I talked to God again and told him to watch over my Dad.

UNCLE FRANK

That's the best laid plan..always remember, God never tires of you coming to him.

INT. SAINT JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL-DAY

DR. OSGOOD'S OFFICE-

Uncle Frank and Paul have arrived. Matthew's disappearance is being discussed and Uncle Frank is LIVID.

DR OSGOOD

I'm sorry Mr. Redstone..he stole another patient's clothing and disappeared during Visiting Hours.

UNCLE FRANK

Explain to me again, how a man whom you described on the telephone was in such terrible pain and on medications, be able to leave on his own.

DOCTOR OSGOOD

He wanted to leave..we just didn't expect him to be so determined.

UNCLE FRANK

Determined? In your medical profession, shouldn't that type of behavior raise a red flag?

DOCTOR OSGOOD

It most certainly did. I ordered my Nurses to monitor him, but he just walked out unnoticed.

UNCLE FRANK

What kind of hospital are you running here Doctor Osgood?

DOCTOR OSGOOD

We give excellent care in this hospital Mr. Redstone and believe me, a total investigation is being performed as we speak.

UNCLE FRANK

At this point I don't know what to say.

DOCTOR OSGOOD

Mr. Redstone..there is another matter that need addressing concerning your brother.

UNCLE FRANK

If its about his bill, my brother has excellent insurance and a Representative from the trucking company will be here later.

DOCTOR OSGOOD

It has nothing to do with his expenses..the matter is purely psychological in nature.

UNCLE FRANK

Psychological? Now, what are you telling me..that my brother is crazy?

DOCTOR OSGOOD

No.. no.. no, Mr. Redstone! When he awoke, he was disoriented and couldn't remember his name or where he lived, but..

UNCLE FRANK

Isn't that fairly common among people who suffer concussions?

DOCTOR OSGOOD

That's true in some cases, but I detected some memory loss during my evaluations.

UNCLE FRANK

And..how long could this condition last?

DOCTOR OSGOOD

It could be a day, a month, a year or..

UNCLE FRANK

There's no determination is there?

DOCTOR OSGOOD

I'm really sorry Mr. Redstone.

EXT. LOCAL STREET - SAME

After spending an uneventful night SHIVERING in the woods, Matthew, tired and hungry, is walking around town looking for something to eat.

He walks past a fruit stand and steals a piece of fruit.

He notices a long line of people standing outside a church and joins them.

JUNE BUG 45, a HOMELESS MAN already in line strikes up a conversation as Matthew walks up behind him.

JUNE BUG

You're just in time buddy. They call me JUNE BUG.. what's yours?

MATTHEW

My name is ah..ah..

JUNE BUG

You don't know your own name?

MATTHEW

Jake Diamond..they call me Jake Diamond.

JUNE BUG

Jake Diamond, like the Private Eye on TV, huh? ..well, welcome to Father Valise's soup line.

MATTHEW

Soup line?

JUNE BUG

Yeah, soup line as in free food you dummy!

As the line enter the church, Matthew is given a sandwich, a container of milk and a piece of fruit. He finds an opening on a bench and sits down. June Bug follows and FORCEFULLY slides in between him and another HOMELESS MAN, 56.

JUNE BUG (cont'd)

I've been eating in a lot of these soup kitchens and I've never seen you before. Where're you headin'?

MATTHEW

You sure do ask a lot of questions.

JUNE BUG

Just trying to make conversation  
Buddy, that's all.

MATTHEW

You don't make conversation by  
asking so many questions.

June Bug abruptly stands up with his tray with an ANGRY GLARE and finds another seat.

An INTOXICATED HOMELESS MAN, 45 ambles over and sit next to Matthew, NODDING back and forth, constantly LEANING on him as he tries to eat.

Annoyed with the enviroment, Matthew picks up his sandwich and fruit and leaves the church.

Without any identification or knowledge of who he is, he boards a freight train with several other Homeless men and heads east, winding up in New York City.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY- DAY

After being thrown off the train by Security, Matthew strolls along the streets again hungry and in need of a bath.. He approach a POLICE OFFICER, 29, on patrol.

MATTHEW

Good day Officer.. where can a man  
find a meal around here?

Matthew is directed to a nearby shelter across the street. He enters and is given clothes, food and a bed for the night.

EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

CAPTAIN EGAN'S OFFICE- One Month Later

Uncle Frank and Paul is seated, discussing Matthew's disappearance.

CAPTAIN EGAN

I thought at one time we had a  
lead, but it didn't pan out.

UNCLE FRANK

I really can't believe this is happening. Its as though he's vanished into thin air.

PAUL

Uncle Frank, maybe he's..

UNCLE FRANK

Don't think like that Paul. He's out there and we're going to find him.

CAPTAIN EGAN

If he's suffering memory loss like Doc Osgood said, he could be anywhere.

UNCLE FRANK

He stated Matt could take any street identity. But what kind of identity could he be using?

CAPTAIN EGAN

We've distributed the photos you gave us through every possible venue..I don't know what else we can do.

UNCLE FRANK

Its just frustrating waiting around not knowing nothing.

CAPTAIN EGAN

God forbids if he blends in with the homeless. He'll definitely be hard to find.

As Uncle Frank and Paul walks towards the exit, Paul turns to Captain Egan..

PAUL

Please find my dad, Captain Egan.. I don't want to grow up without him.

CAPTAIN EGAN

Don't worry young man..we're doing everything possible to find your father.

Paul and Uncle Frank exit.

EXT. STREET- NIGHT

Matthew, walking the streets after being turned away from several shelters due to no rooms available, is unknowingly being followed by TWO YOUNG DRUNKEN STREET THUGS looking to rob him.

As Matthew pass a dark alley entrance, he is PUSHED inside KICKED and PUMMELED into unconsciousness. The Robbers RUMMAGE through his pockets only to find an advertising flyer from one of the homeless shelters.

ROBBER #1

Ah man, he don't have any money..  
he's one of those homeless dudes!

ROBBER #2

Homeless? How do you know that?

ROBBER #1

He has a flyer in his pocket from  
one of those bum shelters!

ROBBER #2

You mean I've used up all my energy  
to rob some degenerate?

They KICK Matthew repeatedly and walk BRISKLY out of the alley leaving him unconscious.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - LATER

Matthew, lying face down is spotted by TWO FEMALE POLICE OFFICERS on patrol.

POLICE OFFICER # 1

Hey fellow, this isn't a hotel, you  
can't sleep here.

No response.

POLICE OFFICER # 1 (cont'd)  
I said you can't sleep here.. Let's  
move it.

POLICE OFFICER #2  
Wait a minute, I see BLOOD over  
here.

They put on their latex gloves and rolls him over to see  
BLOOD on his face and clothes.

POLICE OFFICER #2 (cont'd)  
Command, this is Patrol 6123 ..I  
need an ambulance at the corner of  
Delancey, and Carter.

An ambulance arrives and Matthew is taken to the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD- DAY

Matthew awakes in a ward with several patients moaning and  
groaning and lying on a gurney bound in wrist restraints. He  
sees a FEMALE NURSE, 29, walking by.

MATTHEW  
(sighs)  
Another damn hospital! Hey Nurse,  
why am I tied down?

NURSE  
When they brought you in, you were  
agitated and had to be sedated.

MATTHEW  
I'm okay now.. you can untie me.

NURSE  
The Doctor has to make that  
decision. He'll be in to see you  
soon.

MATTHEW  
(TUGGING on restraints)  
Come on lady, untie me. My hands  
are getting numb.

DOCTOR DAVID GRODIN, 52, ATTENDING TRAUMA PHYSICIAN WITH TWENTY YEARS EXPERIENCE IN EMERGENCY CARE, enters.

DOCTOR GRODIN  
Good morning everyone.

MATTHEW  
Doc' will you please take these things off me.

DOCTOR GRODIN  
How are you feeling today?

MATTHEW  
Like somebody that's been used as a punching bag.

DOCTOR GRODIN  
You were really putting up a fight last night.

MATTHEW  
From the looks of things, I came out on the losing end.

DOCTOR GRODIN  
You're not the only patient we've seen in this E.R. that has come in swinging.

He releases each strap.

MATTHEW  
I guess this hospital goes through all kinds of situations.

DOCTOR GRODIN  
You're right about that, but in order for us to treat you, sedation was necessary.

MATTHEW  
No hard feelings Doc'..your staff did what they had to do. I just don't like hospitals.

DOCTOR GRODIN  
Is there any one we can notify..family or friend?

MATTHEW

Nobody..

Matthew gets up from the bed and heads for the door rubbing his side.

DOCTOR GRODIN

Why don't you let one of my Nurses take you over to our Social Services Unit. They may be able to help you.

MATTHEW

I guess I can do that.

INT. SOCIAL SERVICES UNIT - SAME

Matthew, dressed in clothes donated by the hospital is being assisted by OTHELIA DAVIS, 48, Social Worker with fifteen years of service.

MS. DAVIS

I need you to fill out these forms to the best of your ability.

MATTHEW

Forms? Look lady, I'm homeless. I don't know nothing and I don't have nothing but the clothes on my back.

MS. DAVIS

I'm only trying to be helpful..Mr.?

MATTHEW

They call me Jake..I'm a man with nothing and you seem to be worried about your budget.

MS. DAVIS

Jake, can you tell me something about yourself?

MATTHEW

Like I said..everybody calls me Jake. That's all I know.

MS. DAVIS

That's a start. What, approximately  
is your age?

MATTHEW

My age? Lady, are you deaf? I just  
need some food and some where to  
stay, not a song and dance.

MS. DAVIS

Fine..we have a city-wide listing  
for shelters. I'll call and see  
what's available.

MATTHEW

That's what I'm talking about!

Ms. Davis dials.

OTHELIA DAVIS/ OFFICE OF SHELTER OCCUPANCY-

MS. DAVIS

Yes..good morning. I have a man  
here looking for a bed. What do you  
have available?

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Sorry, we're filled up all over.

MS. DAVIS

That bad, huh? Give me a call when  
something opens up.

END CONVERSATION -

MATTHEW

Nothing, huh?

MS. DAVIS

I'm afraid not. Nothing is  
available right now, but...

Matthew ABRUPTLY gets up from his seat and walks out without  
responding.

EXT. CITY STREETS - LATER

Matthew walks up to a Homeless Shelter Organizer, 28, distributing sandwiches, fruit and water.

MATTHEW

Hey Mack, I'm in dire straits out here?

The Organizer gives Matthew some food, a flyer and directions to a nearby shelter.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - SAME

Not being knowledgeable of the city's transportation system and constantly getting lost, Matthew takes a chance at a stop and comes upstairs to the street. He finds a HOMELESS MAN, 46, standing at the entrance panhandling for money.

MATTHEW

Hey buddy, can you tell me where can I find this place? (displays flyer)

HOMELESS MAN

Keep it moving, Mac, I was here first.

MATTHEW

All I want is some directions!

HOMELESS MAN

Geez, where do you want to go?

MATTHEW

A guy gave me this flyer to find a place to stay. Maybe you can come too.

Homeless man reads flyer..

HOMELESS MAN

You have to take this train back to Rector Street in Manhattan..this is Brooklyn.

MATTHEW

Okay..we can go together.

## HOMELESS MAN

See you later Pal. I'm fine right  
where I am.

EXT. LOCAL PARK - LATER

After finding that shelter also fill to capacity, Matthew finds a park bench to sleep. Midway through the night, he's suddenly awakened by the SCREAMS OF HELP from another HOMELESS MAN, 52, fighting off some trouble makers. Matthew, tired, exhausted, but not wanting to be a victim himself, exits the park.

EXT. SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH-DAY

SUPER: This church is known for its popular Soup Kitchen and staff association with several Homeless Programs ran by its immensely popular ADMINISTRATOR OF TWENTY YEARS, FATHER MICHAEL PATELLA, 52.

Matthew is standing in the soup line waiting for food.

A former Stock Trader from Wall Street, now homeless given the name "SLICE and DICE, 48" and known for his temper tantrums is complaining about the waiting time for the doors to open, FORCES his way to the front of the line.

ARTHUR, 37, and MICKEY, 41, two homeless friends who met several years ago in the same soup line and formed a friendship, are pushed to the side by Dice as he makes his way towards the front.

ARTHUR

Hey Dice, what fool let you out?

Dice gives a GROWLING response.

MATTHEW

The soup line brigade..stand in  
line for what they have to give.

ARTHUR

(turns to Matthew)

Hey Buddy, you don't have to stand  
here, you can go always go to a  
four-star joint..I'm sure they'll  
let you in.

MICKEY

He's just funning around..don't pay him no attention. Mickey is my name and this loud mouth is my old pal Arthur.

MATTHEW

They call me Jake.

MICKEY

I see you came to try out Father Mike's cuisine today.

The line enters the Church.

ARTHUR

Hey Dice, try not to wreck the kitchen area this time. Everybody is tired of cleaning up after you've trashed the place.

Slice and Dice GROWLS in response.

MATTHEW

Slice and Dice..what kind of name is that?

MICKEY

If you put your hand in his plate or get him mad, then my friend you'll find out.

ARTHUR

He lost a few million dollars on Wall Street that belonged to some powerful people and his life was threatened.

MICKEY

With the scandals he was involved in, his ass should be in jail.

ARTHUR

Enough about Dice..where are you staying?

MATTHEW

Here and there?

ARTHUR

Here and there? You're living on the streets aren't you?

MATTHEW

Aren't you?

ARTHUR

Nope. We live in a place not far from here called Inner-City.

MATTHEW

What are you doing here?

MICKEY

Father Mike knows us and we like his food.

ARTHUR

We've been coming around here for a while.

MATTHEW

Are you kidding me? Why aren't you out looking for a job or something?

ARTHUR

We've been doing some day work..we do okay.

MATTHEW

Do you think there's room for one more at Inner-City?

MICKEY

What do think Arthur?

ARTHUR

With all these scars on him, he look like he could use some help.

MICKEY

Arthur and I are buddy-buddy with the Shelter Director over there.

ARTHUR

After we finish up here, we'll take you over there to meet him.

INT. INNER CITY SHELTER/ ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE- LATER

BENJAMIN CALDWELL, 42, Administrator and a former homeless client himself has received help from a Donor and graduated college with a degree in Public Administration.

Arthur and Mickey introduces Matthew.

BEN CALDWELL

Jake diamond? That's an unusual name. Where are you from Mr. Diamond?

Matthew SHRUGS his shoulders.

BEN CALDWELL (cont'd)

We don't shrug our shoulders around here Mr. Diamond, we speak to each other.

MATTHEW

I've just been drifting.

BEN CALDWELL

You have no identification, no family ties and you're just drifting? Maybe you're hiding from the law?

MATTHEW

Not me!

Matthew notices a neatly folded Ten Dollar bill sitting in a mangled tin cup on Ben's desk.

BEN CALDWELL

Keep your eyes focused on me Mr. Diamond. I'll explain the significance of that cup later.

MATTHEW

I was just wondering why someone would have a ten spot on his desk. Does it suppose to mean something?

BEN CALDWELL

Yes it does. But right now, we're talking about you.

MATTHEW

Honestly Mr. Caldwell, my mind is totally blank. I've been trying to come to grips about who I am.. I just keep coming up empty.

BEN CALDWELL

For now, I'll have to take you at your word. But to enlighten your curiosity about this cup..

Arthur and Mickey, familiar with the long drawn out story told to them when they first arrived, MOANS and PLOPS down on the couch.

BEN CALDWELL (cont'd)

This cup has a long history behind it. When I first came to this city, I too was down on my luck. I became familiar with every park bench and Soup Kitchen.. they were my homes. One day a Man walked up to me in the park and deposited a ten dollar bill in this very same cup and my life completely changed.

MICKEY

That's a true story Jake. The guy who gave Ben the ten dollars introduced him to the right people.

ARTHUR

Well Ben, its your call. What are you going to do with Mr. Diamond, here?

BEN CALDWELL

Well, I just can't put him back out on the streets. That's not what we're here for. You can stay for a few days Mr. Diamond and we'll see what happens.

MATTHEW

Thank you Mr. Caldwell, you won't regret it.

MICKEY  
(whispering to Arthur)  
I think he already has.

BEN CALDWELL  
Find him a bed fellas..you know the  
drill.

INT: REDSTONE'S RESIDENT

SUPER: TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER-

Paul, now 34, with a Degree in Journalism is working for a local newspaper. Due to Uncle Franks's ingenuity and business acumen, Redstone's Trucking now has eight vehicles and is profitably leased out to another company. Uncle Frank 60, and retired from the warehouse has terminal cancer. Paul is trying to feed him homemade soup.

PAUL  
Come on Uncle Frank, this soup is  
delicious. You have to eat.

UNCLE FRANK  
Paul, please go to work..I thought  
you had a deadline to meet?

PAUL  
I'm not worried about the deadline.  
You took care of me, now its my  
turn to take care of you.

UNCLE FRANK  
I'll be gone soon to that big  
warehouse in the sky and..

PAUL  
(interrupts)  
Uncle Frank, haven't we had this  
discussion before?..the doctors  
said you just need to eat to keep  
your strength up.

UNCLE FRANK  
What strength? I'm just a burden on  
you.

PAUL

Burden? I'm the one who has been a burden on you for twenty-five years.

UNCLE FRANK

I did what was necessary.

PAUL

Uncle Frank, you were there for me when my father wasn't and I want to be here for you.

UNCLE FRANK

I keep thinking over and over..twenty-five years is a long time to be missing..even with a concussion.

PAUL

It would be fortunate for us if he walked into a police precinct and ask for their help.

UNCLE FRANK

With all this technology..yeah, it would be nice, but its his call.

PAUL

Well, where ever he is, I hope one day he'll get to know what he's missed.

UNCLE FRANK

You saw that wreckage Paul. Why would a man go through all that and abandon his family..that's not the Matt I know.

PAUL

If you believe he's alive, who am I to disagree? Maybe his memory loss is more severe than we thought.

UNCLE FRANK

Nobody knows but God and him. Just promise me that when I'm gone, you'll never stop looking for him.

PAUL

I told you we're going to find him together. I need closure just like you do.

UNCLE FRANK

Where is that old battle-ax Home Attendant? She's really late today.

PAUL

Battle ax, huh? Uncle Frank, she's been complaining to me about your wandering hands..what's up with that?

UNCLE FRANK

I have absolutely no idea what she's talking about.

PAUL

Yeah, right! That old battle ax as you called her won't be in today..

Door Bell RINGS.

A MALE VISITING NURSE, 28, appears, displays his identification and Paul lets him in.

UNCLE FRANK

Who the hell are you?

MALE NURSE

Good morning everyone, my name is RAOUL. Mr. Redstone, I will be your Home Attendant for today.

Uncle Frank looks at Paul in disbelief.

PAUL

(smiling)

Don't look at me. I have a deadline to meet..I'm outta' here..

RAOUL

Your regular Home Attendant had a family emergency.

Paul prepares to leave.

UNCLE FRANK  
Paul, help me out here.

PAUL  
My Uncle can be a grouch sometimes,  
but he's really harmless. See you  
later Uncle Frank!

UNCLE FRANK  
Paul! Don't leave me here with  
him..her! Paul, come back here!

Paul exits as Uncle Frank turns to Raoul with a sheepish grin.

INT. REGAL DEPARTMENT STORE - NIGHT

Matthew who has been working menial jobs over the years is working as a Security Guard. He has been summoned to the office of MR. JACOB LEBOWITZ, STORE MANAGER for fifteen years.

Matthew enters.

MATTHEW  
Mr. Lebowitz, you asked to see me?

MR. LEBOWITZ  
Yes Jake, I did.

Mr. Lebowitz stands up and looks out into the street.

MR. LEBOWITZ (cont'd)  
Jake, you've been an excellent  
employee for the years that you've  
been with us but..

MATTHEW  
I heard about the budget  
cuts..you're letting me go aren't  
you?

MR. LEBOWITZ  
Regal is being taken over by a new  
firm and they're bringing in their  
own Security people.

MATTHEW

Couldn't you have told me this a little sooner?

MR. LEBOWITZ

There was nothing I could do. I, myself was just informed this morning..the payroll department has your last pay check.

Matthew walks towards the door.

MR. LEBOWITZ (cont'd)

Good luck Jake.

He goes to the Women Apparel Section to discuss the bad news with his girlfriend of five years.

PAMELA ROSS, 48, kind eyes, caring, resourceful and living with her wheel chair bound mother who dislikes Matthew and the relationship he has with her.

PAMELA

Jake, why aren't you at your post..taking another break, huh?

MATTHEW

Yeah, this time its a permanent break.. they let me go.

PAMELA

You've been let go? I'm so sorry Jake..is there anything I can do?

MATTHEW

Nah, I'll be all right. This is just a minor set back. I'm used to it.

PAMELA

If you need anything, money or..

MATTHEW

Absolutely, not! I have a few irons in the fire. I just need to pull a few out.

PAMELA

Jake, about going out tonight..

MATTHEW

Don't start getting sympathetic on me Pam..please..I'll see you at seven.

INT. EVALENA'S RESTAURANT- NIGHT

Matthew and Pamela have finished dinner with the conversation being somewhat somber.

PAMELA

I've given your situation a lot of thought.

MATTHEW

Pam, I love you dearly, but I told you not to worry about me.. something will turn up.

PAMELA

I know a man has his pride Jake, but if you need anything..my offer still stands.

MATTHEW

Pam, you're a good woman and I don't deserve you, but no, I don't need anything right now.

PAMELA

You're beginning to sound just like my mother.

MATTHEW

How is she anyway?

PAMELA

She's getting along.

MATTHEW

I know she doesn't want us to be together, but I'm glad you're here.

PAMELA

She means well, she's just very protective of me.. I'm all she has.

Matthew looks at his watch.

MATTHEW

Its getting late and one of us has to work tomorrow. I better get you home.

EXT. ENTRANCE TO INNER-CITY SHELTER- DAY

SUPER- One Month Later

Matthew, having exhausted all of his savings looking for jobs, has been evicted from his apartment and is standing embarrassingly on the steps of the shelter.

MATTHEW

(to himself)

I never thought I would be back here.

He enters and find a bespectacled Ben Caldwell on the computer.

BEN CALDWELL

Jake, come on in. You look well..sit down and take the load off.

MATTHEW

When are you going to retire from this place Ben?

BEN CALDWELL

I don't know what I would do if I did. My wife and I love our arrangement..me here and she with her Bridge Clubs and Charities.

MATTHEW

I guess you know I'm not working at Regal anymore.

BEN CALDWELL

I was sorry to here that, but don't despair. I found you that job and I will find you another.

MATTHEW

I've been looking all over for work, but so far, nothing.

BEN CALDWELL

Times are tight right now, but I'll check my listings and see what's available.

MATTHEW

I'll need more than a job Ben.

BEN CALDWELL

Well, I still haven't found any information about you or your family on the Internet.

MATTHEW

I'm not talking about that. I also need a place to stay.

BEN CALDWELL

Oh my..until you're able, you can stay here. You'll have plenty of company.

INT. INNER CITY SHELTER/SLEEPING QUARTERS - LATER

Matthew is lying in bed reading the newspaper. Mickey and Arthur enter.

MICKEY

Well, well, look who's back!

ARTHUR

Jake, you old son of gun, what are you doing back here?

MATTHEW

Now I understand Ben's remark when he said I would have plenty of company. Its hard to believe you two old coots are still here.

MICKEY

Its just like a family reunion.

MATTHEW

This is not the place for a family reunion guys, but I'm glad to see both of you are all right.

ARTHUR

Has Ben found any info on your family?

MATTHEW

Naw, but he's been checking.

ARTHUR

Jake's you've been on your own for a long time..what are you doing back here and how is Pamela doing?

MATTHEW

I've really been happy with her. I give thanks to you and your friend down in the Reception Office for hooking us up.

MICKEY

She's a nice woman..I could see her making a good wife for you.

MATTHEW

Right now I would prefer having another job and a place to live before I do anything.

MICKEY

Ben will see us through all this.

MATTHEW

Neither one of you seem to understand..what we are is a three man yoke hanging around Ben's neck like an anchor always looking for a handout.

ARTHUR

You're right Jake..I never thought of it that way.

MATTHEW

Here we are, three grown ass men who can't make it on the outside without his help..it has to stop.

MICKEY

We've tried Jake, we really did. I had a job in Jersey and was living with my son and his wife. And then..

Throws his hands up in disgust.

MICKEY (cont'd)

The job folded and my daughter-in-law's arrogance was just too hard to bear.

MATTHEW

What about you Arthur?

ARTHUR

I was laid off from a gardening job that I really loved and that job also folded.

MATTHEW

Well, a new firm took over where I worked as a Security Guard and they brought in their own people.

MICKEY

You'll get another job..we'll all find new jobs.

MATTHEW

And Pam's mother, oh man, she could definitely use this against me.

ARTHUR

Pam is a smart woman Jake. She'll understand..just talk to her.

MATTHEW

I will, it just might take some time.

MICKEY

Just don't let her hear it from somebody else.

EXT. LOCAL RESTAURANT/LOGAN COUNTY - SAME

Paul is having a meeting with HARVEY MOORE, 57, Editor of the Logan County local newspaper, influential and well liked by the town citizens and Politicians.

PAUL

Thank you for taking time out from your busy schedule to meet with me Mr. Moore.

MR. MOORE

No problem.. I have to meet my wife in a few minutes but your message was very serious on the telephone..what's up?

PAUL

The Newspaper has been very good to me and I've certainly learned a lot working at the paper and from you.

MR. MOORE

What are you trying to tell me Paul?

PAUL

Mr. Moore, in a few months I'll be relocating to New York. With my Uncle's condition deteriorating, I have been forced into making some crucial decisions.

MR. MOORE

Such as?

PAUL

The Doctors are giving him, maybe two months.

MR. MOORE

I see..I'm sorry to here that, but you have to do what's best for you.

PAUL

I've had conversations with one of my old college buddies in New York about a job and it sounds promising.

MR. MOORE

I can surely respect what you're undertaking Paul. As matter of fact, I have a colleague in New York at The Daily Express. He owes me a favor and could be a second option for you.

PAUL

I really love this town, but with my father's disappearance and my Uncle's condition, I need a change.

MR. MOORE

Understood..Paul, if you need anything, my door is always open.

PAUL

I know..thank you for your time and understanding..I'll see you on Monday.

INT. MAURER'S RESTAURANT/NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT

Ben has found Matthew another job working as a dishwasher. He and another WAITER, 23 are cleaning up.

MATTHEW

(to Waiter)

Most of the work is done here. I'll finish up..you can take off.

Waiter rips off his apron and makes a mad dash for the door.

The Waiter runs out the rear entrance, saying good-bye to OWNER AND MANAGER MR. MYRON MAURER, 64, counting the day's receipts before putting it in the safe.

Matthew goes out front to clean the tables and pick up the remaining dishes.

TWO MEN BANG LOUDLY on the window.

MATTHEW (cont'd)  
Sorry gentlemen, we're closed.

Mr. Maurer hears the COMMOTION and comes out front. He recognizes one of the young men and orders Matthew to open the door.

They enter brandishing a small caliber pistol FORCING Matthew and Mr. Maurer into the rear of the restaurant.

A FIGHT ensues as Mr. Maurer GRAPPLE with the Robber holding the gun and he is fatally wounded and Matthew is knocked unconscious.

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

Matthew, sitting, holding an ice pack to his head is being questioned about the robbery by EIGHTEEN YEAR HARD-NOSED DETECTIVE THOMAS VINETTI, 48.

OFFICER VINETTI  
Let's take it from the top again,  
shall we.

MATTHEW  
Detective, I've told you everything  
I know.

DETECTIVE VINETTI  
Why did you refuse medical for that  
injury?

MATTHEW  
I don't like hospitals, okay.

DETECTIVE VINETTI  
Before last night, had you seen  
either of those men in the  
restaurant at anytime?

MATTHEW  
No, I never saw them before last  
night.

DETECTIVE VINETTI  
Did you noticed if Mr. Maurer count  
the receipts at the same time every  
night?

MATTHEW

No, I didn't. I was only there for a few days.

DETECTIVE VINETTI

All right Mr. Diamond, you can go. The sketches you gave our artist will be distributed, so don't leave town.

INT. LOCAL COFFEE SHOP - LATER

Mickey, Arthur and Matthew are sitting at a table drinking coffee.

MATTHEW

I simply can't believe the bad luck I've had living in this city. It's a surprise I'm not dead.

ARTHUR

We've all had some bad breaks Jake.

MATTHEW

I've been in this city over twenty years and it seems like every one of them has been a nightmare.

MICKEY

Some people just don't know how hard it is out here.

MATTHEW

Mickey, working people are taking hits from all sides too.

ARTHUR

What are your plans now?

MATTHEW

First, I have to find another job. With Ben's illness forcing him to retire in a few weeks, all three of us might be back out on the streets again.

ARTHUR

I heard they were grooming some new guy from their Management Department to take over.

MICKEY

Why can't we do better? Its not like we aren't trying to find work.

MATTHEW

All I have to show for these years are menial jobs, hospital stays and the shelters. I'm ashamed as a man to be in this situation.

ARTHUR

We need to talk to Ben. Maybe he can put a word in for us before he leave.

MATTHEW

This is something else for Pamela's mother to talk about. She's really building up points on me.

MICKEY

My guess is you haven't told Pamela what's going on have you?

MATTHEW

I called and told her about the incident at the Restaurant and she's giving me some space.

ARTHUR

Just explain your situation to her Jake, she'll understand.

MATTHEW

I told her that I lost my old apartment and she wanted to know where I was staying.

ARTHUR

And, what did you tell her?

MATTHEW

I told her that I was bunking with an old Buddy.

ARTHUR

You can't continue to lie to her  
Jake. She's going to find out  
sooner or later.

MATTHEW

Information like this would be  
icing on the cake for her mother to  
use against me.

ARTHUR

You keep mentioning her mother..its  
what Pam thinks.

MATTHEW

I get what you're saying Arthur..I  
have to tell her.

MICKEY

Better you than some one else.

MATTHEW

She made a good point the other day  
about a man's pride.

MICKEY

So, your point is?

MATTHEW

I'll tell her the whole story  
tomorrow. Whatever  
happens..happens.

EXT. HOME OF PAMELA ROSS AND HER MOTHER HILDA - DAY

Matthew rings the doorbell and Pamela opens the door.

Matthew reach for her hand, but in a repulsive manner, she  
pulls away from him.

MATTHEW

Pamela, we need to talk. I have  
something important I need to tell  
you.

PAMELA

I can't see you anymore Jake and I  
would like for you to leave.

MATTHEW

Leave? Why? What have I done?

HILDA ROSS, 76, Pamela's wheelchair-bound mother who suffered a stroke years ago, comes to the door and push Pamela to the side.

HILDA ROSS

You deadbeat bum..leave my daughter alone and go back to that hole you call a home!

MATTHEW

Pam, just give me five minutes..I can explain everything.

PAMELA

(tears)

You lied to me Jake! You've been living in a homeless shelter all this time..now look at us!

HILDA ROSS

You hurt my daughter for the last time! Leave her alone!

Matthew, knowing that pleading or any explanation he gave would only fall on deaf ears, looks dejectedly at Pamela who is crying and then her mother who is smiling from ear to ear..turns and walks away.

INT. DAILY EXPRESS BUILDING - DAY

SUPER: New York City/Three months later

After an unsuccessful meeting with his college buddy, Paul connects with Mr. Moore's colleague, MR. GENE GASKINS, 54, the rough and ready EDITOR-IN-CHIEF of the Daily Express.

With a telephone call from Mr. Moore, Paul is immediately hired as a Photo Journalist.

Mr. Gaskins enters Paul's working area and see him all tense up reviewing some shelter photos.

MR. GASKINS

Paul, relax. You look so intense how is everything going so far?

PAUL

So far, so good. Its been a good three months.

MR. GASKINS

That's what I like to hear.

PAUL

Slowly but surely, I'm getting there.

MR. GASKINS

Harvey gave you high marks and he's always been a good judge of character.

ELLENIA BARNES, 28, attractive, loyal, Administrative Assistant to Mr. Gaskins enters.

MR. GASKINS (cont'd)

If there is anything you need, just let me know or ask Ellenia. Good morning Ellenia.

ELLENIA

Good morning Mr Gaskins.

MR. GASKINS

Did you finish typing the minutes from my last Board Meeting?

ELLENIA

Yes sir, I did. I put them on your desk.

MR. GASKINS

I need to go over them before I meet with the Investors this afternoon.

Mr. Gaskins exit.

Ellenia leans over and gives Paul a quick kiss on the cheek.

PAUL

(surprised)

What was that for?

ELLENIA

Good luck. Maybe some good news will come today about your father's disappearance.

PAUL

I was just thinking ..what he would look like after all these years.

ELLENIA

Twenty-five years..that's a long time. With all the technology available, its hard to believe he hasn't been found.

PAUL

If he's alive, I'll find him and if not, I need to know. I made a promise to my Uncle before he died that I would continue the search.

EXT. CICERO PARK - DAY

Matthew, Arthur and Mickey are conversing on a park bench. Ben Caldwell has retired due to illness and all three has been evicted from Inner City Shelter.

ARTHUR

I don't know why we're sitting here feeling depressed. We knew this day was coming.

MATTHEW

We have no jobs and no where to stay. If I didn't have bad luck, I wouldn't have none at all.

MICKEY

Did you notice our names were at the top of that Manager's list to evict?

ARTHUR

We were there the longest and out of respect for Ben, he said we could come, eat and take a shower there.

MATTHEW

How nice.

MICKEY

I betcha' Ben doesn't know anything about this.

MATTHEW

He retired because of his illness and I believe our problems helped push him to that point.

ARTHUR

Well, if we did, he knows it wasn't intentional.

MICKEY

We still need his help. Hey, Maybe we can talk to Father Mike at the church.

EXT. SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH ENTRANCE -LATER

As Matthew, Mickey and Arthur approach, six Police Cruisers with sirens BLASTING converge upon the church. The Officers get out and rush inside.

After several minutes passed, they bring out Slice and Dice, handcuffed STRUGGLING, KICKING, SPITTING and SCREAMING. Arthur goes over to two friends and ask questions and comes back.

ARTHUR

Those guys over there said that Dice stole a lady's purse and ran into the church..what an idiot!

MATTHEW

I hope he didn't expect to find refuge in there.

MICKEY

Now, do you understand what we were trying to tell you years ago about Dice.

MATTHEW

I don't understand, why, after all this time, he can't get some help. You can clearly see the man's unstable.

ARTHUR

Hell, I thought he was dead.

MICKEY

Dice has been in and out of mental hospitals over the years.

Dice is thrown into a Police Cruiser and taken away.

ARTHUR

Maybe now his daughter can have another go at having him committed.

MATTHEW

(surprised)

Dice has a daughter? You're kidding me, right?

ARTHUR

Pretty little thing. She looks just like her mother.

MATTHEW

What is his real problem? Nobody is born like that.

ARTHUR

He's called Slice and Dice because when he sits down to eat, he opens up this little pocket knife and lay it on the table. He told us it sends a message.

MICKEY

Several months ago I heard he slashed a man across his face, chest and arms over a slice of bread.

MATTHEW

Well, this time a crime has been committed and I hope he can get the help he needs.

ARTHUR

Help? Please! Dice is just going through the motions. They will take him to the hospital, give him his meds and release him into the custody of his daughter..all routine.

MATTHEW

The Police are probably questioning Father Mike. We might as well leave and come back later.

ARTHUR

Let's check on Ben..we need to know how he's doing.

INT. DAILY EXPRESS BUILDING - EDITOR'S OFFICE-SAME

Paul is discussing an idea with Mr. Gaskins about running a week long article on the plight of the homeless and Mr. Gaskins is not amused.

PAUL

Mr. Gaskins, this article could put some bite into what's already been written about the homeless.

MR. GASKINS

Yeah, right. What can you say that hasn't already been said or written by some of our best Journalists?

PAUL

Maybe you can tell me why the homeless prefer to sleep in the streets rather than a warm bed in a shelter?

MR. GASKINS

A better view of the stars.. I don't know.

PAUL

Aha! I really would like to do this, photos and all to let the Public know how people like them can be helped.

Mr. Gaskins gives Paul a long stare.

MR. GASKINS

I see Harvey trained you well. All right Paul, you can do the piece. You have four days to gather and write your article.

PAUL

Four days? I'm the new guy in town! I'll need more time than that just to travel around to the shelters.

MR. GASKINS

Did I not hear you say in one of our conversations last week that a retired Shelter Director was living in your complex..talk to him.

PAUL

But I've never met the guy.

MR. GASKINS

I'm sure he wouldn't mind helping some one who wants to give the homeless some good print.

Paul, stunned by the time line, leaves the office MUMBLING to himself, with Mr. Gaskins smiling in the background.

PAUL

(to himself)

Four days.. I'll need roller skates. I have to find myself an edge.

INT. PAUL'S RESIDENCE COMPLEX-LATER

Paul, standing in front of Ben Caldwell's Door, KNOCKS.

Ben opens the door.

BEN CALDWELL

Yes..

PAUL

My name is Paul Redstone from the Daily Express and I live upstairs. Sir, I'm writing a piece on the plight of the homeless and with you being a former Shelter Director, I could really use some help.

BEN CALDWELL

Sure, what do you need?

PAUL

First of all, I have a really tight deadline..four days.

BEN CALDWELL

Four days huh? That's not much time. Come on in and I'll tell you what I know and then send you to a friend who may be able to help you.

EXT. CICERO PARK - DAY

A thick-bearded Matthew is standing with a tin cup panhandling for change. A MAN, 34, WITH A BRIEFCASE approaches.

MATTHEW

Good morning Sir, may I trouble you for some change this morning?

MAN

Get a job old man.

Matthew, from a distance see Pamela and her mother pass laughing and talking as he stares from behind a tree.

As he continue to stare, Paul approaches from behind and TAPS him on the shoulder, STARTLING him.

Matthew turns quickly and goes into a defensive posture.

MATTHEW

What tha' hell!

PAUL

I didn't mean to startle you old timer.

Paul deposit a ten dollar bill in his cup.

MATTHEW

A person needs to be careful out here.

PAUL

You look as though you were in deep concentration.

MATTHEW

Even if I was, you just don't walk up behind someone like that unless you want your fool head knocked off.

PAUL

Calm down my friend..calm down. I just want to ask you a few questions..are you Jake Diamond?

MATTHEW

Who wants to know?

PAUL

I do..my name is Paul Redstone and I work for the Daily Express and I've been searching this park looking for you.

MATTHEW

Newspaper man.. what do you want with me?

PAUL

I'm writing an article on the homeless and I need your help.

MATTHEW

That figures..go where everybody else is going..the Internet or the Library.

Matthew begins walking away.. Paul follows.

PAUL

I need your help to write an important article.

MATTHEW

Why don't you write something you're probably good at..like bothering people.

PAUL

Wouldn't you like to change what the public read and say about you in the paper?

MATTHEW

(stops walking)

Now, how in the hell can I do that? I would rather change my current lifestyle and living arrangements..can you help me do that?

PAUL

Yes, I could! Listen to this..

MATTHEW

Son, you're the one that's not listening.

PAUL

I'm a good listener, talk to me.

MATTHEW

Okay, tell me this. Why, out of all the homeless people walking around in this park, did you zero in on me?

PAUL

I just..

MATTHEW

Just what? You don't see me carrying a sign saying "Homeless Information Here, do you?"

PAUL

Listen to yourself you old fart! You complain about what we write, so now when you have a chance to change it, you clam up.

MATTHEW

Oh its like that now? Listen here young fella..

PAUL

My name is Paul.

MATTHEW

What ever. You look like the type that would run at the first sign of trouble.

PAUL

Stop barking old man and try me.

MATTHEW

You seem pretty feisty to be a newspaper man. But I'll tell you what..if I agree to help, you'll have to pay me.

PAUL

Pay you? I just gave you ten dollars.

MATTHEW

Look, I maybe homeless, but I'm not stupid.

PAUL

I see this little session is getting us no where.

MATTHEW

Fine by me..see ya'.

Matthew starts walking away again.

PAUL

Wait a minute.

MATTHEW

Food cost and information costs..  
get my drift. I may have to pay  
taxes.

PAUL

You don't pay any taxes! Will you  
stop walking and talk to me. I'm  
getting tired.

MATTHEW

You haven't said anything worth  
stopping for.

PAUL

He warned me that you were going to  
be a pain in the ass.

MATTHEW

Pain in the ass? That should be my  
line. You approached me, remember?

PAUL

If I didn't need your help, I'd  
just turn around and go.

MATTHEW

Look, lets cut to the chase shall  
we. If you want my help, you have  
to pay me. Otherwise..Adios Amigo.

PAUL

All right..All right.

MATTHEW

All right, what?

PAUL

All right, I'll pay you..Geez.

MATTHEW

Now, that wasn't so difficult was  
it? Since we're on the same  
page..why come to me?

PAUL

Why not you?

MATTHEW

Could you be a bit more specific. As you can see, I'm not the only financially challenged person in this park. Again, why me?

PAUL

You were recommended by my neighbor Ben Caldwell.

MATTHEW

Ben is your neighbor? Yeah, right!

PAUL

Yes, he's my neighbor and he seems to know you quite well.

MATTHEW

Why didn't you say Ben sent you in the beginning?

PAUL

I don't know..He just said you were the right man for the job.

MATTHEW

I should have recognized that ten dollars-in-the cup technique.

PAUL

It got your attention didn't it?

MATTHEW

Yeah, it did..now what?

PAUL

Okay, Jake..its show time.

MATTHEW

Let's talk money shall we.

PAUL

Back to that subject again.

Matthew PULLS out the lining of his empty pockets.

PAUL (cont'd)

How much money could you make on a good day with that tin cup?

MATTHEW

I'm not an accountant.. maybe a hundred dollars or so.

PAUL

A hundred dollars? You can't make that kind of money with a tin cup.

MATTHEW

I see now you're a Social Worker with a Degree in Panhandling?

PAUL

Work with me for a few days and you might make a hundred dollars.

MATTHEW

Don't knock this cup son. I'm not proud of what I'm doing, but this cup has fed me many times over.

PAUL

(sarcastically)

Yeah, right! I can tell by your casual attire and masculine appearance.

MATTHEW

What is it you want me to do?

PAUL

Ben gave me a list of shelters to go to and maybe I could talk to some of your friends and get a few photos.

MATTHEW

Are you nuts? The places I go to is well..a little out of your of league.

PAUL

I know what you're trying to say, but I don't mind getting my hands dirty.

MATTHEW

Okay..its your time..your money.

PAUL

I'll tell you what..meet me in front of the Daily Express Building tomorrow morning around Nine.

MATTHEW

Will do. Oh yeah..bring breakfast along with you tomorrow. I gave my Chef the day off.

EXT. CICERO PARK - LATER

Matthew is discussing the job offer to Mickey and Arthur.

MATTHEW

I just couldn't believe my luck. He just came out of no where. I thought he was a cop.

ARTHUR

How do you know he's legit? There's a lot of scam artists walking around out here.

MATTHEW

I'm aware of that Arthur. For your information Ben sent him over..they're neighbors.

ARTHUR

Well, that's legit enough for me.

MATTHEW

I talked to Ben about an hour ago and he told me to help him out any way I could. He also said he made a call to Inner-City.

MICKEY

Jake, Arty and I could help you with this newspaper guy.

MATTHEW

It will only be for a coupla' days  
and Ben has already made some  
arrangements.

ARTHUR

Are there any on the list that  
we're familiar with?

MATTHEW

There's a few. He said he didn't  
mind getting his hands dirty, so as  
a test, I'm going to introduce him  
to Hazel over at the Outreach  
Shelter.

ARTHUR

Come on Jake, that's suicide. Hazel  
likes to throw things when she's  
upset.

MATTHEW

I'll look out for him.

MICKEY

Yeah, I bet you will.

MATTHEW

I have to meet this newspaper guy  
in the morning around Nine.

MICKEY

Aren't you forgetting  
something?..our friend at the  
shelter?

MATTHEW

I know..I know. I'll just spend and  
half hour or so with this guy and  
swing around and pick her up.

Mickey and Arthur look at each other and BURST into  
uncontrollable LAUGHTER.

MATTHEW (cont'd)

What's so funny?

MICKEY

You Jake.. who's going to wake you up at that hour..the crickets?

MATTHEW

Laugh on, I'm getting paid for my services.

MICKEY

Paid? As in "M-O-N-E-Y?"

MATTHEW

Why aren't you laughing now?

ARTHUR

How much? How much?

MATTHEW

Look at you old coots counting my money already. How much, is on a need to know basis and neither one of you bums need to know!

MICKEY

Well we definitely don't want to keep you from your beauty sleep Jake.. the park bench awaits!

EXT. DAILY EXPRESS BUILDING - DAY

Paul is sitting outside reading the newspaper as Matthew arrives fifteen minutes late carrying a note pad and old newspaper clippings.

PAUL

I didn't think you were going to make it.

MATTHEW

Gee son, its so early..I feel like..

PAUL

You don't have to say it. I can see it in your face.

Paul gives Matthew a bag containing coffee and a Danish.

PAUL (cont'd)  
You sip and I'll write.

MATTHEW  
You call this a breakfast?

PAUL  
What were you expecting..eggs-  
benedict?

MATTHEW  
That would have worked.

PAUL  
Why won't you shave that beard off  
so I can really see what you look  
like underneath all that hair.

MATTHEW  
Does my beard bother you?

PAUL  
No, it doesn't. If you prefer  
looking like a wolf man, keep it.  
You would fit in at the Halloween  
parties.

MATTHEW  
I'm not into fashion.

PAUL  
You remind me of a man, grouchy at  
times, but you had to love him...  
stern, but fair.

MATTHEW  
Who are you blabbing about now?

PAUL  
I'm talking about my father. He  
disappeared when I was nine years  
old.

MATTHEW  
That's a long time..Sorry to hear  
that.

PAUL

I've been searching for him for over twenty years.

MATTHEW

I have five words for you..don't give up on him.

PAUL

I need Divine Intervention to find him.

MATTHEW

If God wants you to find him, he'll show up like a ghost in the night.

PAUL

Let's get down to business shall we. Tell me about the shelters..the streets and how you interact with each other.

MATTHEW

Where would you like to start because I can't stay long. I made a promise to someone I definitely have to keep.

PAUL

Fine..let's start with the streets.

MATTHEW

The streets are real mean. If you can't build up the courage to survive out here, they will eat you alive.

PAUL

How did you fall into your dilemma?

MATTHEW

To be honest with you, I don't have a clue..I just fell. I woke up in a hospital bed and has been wandering ever since.

PAUL

What about your family?

MATTHEW

Family? What family? Hell, I can't even tell you about me.

PAUL

Have you ever tried looking for your family?

MATTHEW

To be honest with you, I wouldn't know where to look. When Ben retired everything came to a halt.

PAUL

There has to be a bridge somewhere that connects you to somebody.

MATTHEW

I really don't have a clue as to who I am or where I came from. I just accept my life as it is.

PAUL

That Jake is really sad. There is a lot of technology out there to help find people. I'm surprised Mr. Caldwell hasn't tried it.

MATTHEW

When I first came to this city, the soles on my shoes were so thin, I could step on a nickel and tell you if it was heads or tails.

PAUL

Why don't you just walk into a police precinct and let them take your fingerprints and run a DNA test?

MATTHEW

Years ago, I walked into a police precinct and asked for their help and they took one at me and threw me out.

PAUL

Threw you out? Why?

MATTHEW

They thought I was trying to get arrested to get some where to sleep!

PAUL

That's ridiculous!

MATTHEW

Look at me..I'm a homeless vagrant in their eyes..with the economy like it is, would you run expensive tests on me?

Matthew looks at the clock on the Daily Express Building.

PAUL

You keep looking at the clock..why?

MATTHEW

Well, two reasons..for one, I don't have a watch and I told you I had a promise to keep..can we pick this up later?

PAUL

You just got here. You came late and you're leaving early..

MATTHEW

I made a promise to a sweet old lady at the shelter we call Miss Margie. She has Alzheimer's so we take turns escorting her around and today it's my turn.

PAUL

Escort Service, huh?

MATTHEW

Bite your tongue! If some one isn't there to help her, she wanders about on her own and gets lost.

PAUL

Fine..we can reschedule for later. I'll go over these notes and clippings you gave me.

MATTHEW

Sounds good to me. Can we meet back here when you finish work?

PAUL

Yeah, why not. Be here around five-thirty.

Matthew exits.

INT. INNER CITY SHELTER LOBBY - SAME

After waiting impatiently for Matthew's arrival, MISS MARGIE, 65, A FRAIL WOMAN who has no family and living in the shelter due to being burned out of her small apartment, wanders out alone and unnoticed from the shelter.

After almost being ran over by SCREAMING, RAGING motorists, Margie decides to stop and rest on the steps of an old abandoned building in a neighborhood not known to her.

Sitting with her eyes closed and moving her head from side to side, she catches the eyes of TWO DRUNKEN MEN, 25, and 27 driving by..they stop and YELL at her.

DRUNKEN MAN #1

Hey Grandma, what are you doing out here all by your lonesome?

No response.

They turn around and stops in front of her.

DRUNKEN MAN # 2

Hey Grandma, wanna' go for a ride?

DRUNKEN MAN #1

I think she's ignoring us. That's cold man.

DRUNKEN MAN # 2

Well, let's see if we can get her attention by warming her up.

They get out of the car and begin SCREAMING at Miss Margie as one open up the trunk and takes out a container of gasoline.

MISS MARGIE

Leave me a alone! Leave me alone!  
Go away!

As one man held her down, the other begin DOUSING her with the gasoline.

DRUNKEN MAN #1

Light her up!

Her body is set ABLAZE. They LAUGH ALOUD as Miss Margie flaming body ROLLS AROUND SCREAMING IN AGONY.

As the FLAMES ENGULF her petite body, SOLLY, 62, another homeless man and Miss Margie's best friend is walking in the same vicinity looking for bottles to sell. As he hear SCREAMS, he silently comes up along the building to peek and see what's going on.

RAGE overcomes Solly as he see that its Miss Margie battling the flames.

He picks up a metal pipe and comes out SWINGING at the two men, STRIKING one, BREAKING an arm.

As he try FURIOUSLY to put the flames out, the two men ATTACK him.

Two of Solly's homeless buddies, SMALL FRY, 37 and DEEP POCKETS, 48 also in the area, see Solly being ATTACKED and enters the BRAWL to help.

As Police Cruisers arrive on the scene, the two men badly BEATEN and BLOODIED by Solly and his friends break free and run towards the OFFICERS for protection.

Ambulances are summoned for Miss Margie, the two drunken men and Solly, who has burns on both hands. Unfortunately, Miss Margie is pronounced dead at the scene.

After all witnesses accounts, the two men are arrested and jailed.

EXT. CICERO PARK - LATER

Arthur and Mickey are sitting on a park bench with their heads bowed.

Matthew enters carrying a six-pack of beer.

MATTHEW

Hey fellows, has either of you seen Miss Margie? She wasn't at the shelter when I went to pick up her up.

MICKEY

I see you haven't heard the news.

MATTHEW

What news?

MICKEY

Jake, I think you better sit down.

MATTHEW

Maybe she's with Solly..he's missing too.

MICKEY

We lost Miss Margie today.

MATTHEW

Not again. You remember how long it took us to find her the last time.

MICKEY

Jake, stop your blabbering.. Miss Margie is dead!

MATTHEW

Mickey, I'm not ready for any of your dull expressions today..okay.

ARTHUR

Its true Jake. Miss Margie is dead. Solly saw the whole thing..he's at the hospital being treated for burns on both hands.

MATTHEW

Miss Margie is dead? Solly and burned hands? What in the hell happened?

ARTHUR

Two street punks doused her with gasoline and set her body on fire.

MATTHEW

Those dirty bastards..were they caught?

MICKEY

They were caught and arrested. But not before Deep Pockets, Solly and Small Fry, put a spanking on them. The Police had to come to their rescue.

MATTHEW

Witnessing something like that must have shook Solly up pretty bad. We have to keep our eyes on him for a while.

MICKEY

I agree. He and Miss Margie were very close.

MATTHEW

She had no family and..

MICKEY

Its not your fault Jake. Neither one of us could have watched over her twenty-four hours a day.

MATTHEW

Well, we all know what the city do with the bodies of people that has no family or insurance.

MICKEY

Yeah. If you can't pay the bill, you're buried in a hole in Johnson's Field.

ARTHUR

Speaking of Johnson's Field...

MICKEY

I know what you're thinking Jake and it ain't happening.

MATTHEW

We have to do something. We can't let the city bury her in some pine box with no name.

MICKEY

What do you suggest we do? Rob a bank?

MATTHEW

We can ask for donations from the people that knew her..even the church..Father Mike, maybe.

MICKEY

Donations? Are you nuts? We need donations ourselves.

Feeling guilty, Matthew stands up and empties a full can of beer and exits the park.

INT. INNER CITY SHELTER-NIGHT

Sleeping Quarters-

With a written statement from Ben Caldwell, Mickey, Matthew and Arthur are back living in the shelter. Solly, with his hands bandaged from the fire comes over and sits on Matthew's bed.

SOLLY

Jake, I miss my Margie.

MATTHEW

Yeah Solly I know..we all miss her.

Matthew puts a supportive arm around Solly as he repeats his involvement. To appease him, Matthew listens.

SOLLY

I saw them Jake..I saw them. I fought as hard as I could to save her.

MATTHEW

You did your best Solly.

SOLLY

I was searching for bottles, and I saw my Margie being attacked.

MATTHEW

Solly, there was nothing you could do..you tried.

SOLLY

She said you were going to take her to the Bakery. What happened Jake? Where were you?

MATTHEW

I arrived at the shelter a little late. When I didn't see you or her, I thought she was with you.

SOLLY

I was so mad, I couldn't feel the pain in my hands, but now they hurt like hell.

MATTHEW

The men who did it were caught and they will pay for what they did.

Solly gets up and walks back to his bed.

MATTHEW (cont'd)

Good night Solly. Try and get some sleep.

EXT. LOWER MANHATTAN - DAY

OUTREACH SHELTER - LET'S MEET HAZEL!

Putting Paul to the test, Matthew makes a detour away from Ben's list, telling him that material gathered here would enhance what he has already gathered.

PAUL

Jake, I'm looking at the list Mr. Caldwell gave me and I don't see The Outreach Shelter on here.

MATTHEW

We'll make this our last shelter  
visit.

Paul and a FEMALE AIDE, 23, enters followed by a GIGGLING  
Matthew. They are met by HAZEL MURDOCK, 48, SHELTER  
RECEPTIONIST, standing with her infamous cup of coffee.

HAZEL

(loudly)

Jake Diamond, what are you doing  
here?

PAUL

Go morning Madam..

HAZEL

Its Mrs. Murdock! Hazel Murdock!

PAUL

Mrs. Murdock, my name is Paul  
Redstone and I'm a Photo Journalist  
from the Daily Express and..

HAZEL

Damn! A nosey reporter! What are  
you and this weasel Jake, up to?

PAUL

Do you speak to all your visitors  
like this Mrs. Murdock?

HAZEL

I tell them, its the  
caffeine..anymore questions? If  
not, get the hell out of my  
shelter!

MATTHEW

Hazel, this man just want to ask  
you a few questions about the  
shelter and give it some good print  
in an article he writing.

HAZEL

Really? Jake, have you had your  
caffeine jolt this morning?

MATTHEW

Hazel, why don't you..

Before Matthew could finish, she SLINGS her coffee to splash him, but gets Paul instead.

As Paul stands there dumbfounded and wet, he turns to Matthew, then his Aide and walks out, not saying a word.

EXT. CICERO PARK - LATER

The Aide is sent home. Paul, shirt still drenched and smelling of coffee and Matthew are sitting on a park bench going over the notes gathered from the various shelters.

PAUL

Discounting the scene at Outreach, I think we did pretty good. I'll tabulate everything and put them in order for the article.

MATTHEW

Hey Paul, I'm really sorry about Hazel..she has..well, a lot of problems.

PAUL

How does she continue to work there with an attitude like that?

MATTHEW

Beats me..she's been at that shelter as long as I've known her.

PAUL

I feel sorry for her.

MATTHEW

Hazel is really harmless. There is no such thing as a bad day or good day with her. She's just who she is..lonely and irritable.

PAUL

Let's see..I've been drenched with coffee, hit by a thrown book, verbally abused by some of the most despicable people I have ever met

(MORE)

PAUL(cont'd)  
in my life, but I still got my  
story.

Paul stuffs a Hundred Dollar bill and his business card into  
Matthew's shirt pocket.

MATTHEW  
Now, you've really made my day.

PAUL  
You took a chance in some of those  
areas where we could have been  
injured.

MATTHEW  
I warned you before we  
started..gathering information from  
some areas a lot of Shelter  
Managers consider private, would be  
difficult.

Paul takes out his Camera.

MATTHEW (cont'd)  
Now what?

PAUL  
I want to take your picture.

MATTHEW  
(shielding his face)  
Definitely not..I don't want my  
picture in your paper.

PAUL  
Why not? You're not a felon are  
you?

MATTHEW  
No, I'm not. I just get bad vibes  
about picture taking.

Paul SNAPS a picture any way, getting a good shot.

MATTHEW (cont'd)  
Are you satisfied now?

PAUL

Yes..and for your information, this picture is for me, not for publication.

MATTHEW

Whatever.

PAUL

I have an idea..why don't you bring a few of your friends around tomorrow afternoon to celebrate.

MATTHEW

I've been with you for two and a half days..enough is enough..don't you think?

Paul stares at Matthew making him uncomfortable.

MATTHEW (cont'd)

Why are you looking at me like that? What have I done now.

PAUL

I have a proposition for you..

MATTHEW

Uh oh..I feel another one of your ideas coming on and I know I'm not going to like it.

PAUL

Jake, I can get you off these streets.

MATTHEW

I said I wasn't going to like it and I don't.

PAUL

Why not? I consider myself a good judge of character and you don't belong out here.

MATTHEW

Thanks for the offer Paul, but no. When the time is right, God will take me off these streets.

PAUL

I went through it when I first got here, but if you change your mind you know where to find me.

INT. SAINT PAUL'S HOLINESS CHURCH - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Father Mike and his Staff have assembled a group of homeless people who knew Miss Margie to serve a commemorative meal in remembrance of her after providing an inexpensive, but appropriate burial. Matthew, Mickey and Arthur are sitting together. Solly is absent.

MICKEY

Has anyone seen Solly? I'm really worried about him.

MATTHEW

So am I. It was really nice of Father Mike to get some of his church parishioners to donate for Miss Margie's funeral expenses.

ARTHUR

I guess Solly wants to grieve alone and I think we should respect that.

MICKEY

I see you finally finished up with that newspaper guy?

MATTHEW

We got it done.

ARTHUR

We're glad he was pleased.

With the sudden FLIP of the light switch, the basement becomes dark as AUTOMATIC GUNFIRE ERUPTS.

ARTHUR (cont'd)

GUNFIRE! Everybody get down!

As everyone DIVES for cover, an ANGRY GUNMAN, 45, dressed in black with an automatic rifle FIRES several BURSTS into the ceiling. He GRABS a frightened HOMELESS MAN, 65, and AIMS the rifle at his head.

GUNMAN

You're one of those people with the tin cup, aren't you Pops?

The homeless man, frightened and speechless, is PUSHED to the floor. The Gunman then FIRES several more BURSTS into the ceiling.

GUNMAN (cont'd)

To all you tin cup people, I'm here to deliver a message. I've lost my wife, my kids, my job and I need someone to pay. So, where is my tin cup..huh?. I need one now!

He FIRES another burst into the ceiling. Within minutes, Police and Emergency Crews arrive on the scene. As they try to gain entrance to the only door, they are turned back by GUNFIRE.

GUNMAN (cont'd)

Every where I go, I see you out there begging with those damn tin cups!

As the Gunman continues FIRING blindly in the dark, Matthew move towards him. Arthur GRABS him by the arm.

ARTHUR

Where in the hell are you going Jake? Stay down!

MATTHEW

Somebody has to stop him or he going to kill every one in here.

Matthew PULLS away from Arthur's grasp and continues CRAWLING towards the Gunman.

MICKEY

He's going to get himself killed.

As Matthew inches closer, Father Mike accidentally OVERTURNS a metal dish and the Gunman instinctively turns and FIRES several BURSTS in his direction, wounding him in the arm.

With the Gunman eyes glued on the entrance door to keep out police, Matthew comes up behind him and BASH his head with a

heavy metal serving tray. The Gunman SLUMPS to the floor, unconscious.

As Matthew cut on the lights, the Police rush in with weapons drawn. They find Matthew holding the mangled serving tray standing over the unconscious gunman.

After giving the Police his story, Matthew manages to slip away unnoticed to get away from the Media Coverage.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Paul is reading the story about the church shooting as Mickey looks over his shoulder at the cover page.

MICKEY

I see they have the church shooting on the front page.

PAUL

Yeah, it must have been a horrible time for the people that was there.

MICKEY

I was there and I can tell you I was really scared.

PAUL

You were there? I'm glad you or no one else was seriously hurt and I heard Father Mike is going to be okay.

MICKEY

He's a good man and has helped so many of us.

PAUL

(takes out the photo of Matthew)

Excuse me, have you seen this man around lately.

MICKEY

I'm pretty bad with pictures Mister. What did he do?

PAUL  
I'm a Photo Journalist with the  
Daily Express and he help me...

MICKEY  
(interrupts)  
You're that Newspaper guy Jake was  
telling us about. You're Paul  
Redstone.

PAUL  
You Sir, have me at a disadvantage.

MICKEY  
They call me Mickey. Jake's been  
staying out of sight for a while.

PAUL  
Why is that? Is he okay?

MICKEY  
He's fine. Ever since he captured  
the shooter in the church,  
everybody has been looking for him.

PAUL  
(surprised)  
What? Jake captured the gunman in  
the Church? He shouldn't be  
hiding..the man's a Hero.

MICKEY  
Jake doesn't like publicity. After  
making his statement to the police,  
he just vanished.

PAUL  
But publicity like that could get  
him off the streets.

MICKEY  
Jake is a strong-willed man who  
values his pride and being homeless  
has been eating him up inside, but  
he's still a private man.

PAUL

I understand. The next time you see him, just tell him my proposition still stands.

Mickey exits.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - LATER

Paul is typing on his computer.

Doorbell RINGS-

He opens the door and Ellenia whom he now has a romantic relationship, enters.

ELLENIA

I read the final draft on your homeless article..not bad. Mr. Gaskins said he might take it to the Editor's Conference next month.

PAUL

Thank you. But I can't take all the credit. I had an excellent assistant.

ELLENIA

You mentioned Jake Diamond in the article. Who is he?

PAUL

To help me gather all my material, he navigated me around the city through some rough shelters.

ELLENIA

Seems like my kind of man. I love a man who knows how to navigate.

PAUL

He's also homeless.

ELLENIA

Homeless? You're kidding me right?

PAUL

No, I'm not. Ellenia, the man is brilliant. Not only that, he single-  
(MORE)

PAUL(cont'd)

handedly captured the gunman from the church shooting the other night.

ELLENIA

Really? Do I sense another article on the horizon?

PAUL

If I can find him..I went out today looking in the places he hangs out and came up empty.

ELLENIA

When he needs another handout, he'll be back.

PAUL

I don't think so. He doesn't fit into that category either.

ELLENIA

My, my, a proud homeless person..I like that.

PAUL

I wish there were no homeless people in this world.

ELLENIA

Paul, I know how you feel about the homeless, but you can't save the entire world.

PAUL

You're absolutely right, but I'm getting him off the streets if its the last thing I do.

ELLENIA

You have to find him first.

PAUL

I'm going to make him my second project..next to finding my father.

ELLENIA

I don't have a problem with it. Let's just put Jake on the back burner for tonight..

She takes out a bottle of vintage champagne to celebrate the success of the article.

EXT. CICERO PARK - DAY

Paul, again is sitting around hoping to see Matthew.

Arthur is walking through.

ARTHUR

Gee Mister, you look like I feel.

PAUL

It shows, huh?

ARTHUR

You'll be all right.

PAUL

Do you walk in this park often?

ARTHUR

I'm here almost every day..why?

Takes out the photo of Matthew.

PAUL

I've been looking all over for this guy and..

ARTHUR

You're Paul Redstone! Mickey told me he saw you in the Coffee Shop the other day.

PAUL

Is Jake still hiding out?

ARTHUR

He must be. None of us has seen him since the shooting.

PAUL

Has Jake told everyone in this park about me?

ARTHUR

From what I've been hearing, Jake has told anyone that is willing to listen.

PAUL

Maybe those few days we spent together left an impression on him.

ARTHUR

Probably did..he's usually as solid as a rock.

PAUL

Maybe he got caught up in the article.

ARTHUR

Nah..Jake lives that article on a daily basis. But he did say something surprising.

PAUL

What was it?

ARTHUR

He said he wished he'd had a son just like you.

PAUL

That was a kind gesture. I feel honored.

ARTHUR

Jake has never spoken about his family or where he came from and we never asked.

PAUL

Well, if you see him..

ARTHUR

I know..give you a call.

INT. DAILY EXPRESS BUILDING - LATER

Paul's Office.

SUPER: THE ANONYMOUS NOTE.

Paul walks into his office and finds a sealed envelop addressed to him on his desk. He opens it to find that Jake is a tenant at the Inner-City Homeless Shelter.

He checks his computer and the screen displays another one of his college buddies as the new Shelter Director. He makes contact and gets permission to come down after work.

As he hangs up, Ellenia enters.

ELLENIA

Paul, some lady came in and told me give you that letter. Since you wasn't here, I put it on your desk.

PAUL

Thanks Ellenia. Oh, guess what? I found him!

ELLENIA

Found who? Your father?

PAUL

No, I wish..I found Jake. He's living in a shelter over on Melrane. I'm heading over there after work.

ELLENIA

This guy really has you hyped.

PAUL

I know the streets is his comfort zone, but I'm going to find him and give him some hope.

ELLENIA

Don't you think you're giving this guy to much credit? Maybe he lacks vision.

PAUL

That's not it. Many of us take homeless people for granted and we need to realize those people wasn't born that way..something happened in their lives that they need help rebounding from.

ELLENIA

So, what are you trying to say..you're going on a crusade to motivate this guy?

PAUL

If that's what it takes.

ELLENIA

Paul, you can't take him off the streets if he doesn't want your help.

PAUL

I know that. Maybe I can convince him to come off the streets and I consider myself pretty convincing.

ELLENIA

So, go and find your mystery man..I really have to meet this guy.

Ellenia exits.

EXT. INNER CITY SHELTER - LATER

Entrance.

Paul goes inside and finds DAVID SAMUELS, 34, his college buddy busy going over some files with a FEMALE SECRETARY, 28.

DAVID

Well, well, well Paul Redstone. How in the hell are you?

PAUL

I'm good David..you look well.

DAVID

I knew you were going to land on your feet. You always did.

PAUL

It was rough going for awhile, but everything's okay now.

DAVID

Any news about your father? You were searching for him when we were in college.

PAUL

Nothing as yet, but my search is still on going.

DAVID

I read your article on the homeless after you faxed it over and it blew me away. The material you wrote should make some of these tight wad politicians sit up and take notice.

PAUL

I did the best I could. Is Jake around?

DAVID

No, he isn't. He and our former Director Ben Caldwell are out making a delivery at another shelter.

PAUL

So that's why he hasn't been seen in the park. He's been doing Humanitarian work. Good for him.

DAVID

With Ben's knowledge of the place and Jake's help, this place is beginning to run smoothly.

PAUL

I thought Mr. Caldwell retired.

DAVID

He did..you sound like you know him personally.

PAUL

He introduced me to Jake and helped with the article.

DAVID

He volunteers his services here and demands that Jake work with him.

PAUL

They must be really close.

DAVID

They've been friends for years. Both of them are at the Edgemere Shelter distributing clothing to some clients over there.

PAUL

David, you keep files on all your tenants, right?

DAVID

Sure I do..what kind of question is that? Ah..you want to take a peek at Jake's file.

PAUL

I'd like to, of course..with your permission.

DAVID

We have an Official file on him that we keep for our records, but its annexed with another file that has three or four sheets in it, with Ben's signature on all them from the early days.

PAUL

Jake told me Mr. Caldwell was doing some cross matching, trying to find out about his family tree..that's probably what it is.

DAVID

It looks like he's been hitting a brick wall, especially with the Privacy Act in effect.

PAUL

I really would like to see what he's found out.

DAVID

I normally wouldn't do this..not even for a good friend, but since you gave Jake some Press in your article...

He opens the cabinet and gives Paul the file.

PAUL

Thanks David.

DAVID

Yeah, yeah, take it and go inside my office.

As Paul scans the entire file, he finds some astonishing information. Minutes later he comes back out and hands David the file.

DAVID (cont'd)

What did I tell you. Nothing in particular, right?

PAUL

Would you mind if I hung around and waited for Jake and Ben to return?

DAVID

Sure why not. You look a little shaken old buddy..did you find something in Jake's file?

PAUL

I'm fine David.

DAVID

I have to take care of something upstairs. Make yourself at home.

EXT/INT. STREETS - RAINY NIGHT

A torrential downpour starts as Ben and Matthew leave Edgemere Shelter. As Matthew enters the car, his reluctance to put his seat belt on in the car has gone beyond annoying Ben.

BEN CALDWELL

Jake, I'm tired. Please put your seat belt on. Your phobia with restraints is killing me and I'm not moving this car until you do.

MATTHEW

You know I don't like restraints Ben!

BEN CALDWELL

I guess we'll just have to sleep in this car tonight.

Matthew put the seat belt on.

BEN CALDWELL (cont'd)

You haven't said a word about the research you did with my neighbor.

MATTHEW

How well do you know this guy?

BEN CALDWELL

I really don't know him that well..he just came to my door, introduced himself and asked for my help.

MATTHEW

Why did you send him to me?

BEN CALDWELL

After he told me what he wanted to do, you were the only person I knew that could help him in that short time frame.

MATTHEW

We caught heat from some of the Shelter Directors but it worked out okay.

BEN CALDWELL

He told me about the problems you guys had. But, why on earth did you introduce him to Hazel? The Outreach Shelter wasn't on my list.

They look at each other momentarily, then BURST into LAUGHTER.

MATTHEW

Laughter is good for the soul Ben.

BEN CALDWELL

We all need something to cling to, and for laughter you don't have to pay for it.

MATTHEW

What about the sadness Ben? Is there a time and place for that too?

BEN CALDWELL

I know where this is going Jake. You can't continue to beat yourself up over Miss Margie's death.

MATTHEW

I should have been there for her.

BEN CALDWELL

What you did in that church, saving the lives of all those people makes you think about life even more.

As Ben prepares to make a turn, a SPEEDING car RUNS a red light and RAMS directly into Matthew's side of the car and 911 is called.

INT. INNER CITY SHELTER -DAVID SAMUELS OFFICE - LATER

Paul is standing, looking out into the dark rainy street.

David STORMS inside.

DAVID

Paul, I just got a call from Bay View Hospital. Jake and Ben has been in an auto accident.

PAUL

Auto accident? How bad is it?

DAVID

I don't know all the facts, but Jake had our shelter identification on him and I'm going there to make sure he gets the proper care.

PAUL

I'm coming with you.

INT. BAY VIEW HOSPITAL - SAME

David is ending his conversation with the ATTENDING PHYSICIAN, 48, about Matthew and Ben's condition. Paul is standing nearby.

PAUL

What did the Doctor say?

DAVID

Ben was only shaken up, but Jake is another story. A Drunken Motorist ran a red light and RAMMED into his side of the car.

PAUL

When can we see them?

DAVID

Jake and Ben are being treated in the Emergency Room as we speak and they aren't letting anybody in. We just have to wait. I better call his wife.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - LATER

Paul and David enter and finds CLARA CALDWELL 62, Ben's wife of Thirty-five years at his bedside.

DAVID

Evening Ms. Caldwell...Thank God  
Ben, you're all right.

BEN CALDWELL

I'm okay. Right now I'm more  
concerned about Jake..he took the  
brunt of the crash.

DAVID

Do you need anything?

BEN CALDWELL

I said I'm all right. Clara is  
here. Will someone please go and  
check on Jake and get back to me.

Paul and David exit.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - SAME

David and Paul approach the busy area and find Doctors and Nurses moving in precision as they hear the MOANS and GROANS of pain piercing the air.

To Paul's disgust, he finds Matthew sedated and lying on a gurney isolated in a corner. He then looks for anyone wearing white and he runs into:

EMMA RATCHETT, 47, Emergency Room Head Nurse for fifteen years, everything from her pristine white uniform to her careful eye for perfection and attention calls for respect.

PAUL

Excuse me Nurse, why hasn't that  
man in the corner over there been  
treated?

NURSE RATCHETT

This is an Emergency Room Sir and  
we take our most serious cases  
first.

PAUL

How serious must he be? He was in a terrible accident and could die at any moment.

NURSE RATCHETT

I understand Sir, but we have gun shot wounds and cardiac patients that we're seeing with a short handed staff..so please be patient!

PAUL

I understand your Priority System, but I think..

NURSE RATCHETT

(tersely)

If you need any more questions answered, talk to the to the Attending Physician!

Nurse Ratchett walks away leaving Paul dumb-founded.

PAUL

(YELLS ANGRILY AT THE TOP OF HIS VOICE)

I need to speak to somebody!

DAVID

Paul, keep your voice down. The city will pay for Jake's care..where do you expect them to put him..the Presidential Suite?

PAUL

If its available, I'll pay for it.

DAVID

Aren't you taking your friendship with Jake a little too far? His expenses could run into the thousands.

PAUL

I don't care..I want to do this..I need to do this.

Realizing that the Emergency Room Staff is taking too long to react to see Matthew, Paul followed by David, goes in search of Nurse Ratchett and the Attending Physician. They come upon a scene where they over hear Nurse Ratchett laughing with several other nurses.

NURSE RATCHETT

Really..some guy back in Emergency wants a patient, a homeless one at that, with no insurance, mind you..(giggling)be treated first. Why should he care?

PAUL

(SCREAMING)

"BECAUSE HE'S MY FATHER, THAT'S WHY!!" Where is that damn Attending? Get he or she out here, NOW!

As a STUNNED David looks on, a TERRIFIED Nurse Ratchett runs for assistance.

PAUL (cont'd)

What are you looking at?

DAVID

Are you for real?

PAUL

What part of that statement I just made, do you not understand?

DAVID

Whoa Paul, take it easy. I'm just surprised that's all.

DOCTOR ROBERT MILLSTEIN, 58, Attending Physician with twenty-five years of Trauma Service enters.

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN

Sir, I'm Doctor Millstein, the Attending here in the ER. May I help you?

PAUL

Dr. Millstein, I have a family member in your Emergency Room that needs to be treated and he's lying

(MORE)

PAUL(cont'd)

back there bandaged and isolated  
like he's a virus..he may be dying.

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN

Calm down Sir..and you are?

PAUL

My name is Paul Redstone of the  
Daily Express and the man back in  
your ER is my father.

Dr. Millstein, David, Paul and Nurse Ratchett walk back to  
the Trauma Area.

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN

Which patient are you talking about  
Mr. Redstone?

PAUL

(pointing)

The unconscious man over there on  
the gurney.

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN

Very well. Nurse Ratchett, please  
give me this man's chart and put  
him in Room Three.

An embarrassed Nurse Ratchett stares momentarily at everyone  
and walks away.

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN (cont'd)

We're sorry Mr. Redstone. Our Unit  
is swamped every night like this.

PAUL

I apologize for my behavior Doctor  
Millstein, I'm just a little hyped.

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN

Not a problem..we all get like that  
sometimes. Let me check on your  
father and I'll get back to you and  
let you know my findings.

PAUL

Thank you Doctor.

Doctor Millstein exits.

PAUL (cont'd)  
Alright David, you might as well  
put your two cents in.

DAVID  
Are you absolutely sure Jake is  
your father?

PAUL  
I didn't know it myself until I  
read that file.

DAVID  
Paul, you're putting a lot of faith  
in that small amount of  
information.

PAUL  
David, that file spoke volumes..I  
found the names of my mother, my  
Uncle and my last living address.

DAVID  
Explain this to me..if your last  
name is Redstone and the names in  
his file is Redstone, why hasn't  
Ben question you? Its not a common  
name.

PAUL  
I don't know. I've never told Mr.  
Caldwell my father was missing and  
he's never questioned me.

DAVID  
I know twenty-five years is a long  
time, but somebody in your home  
town should know something about  
you and your family.

PAUL  
Ben has never traveled to my place  
of birth. He was trying to help out  
using his computer.

DAVID  
This is weird man..really.

PAUL

Well, Uncle Frank and my mother are deceased, the newspaper I used to work for no longer exist and the place where I once lived has a Condominium setting on it.

DAVID

What about birth certificates and files?

PAUL

With the Privacy Act, a regular citizen can't get that information.

Doctor Millstein re-enters with Matthew's x-rays.

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN

About your father's condition..

PAUL

Money isn't a problem. Whatever he needs, give it to him.

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN

Its not about the money. I'm especially concerned about the swelling on the right side of his head and neck area. It has to go down before we can do any more tests.

PAUL

Do what ever is necessary.

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN

We'll monitor him through the night and see what happens because he has to wake up on his own. If his condition worsens, we could lose him.

DAVID

Well Paul, all we can do is pray and wait.

PAUL

You don't have to stay David. You have a shelter to run. I'll call you if anything breaks.

DAVID

What about you?

PAUL

I'll call the newspaper and get some leave time. As for now, my place is here with him.

DAVID

All right. But call me if you need anything..I mean anything.

PAUL

David, one more thing..don't say anything to anyone..not even Mr. Caldwell. I want to be the one to tell him.

DAVID

Sure. I think it would be more appropriate coming from you.

PAUL

Thanks David.

David exits.

Nurse Ratchett enters and finds a teary-eyed Paul in the Waiting Room.

NURSE RATCHETT

Mr. Redstone, inside these walls I'm a Nurse first and I am sincerely sorry for my behavior earlier.

PAUL

Don't worry about it..tempers flared and I'm sorry for screaming at you.

NURSE RATCHETT

You had every right. Mr. Samuels told me your father has been

(MORE)

NURSE RATCHETT(cont'd)  
missing for twenty-five years and  
God has sent him back to you from  
out there. So, while he's in here,  
we'll do our part.

PAUL  
A huge burden has been lifted from  
my shoulders.

NURSE RATCHETT  
Congratulations on you two finding  
each other.

PAUL  
Thank you. But right now I need to  
talk to The Higher Power that  
brought him back and can wake him  
up.

NURSE RATCHETT  
The area you seek is on the Third  
Floor. He's expecting you.

INT. HOSPITAL CHAPEL - SAME.

Paul enters and find several other people in Prayer and joins  
them.

PAUL  
(whispering softly)  
Dear God, you brought my father  
back to me after all these years.  
Please don't take him away. We have  
so much catching up to do..Amen.

Paul stands up, walks towards the exit, pause and looks back  
momentarily at the Crucifix on the wall, smiles and exits.

INT. MATTHEW'S BEDSIDE- DAY

Paul, who spent the night sleeping in a chair is awoken by a  
Nurse checking on Matthew.

As he comes out into the hallway to stretch, he see Pamela,  
Mickey and Arthur standing outside.

PAUL  
What are you guys doing out here?

MICKEY

When Jake and Ben didn't come back to the shelter, the Administrator said they was here in the hospital, so we came down.

ARTHUR

They wouldn't let us in last night so we waited..how is he doing?

PAUL

He's going to be all right.

ARTHUR

That's good. He needs all his friends.

PAUL

And who is this pretty lady?

PAMELA

My name is Pamela Ross and I'm a good friend of Jake's.

MICKEY

She's a real good friend Paul. Pamela and Jake have been an item for a few years.

PAUL

Its my pleasure to meet you Ms. Ross.

ARTHUR

How long do you think Jake will be in here? He hates hospitals.

PAUL

The doctor said he needs to wake up on his own. While we wait, there is something all three of you need to know about me and your friend Jake.

HOSPITAL COFFEE SHOP- LATER

Paul discuss Matthew's twenty-five year ordeal stating they are father and son. Not only is Pamela in tears, Mickey and Arthur has teared up as well.

A called from the Nurse's Station informs Paul that Matthew is awake.

ARTHUR  
That's your cue Paul.

PAUL  
Wish me luck!

Paul enters Matthew room.

PAUL (cont'd)  
Good morning..how are you feeling?

MATTHEW  
Ah man! Another hospital! What are you doing here and what is this contraption around my neck?

Doctor Millstein enters and begin examining Matthew.

PAUL  
We'll talk later.

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN  
You gave us quite a scare last night.

MATTHEW  
I did huh? What's my status now, other than this big headache?

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN  
The swelling has gone down and we can run the necessary tests. That seat belt saved your life.

MATTHEW  
Ben will be glad to hear that one. How is he doing anyway?

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN  
He's fine. As matter of fact, he's being released today.

MATTHEW  
That's good. Now, when can I get out of here?

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN

I would like for you to stay a little longer so we can run more tests.

MATTHEW

I don't know doc'. Seems like hospitals are my second home. Every time I wake up, I'm tied down or strapped down.

PAUL

Dr. Millstein, he'll stay until you say its safe for him to leave.

MATTHEW

Hold on there young fella'. You can't make decisions for me.

PAUL

I just did. Dr. Millstein, give us a minute please.

Doctor Millstein exits.

PAUL (cont'd)

I've been looking all over for you.

MATTHEW

I know you have. Arthur and Mickey knew where I was, but I made them promise not to tell anyone, so don't be mad at them.

PAUL

All three of you have been friends for years and you need people like them protecting your back.

MATTHEW

Is it about the article?

PAUL

That's finished.

MATTHEW

So, what's the problem now?

PAUL  
(smiling)  
Believe me, I don't have one now.

MATTHEW  
I don't understand. Why are you  
here?

PAUL  
I'm so elated I don't know what to  
do with myself.

MATTHEW  
Elated about what? You're smiling  
like you've just won the Lottery or  
something.

PAUL  
The Lottery is no comparison to  
this. Remember me asking you about  
your family?

MATTHEW  
Yeah, and..

PAUL  
Man, do I have a hot flash for you.

MATTHEW  
Here I am in pain and you're  
smiling like a Cheshire Cat. Will  
you please get to the point!

PAUL  
Your name is not Jake Diamond, its  
Matthew Redstone. You graduated  
from Michigan State and was married  
to my mother Sarah.

The room goes SILENT as Paul stares at a stunned Matthew for  
a reaction.

MATTHEW  
You've been in the sun too long! I  
know there has to be a Psych Ward  
in this hospital and I suggest you  
check it out.

PAUL

Remember the first day we met, I told you my father was missing? Well, not anymore, you're my missing father.

MATTHEW

I'm sorry, but I can't be your father, or anybody else's father.

PAUL

I've been waiting twenty-five years for this moment.

MATTHEW

Well, I suggest you keep on waiting.

PAUL

I'm through searching. Its time to rebuild and go forward.

Matthew tries to sit up.

MATTHEW

You sound like a politician. What kind of game are you playing here Paul? This is all nonsense.

PAUL

This isn't a game.."DAD". I am your son.

MATTHEW

For the life of me, I don't remember having a son or even being married.

PAUL

Did you know Mr. Caldwell created a separate file on you at Inner City?

MATTHEW

No, I did not. I figured if he found something interesting, he would have told me.

PAUL

David told me Ben has been making telephone calls and writing letters on your behalf.

MATTHEW

So? That's what concerned friends do.

PAUL

You know what? You're right.. that's what friends do.

MATTHEW

Paul, I can't be your father. I would love to have a son like you but that's not possible.

Paul reaches into his pocket and takes out a family picture of himself as child, his mother Sarah, Uncle Frank and a young Matthew.

PAUL

Maybe this photo will bring back some memories. I was five years old at the time.

MATTHEW

If you think a photo can change my mind, well..

PAUL

See, that's you on the left next to my mother who died a couple of years after this picture was taken.

Matthew scans the photo.

MATTHEW

I don't recognize anybody..I'm sorry.

PAUL

Look closely..You also had a brother name Frank. He gave me this photo before he died.

MATTHEW

There was a brother too? Are you for real..I don't remember having a family, more or less a brother.

PAUL

Yes, you had a brother. You were a Trucker who drove eighteen-wheelers for a living..you had five of them.

MATTHEW

Wait a minute..years back, when I was in the hospital, the doctors told me that I had been in a trucking accident.

PAUL

That's it! Come on Dad..stay with me! You went on a job, your truck overturned and you suffered a concussion and lost your memory.

MATTHEW

You mean I've been walking around in the dark all these years as someone else?

PAUL

I'm afraid so. The hospital staff gave you the name Jake Diamond and that trucking accident structured your destiny for twenty-five years.

Matthew lies back and look once again at the family photo as tears begin to flow. Paul cradles his head.

PAUL (cont'd)

When you became homeless, all trails to you just vanished.

MATTHEW

(teary-eyed, pounds his fist repeatedly into the bed)

Twenty-five damn years..twenty-five long years!

PAUL

You've been to a lot of dark places, but you survived them.

MATTHEW

I survived because I had good people looking out for me. I just can't believe where I've been..I really can't.

PAUL

It's time for us to start anew.

MATTHEW

I don't know where to begin. I'm just happy to be alive after all I've been through.

PAUL

We can start anywhere you want.

MATTHEW

So, what's next?

PAUL

Home! My home, your home..our home!

Matthew turns away.

MATTHEW

I can't go home with you.

PAUL

(stunned)

What? Why not?

MATTHEW

I would be more of a burden to you than anything.

PAUL

You won't be a burden..that I can promise you.

MATTHEW

Look, I've been on my own all these years and I don't want you changing your lifestyle for me.

PAUL

My lifestyle? Don't worry about me. Listen..your friends, the things you like to do, none of that has to change.

MATTHEW

Look at me Paul..look at me! I've been in and out of homeless shelters and hospitals all my life and right now, I don't even have two coins to rub together.

PAUL

A father once told his young son.."money and power doesn't make a man a good father, love does. Those are the very same words you told me before you disappeared.

MATTHEW

Why don't you just walk away. I'll be just fine.

PAUL

I can't do that. I asked God to bring you back to me so we can start anew and that's what I intend to do.

Doctor Millstein re-enters.

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN

Sir, have you come to a decision about staying for those other tests?

PAUL

(staring at Matthew with tears in his eyes)

Doctor Millstein, this man was correct earlier..the decision whether to stay or go is his. I say Matthew Redstone should stay, but Jake Diamond is free to go..I won't stand in his way.

SILENCE.

Paul stares momentarily at Matthew, then bows his head and turns to walk away..

MATTHEW

Okay Doc' you got me for a few more days.

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN

Excellent.. you've made the right decision..I'll Set everything up.

MATTHEW

(looking at Paul)

Yeah, I know. I guess that's two important decisions I've made today.

Dr. Millstein exits.

PAUL

You did the right thing..Dad!

MATTHEW

Dad..sounds so strange. Paul, are you sure about this?

PAUL

You might as well get used to it, because you're going to be hearing it a lot.

MATTHEW

I'll try, but I could be a hard person to live with.

PAUL

Not a problem..Uncle Frank taught me well.

MATTHEW

Indeed he has.

PAUL

We've come a long way in a short period of time, but this reunion has had its puzzles along the way.

MATTHEW

Like what?

PAUL

Somebody must have really wanted me to find you. A note was left on my desk telling me where you were.

MATTHEW

I don't have a clue.

PAUL

It doesn't matter now.

MATTHEW

They might come forward later.

PAUL

Whomever it was, I thank them.

MATTHEW

I guess we both have a lot to be thankful for.

PAUL

I agree. I also told the Newspaper about what happened here at the hospital and they told me to take as much time as I needed.

MATTHEW

Those are good people you work for.

PAUL

They're the best. When I first came to New York, they gave me a job and made me feel comfortable.

MATTHEW

That's what life is all about..choices.

PAUL

I really would like to know who delivered that note?

MATTHEW

Ben knows me like a book. The question is..how well does he know you?

PAUL

Not a lot. I had to build up my confidence just to ask him for his help in writing my article.

MATTHEW

He never approached you with any questions?

PAUL

Not one..as matter of fact, after I told him the results of our working together, I never saw again..his wife said he was ill.

MATTHEW

Well, there's only one thing left to do..we just have to ask him direct.

PAUL

Thank God for that file and thank God for making Mr. Caldwell an Optimist.

Dr. Millstein re-enters.

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN

Mr. Redstone?

PAUL AND MATTHEW

(Paul and Matthew answers simultaneously)

Yes!

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN

You made a statement about your father's expenses earlier.

PAUL

I'll handle everything.

DOCTOR MILLSTEIN

Well, that won't be necessary. The newspaper contacted the hospital stating that they will cover all Mr. Redstone's expenses.

PAUL  
Mr. Gaskins must smell an  
Exclusive.

MATTHEW  
I guess he do.

INT. PAUL/BEN CALDWELL CONDOMINIUM- HALLWAY- DAY

Matthew, walking with the use of a cane has been released from the hospital. He and Paul are en route to Ben's apartment.

PAUL  
Are you sure this is what you want to do. Dr. Millstein told me to take you straight home.

MATTHEW  
I'm fine. I really have to do this.

PAUL  
What are you carrying in that bag? You've been very protective of it.

MATTHEW  
Its a gift for Ben.

They RING the doorbell and Clara answers.

MATTHEW (cont'd)  
Good morning Clara..we came by to see Ben.

CLARA  
I'll get him for you.

Ben Caldwell enter moments later carrying a folder.

BEN CALDWELL  
Gentlemen..welcome..as for you my dear friend, now you know why seat belts are so important.

MATTHEW  
Yeah, yeah..it saved my bacon. How are you doing?

BEN CALDWELL

I'm better than fine. I have some information in this folder that both of you might be interested in.

PAUL

Mr. Caldwell, I read the file you created at Inner City.

BEN CALDWELL

Is he..tell me..is he?..

PAUL

Yes, Mr. Caldwell, this is my father, Matthew Redstone..the man you and I have been searching for over twenty years.

MATTHEW

It's true Ben.

BEN CALDWELL

(elated, he jumps up)

I knew it, I knew it! Clara, come in here!

Matthew and Paul looks at each other in amazement as he hugs Clara, then Matthew and Paul.

BEN CALDWELL (cont'd)

Clara, I was right! I was right! Look at them..man, I'm so proud!

PAUL

The file was brief, but it was very informative.

BEN CALDWELL

Your father has always been a mystery to me and I figured something had went wrong somewhere.

MATTHEW

That's twenty-five years gone down the drain.

BEN CALDWELL

Well, that's not exactly true..you've survived and learned a  
(MORE)

BEN CALDWELL(cont'd)

lot and made some valuable friends along the way.

MATTHEW

You're right Ben. I'm just caught up in the moment.

PAUL

We were together all that time and nobody had a clue..you did good Mr. Caldwell.

MATTHEW

Ben has been covering my backside for a lot of years.

PAUL

Mr. Caldwell, a note was left on my desk at the Daily Express a few days ago..you wouldn't know anything about it would you?

CLARA

(raises her hand)

I'm the guilty party, Paul. When I saw your last name on the mail box, I told Ben and we decided to try and match you two together.

BEN CALDWELL

I was too sick to move around at the time, so she took it to your office.

PAUL

How did I come up on your radar..I never told you my father was missing?

BEN CALDWELL

No you didn't, but my golfing partner Gene Gaskins did. After you came to me for help with your article, we talked about you in great detail.

PAUL

So, my Editor is your golfing buddy? He's been part of this from the start. That's why he gave me

(MORE)

PAUL(cont'd)

four days and sent me to you..you were expecting me.

BEN CALDWELL

You can say that..yes, I was.

PAUL

I'm impressed to say the least and I'm immensely thankful.

MATTHEW

Ben, you should be a Counselor somewhere. The world needs more people like you and Clara out there.

PAUL

Mr. Caldwell, I have to get this man to bed. On his first day out, he was determined to stop by and see you.

MATTHEW

Listen to him Ben, ordering me around already.

BEN

I'm just glad it turned out like it did. Since we're all neighbors, we'll be seeing a lot of each other.

MATTHEW

Ben, I have something I want you to have.

BEN

What is it Matthew?

Matthew open the bag and takes out his mangled old tin cup he used to panhandle. He folds a ten dollar bill and place it neatly inside.

MATTHEW

I won't be needing this anymore and I want you to have it. This is for the man who "Changed My Life".

BEN

(tears swell in his eyes)  
You're paid in full, Matt..paid in  
full and thank you for that  
compliment. You know what it means  
to me.

Matthew embrace both Ben and Clara.

MATTHEW

Again..thanks for all you've  
done..both of you.

Matthew and Paul exit.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME.

Paul and Matthew walks towards the elevator.

PAUL

What was that all about?

MATTHEW

The history of a mangled tin cup, a  
folded ten dollar bill and people  
who made a difference.

As they proceed down the hallway, Mickey and Arthur emerge  
from the elevator.

MATTHEW (cont'd)

Well, well..checking up on me, huh?

MICKEY

We figured that after you got out  
of the hospital, you would be  
heading this way.

MATTHEW

You guys know me so well.

ARTHUR

After all these years, why  
shouldn't we?

PAUL

Hey fellas, can we finish this  
conversation upstairs? The elevator  
door is still open.

MICKEY

Oh yeah..we have a surprise for you.

MATTHEW

If its someone I owe money, both of you are going to get it and ..

Before he could finish with his TIRADE, Pamela steps out of the elevator.

Matthew GASPS.

ARTHUR

What's the matter now motor mouth? Nobody in all these years has ever been able to shut that yap of yours.

MICKEY

Until now..

PAMELA

(to Matthew)

Is it to late to say I'm sorry? If you don't want me here, I'll understand.

MATTHEW

Woman, get over here.

Matthew DROPS his cane and LIMPS BRISKLY towards her as they kiss and embrace.

MATTHEW (cont'd)

I thought I had lost you forever.

PAMELA

I didn't know the whole truth and my emotions just took over.

Paul, Mickey and Arthur step away to give Pamela and Matthew some privacy.

MATTHEW

What about your mother? How is she going to take it..us being back together again?

PAMELA

After she found out what happened to you, she felt bad and wants to express her sincere apology in person when ever you're ready to see her.

MATTHEW

This day just keeps on getting better and better.

Arthur and Mickey views the joyful reunion.

ARTHUR

Paul, your father is a survivor. All three of us has been to hell and back, but we're glad you didn't give up the search for him.

PAUL

God planned it this way. I also want to thank you two for introducing me to Pamela earlier so I could tell her about my father. He really loves her.

MICKEY

We found her wandering around the hospital asking questions about your father. After being told he had been discharged, we decided to bring her along.

ARTHUR

She's one hell of a woman. She, along with Ben kept your father on the straight and narrow. Without them, no telling where he would have ended up.

PAUL

I agree that Pamela and Ben were focal points in my father's life, but I have to give you two guys some high credit as well for keeping him safe.

MICKEY

It wasn't nothing..you just take good care of our good friend.

Mickey and Arthur momentarily looks over at Matthew and Pamela and walks towards the elevator.

PAUL

Hold on fellas, where are you going?

ARTHUR

Don't worry about me and Mick.. We'll be alright.

Pamela and Matthew comes over smiling and holding hands.

MATTHEW

Pamela told me she's glad my beard is gone.

PAUL

Hey, I have to agree with her.

MICKEY

Well Jake..I mean Matthew, we have to get going. Look us up every now and then..you know where we'll be.

PAUL

Hold it! Nobody is going back to Inner City or Cicero Park, unless you want to feed the pigeons or play checkers or visit.

ARTHUR

Paul, honestly, we'll be all right.

PAUL

I said nobody is going back to the streets and my bet is Pamela doesn't cherish working for a company that eventually is going to lay her off either.

MATTHEW

What are you trying to say Paul?

PAUL

I've spoken to Mr. Gaskins at the newspaper about finding every one of you a job. It doesn't necessary has to be with the paper.

ARTHUR

I must be dreaming.

PAUL

We've also discussed housing and health insurance. Everything that has to be done, will be done.

MATTHEW

Not bad..I could use some quality employment myself.

PAUL

As for you..there is something I failed to mention when you were in the hospital. I wanted to make sure you were strong enough to understand what I'm about to tell you.

MATTHEW

At this point, you can tell me anything.

PAUL

Before your accident, you owned five eighteen wheelers..now there are eight. Before Uncle Frank died, he leased them to a reputable company and a check has been coming in every month.

MATTHEW

I don't know what to say..

MICKEY

Son, for the last twenty-five years, where in the hell have you been?

PAUL

Growing up and looking for this  
man.

ARTHUR

Matthew, remember telling us that  
you wished you had a son like Paul?  
Now you know, God do grant wishes  
when you believe in prayer.

The End

FADE OUT.

(cont'd)



