

"Looking For Jack"

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ACT I

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

SUBTITLE: MAY 7, 23:38

A car flies down road, music blaring. We cannot see the face of the driver. Stylised shots. Close-up shots inside car. The speedo reaches 140 and continues to rise. The focus shifts to the headlights. Suddenly the screen is lit with a blinding light. The white slowly fades down to black. The main title now shows.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

SUBTITLE: MAY 9, 08:27

Packed school bus, lots of kids talking. SAM sits in a seat with his head on the window, gazing out. A car crash comes into view as bus goes past. SAM lifts head off window, his expression looking weird, as if he knows what he's seeing.

Slowly, everyone seems to go quiet. The vision slows down. A very quick flash of a car's screeching brakes comes on screen. Suddenly, people start talking again. All seems normal again.

SAM is friendly punched in the arm by JACK, who is sitting next to him. SAM comes back to reality.

JACK
(friendly)
Hey, did you develop those
photos?

SAM is still out of it.

SAM
What?

JACK
The photos?

SAM seems tired.

SAM
(slowly)
Ah..

JACK notices SAM's expression.

JACK
Sam, you alright?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM

Yeah. Yeah. I'm real tired. Had a big night last night.

JACK

(laughs)
You get with Katie?

SAM

(laughs)
Yeah, I wish.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Bus pulls up and students file off. JACK and SAM start talking as they walk to class. JACK immediately notices the girl that SAM likes, KATIE, who is smiling at SAM from within a group of girls.

JACK

There she is.

SAM

(pauses)
You really think she likes me?

JACK

Yeah! You should ask her out!

SAM

(skeptical)
You reckon?

SAM continues to stare at KATIE as he walks. He trips over a rock, stumbling. JACK laughs at him, giving him a friendly punch. The two continue walking towards a classroom.

SAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

They came out pretty good.

INT. PHOTOGRAPHY DARKROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The room is dark. It is difficult to make out anything. SAM is hanging up a wet photo. He looks closer at it. JACK looks at it, too.

JACK

Yeah, they're not too bad.

There is a pause. JACK looks away from the photo.

JACK (CONT'D)

Hey, can we talk serious?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM
Yeah, mate, what is it?

JACK
(pausing slightly)
I might be in some shit.

SAM stops looking at photo and turns to face JACK.

SAM
(sighs)
What do you mean?

JACK
(pauses)
I might owe some guys some
money.

SAM
How much?

JACK
A couple of hundred.

SAM sighs. He realises he knows exactly what JACK owes the money for.

SAM
You're not doing that shit
again, are you?

JACK hastily tries to explain.

JACK
Mate, I couldn't help it. This
guy was offering a good deal and-

SAM
A good deal?

JACK leans in to speak more softly.

JACK
(hastily)
You don't understand.
(slowly)
I just needed a fix.

SAM
(softly, yet
aggressively)
And when's it gonna stop? You
don't think people are gonna
find out?

JACK looks away quickly and sighs, then turns back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACK

I just need your help. That's all. I'm in real deep this time.

SAM

What happened last time I helped you out! What happened to *that* money!

JACK

This is different.

SAM

This time you're gonna pay me back?

JACK turns away again, hands on face.

SAM (CONT'D)

You really need help, mate.

JACK turns back suddenly.

JACK

(aggressively)
I don't need help. I need the money.

SAM

(nonchalantly)
Well, you're not getting it from me.

JACK suddenly looks stern.

JACK

You know what? Fuck you. I thought you were my mate.

The door of the room opens. MR. WRIGHT walks in.

MR. WRIGHT

Everything alright in here?

SAM

Yeah, all good.

MR. WRIGHT walks over to a side room.

SAM (CONT'D)

(angry whisper)
I wanna help you get off this shit but... you can't keep-

JACK

(angrily)
Look, don't worry. I'll work something out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JACK walks out of room. SAM is left standing alone with a dejected look on his face. MR. WRIGHT and SAM look at each other. MR. WRIGHT has a quizzical look on his face. SAM walks out of room.

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE:

EXT. OUTDOORS - THE DAY BEFORE

Still camera takes photos of JACK. SAM is taking photos of JACK. The camera is turned to F8. SAM and JACK are laughing. Quick cuts of a camera being loaded with film, lens being adjusted. Stylised as much as the opening car scene. Cuts to:

INT. CLASSROOM - TIME UNKNOWN

MR. WRIGHT is telling the class about their assignment, which is on portraiture. Flashes of words like CHOOSE A FRIEND, FIVE PORTRAITS, HEAD SHOTS, FULL BODY, etc.

END FLASHBACK SEQUENCE.

ACT II

INT. SAM'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY

SUBTITLE: 16:09

A news story about a car accident plays innocently on the TV in the background while we focus on a series of photos with JACK and SAM in them, showing their obvious friendship. SAM enters the room looking tired. He walks over to the couch and collapses on it. MUM is in the kitchen making dinner. She has a concerned look as she notices SAM on the couch.

Later:

A phone rings. SAM wakes up and reaches to answer it.

SAM

Hello?

JACK

Sam, it's Jack.

SAM

Yeah, what's up?

JACK

Could you come over here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM looks into kitchen, and notices his MUM and SISTER doing the dishes. He speaks more softly.

SAM

After what you did today, why should I?

JACK

(frustrated)

Sam, can you come over or not? I need your help.

SAM seems tired. He rubs his eyes. He seems annoyed that JACK is asking him to come over, yet he is complacent.

SAM

(stutters)

Shit. OK, yeah. I can be over in ah... half an hour.

JACK

(nonchalantly)

Yeah, that's cool.

HANG UP TONE. SAM hangs up the phone.

MUM

(from kitchen)

Who was that?

SAM

No one. I'm going out for a while.

MUM and SISTER walk into room. SAM gets up from the couch and heads to the door.

MUM

Who did you just ring?

SAM

He rang me.

SAM grabs his jacket from the peg.

MUM

I didn't hear the phone ring. Who was it?

SAM opens the door.

SAM

It was Jack.

SAM walks out the door, slamming it behind him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MUM
 (puzzled)
 Jack?

There is a slight pause, before:

SISTER
 God, he's a tool.

MUM slaps SISTER round the head with the tea towel.

MUM
 Don't talk like that!

EXT. JACK'S HOUSE - HALF AN HOUR LATER

SUBTITLE: 16:42

SAM arrives at JACK's house. He walks up the path to the door and knocks several times. He walks over to the front window and looks in.

SAM
 Jack?

SAM knocks on the window again.

INT. JACK'S BEDROOM - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Close-up shots of pills. JACK is seen taking them. He is sitting in a chair, chuckling softly to himself. SAM's voice is heard in the background, knocking on the window.

SAM (B.G.)
 Jack?

EXT. JACK'S HOUSE - SIMULTANEOUSLY

SAM knocks on window once more.

SAM
 (whispers)
 Jesus Christ.

SAM walks off in disgust.

INT. JACK'S BEDROOM - SIMULTANEOUSLY

JACK continues to chuckle. A car ignition is heard outside, and the car's tyres are heard spinning on gravel before the car drives off.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - THE NEXT DAY

SUBTITLE: MAY 10, 09:14

SAM arrives at school, looking for JACK. SAM walks around school, looking in various windows and doors. Students walk by nonchalantly. A GIRL walks past.

SAM
(to GIRL)
Have you seen Jack?

GIRL
Jack who?

GIRL continues walking, nonchalantly.

SAM
Don't worry.

SAM continues walking.

EXT. ISOLATED AREA OF SCHOOL - SIMULTANEOUSLY

JACK is talking to a DRUG DEALER. JACK hands over a 50 dollar note.

JACK
This is all I've got.

DRUG DEALER
When am I gonna get the rest of it?

JACK
Um... Maybe a few days, I'm coming into some money soon-

DRUG DEALER slaps the money out of JACK's hand and pins JACK against wall. SAM walks into scene, in background. Neither JACK nor DRUG DEALER notice.

DRUG DEALER
(aggressively)
You make sure I get the rest of it by tomorrow.

DRUG DEALER drops JACK. SAM quickly walks out of scene. DRUG DEALER walks away. JACK straightens his clothes.

INT. SCHOOL TOILET - MOMENTS LATER

SUBTITLE: 09:20

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM walks into toilet, stands at basin and starts shaking at the mirror. SAM turns on the tap and splashes water on his face. Places hands down on basin to support himself, leans forwards and cries.

ACT III

INT. SAM'S HOUSE - THAT NIGHT

SUBTITLE: MAY 10, 21:46

It is raining outside. A doorbell rings. SAM walks to the front door to answer it.

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT OF SAM'S HOUSE

Wide angle of SAM's house, with Jack at the front door.

JACK
(flustered)
Hey, are you busy?

INT. SAM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

SAM rolls his eyes, sighs, and tries to shut door on JACK. JACK puts his foot in the door and pushes it back open.

JACK
What the hell?

SAM
Jack, I'm not in the mood.

JACK
You reckon you could drive me
somewhere?

SAM pulls JACK in from outside by the shirt.

SAM
What the fuck is wrong with you?

JACK
Can we just talk in the car?

EXT. SAM'S DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

SAM flies backwards out the driveway in his car. The brakes screech. He drives forward, and drifts around the corner at the end of the street. It is still raining.

INT. PHOTOGRAPHY DARKROOM - SIMULTANEOUSLY

MR. WRIGHT is in darkroom pulling down SAM's photos from the line. He has a concerned look on his face. We can only see the backs of the photos.

SAM (V.O.)

I saw you today. Paying a guy.

INT. SAM'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

SAM and JACK sit in silence for several seconds before SAM speaks.

JACK

Well, that's all that happened.
I paid him, then he left.

THEY sit in silence for a few seconds.

SAM

That's all it was?

JACK

(apologetically)
Trust me. I'm over all that shit
now. I was just paying him the
cash.

There is a pause.

SAM

Where are we going?

JACK

Well, I didn't exactly pay off
the whole thing.

SAM

(frustrated)
Oh, Jesus!

JACK

(hastily)
No, look, we're just gonna pay
him and leave.

SAM

And that's it?

JACK

That's the plan.

INT. MR. WRIGHT'S STUDY - CONTINUOUS

SUBTITLE: 22:18

MR. WRIGHT dials a number. SAM'S MUM answers.

INTERCUT WITH INT. SAM'S KITCHEN

MUM

Hello?

MR. WRIGHT

Hello, Mrs. Davies?

MUM

Yes?

MR. WRIGHT

It's Mr. Wright. Sam's teacher.

MUM

Is anything wrong?

EXT. CARPARK - LATER

SAM's car pulls up in the carpark.

JACK

You stay here.

SAM

You sure? Jack, if you need help-

JACK

Trust me. Just stay here. Get ready to leave.

From the car, JACK is seen walking over to a group of people. He talks for several seconds, before snatching a package from one of the guys. JACK runs back towards car, pulls open the door and jumps in.

JACK (CONT'D)

(hastily)

Go! Go!

SAM turns on engine.

SAM

What the fuck are you doing? You said-

JACK

Just go!

SAM immediately accelerates, causing the tyres to spin.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INTERCUT WITH PREVIOUS SCENE

MR. WRIGHT

I'm a bit concerned about Sam.
He hasn't been himself lately.

MUM

(sighs)
What has he done this time?

CUT

SAM is very heated. He looks at the drugs in JACK's hand.

SAM

Did you just steal that? You
told me you'd given up all this
shit!

JACK

(calmly)
This isn't for me, mate.

SAM

What?

JACK

Well, I'm not the one on drugs.

SAM slowly has a look of realisation on his face. A news report flashes up, telling of an accident caused by drugs, the same one seen on SAM's TV.

CUT

MR. WRIGHT

He has taken some portraits that
concern me.

MUM

What's in them?

CUT

JACK picks up a newspaper from the floor of SAM's car. The headline is immediately visible: BOY, 17, DIES IN CAR CRASH.

JACK

(calmly)
You know, you should read this
more often.

CUT

MR. WRIGHT

Well, that's the thing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CUT

Suddenly, flashes of words from the article appear, including DRUG OVERDOSE, EXCESSIVE SPEED, 17 YEARS OLD.

JACK

You'd learn a lot, I reckon.

CUT

MUM

(inquiringly)

What?

CUT

SAM

(to self)

No.

CUT

MR. WRIGHT

There's nobody in them.

CUT

Words from the newspaper article again flash up: THE MALE DRIVER, IDENTIFIED AS, JACK, J, A, C, K, JACK IRVING. SAM's face looks horrified.

CUT

MR. WRIGHT flicks through the photos one by one, to reveal that the photos SAM took of JACK are nothing but empty photos of brick walls and grass mounds.

FLASHBACKS:

Where JACK was previously being pinned against a wall, SAM is now seen to be. SAM is then seen to run into the toilet and cry.

Where JACK was seen to be high on drugs at his house, SAM is now seen to be.

Where JACK was seen to snatch the drugs off the guy at the carpark, SAM is now seen to. SAM then runs back to his car and jumps in.

END FLASHBACKS.

SAM still looks horrified. He looks back at the passenger seat, and no one is sitting there. He begins crying.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SAM

(crying)
What?

SAM looks forward again.

JACK

(shouting)
This is what you wanted isn't
it!

JACK has suddenly appeared again. He is holding up the packet with drugs.

SAM

(crying)
No!

JACK grabs the steering wheel, attempting to veer the car off the road.

JACK

Why don't you just end it all
now? Like I did!

SAM

No!

SAM slams on the brakes hard. He ends up on an angle to the side of the road. He sobs even louder and throws his head onto the steering wheel, which sounds the horn.

EXT. SIDE OF ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Another car slows down as it comes near SAM's car. It pulls up on the side of the road. A WOMAN gets out, leaving her headlights and indicator on. She walks over to SAM's car, and knocks on the window. She tries to open the door. The action is viewed from a distance, and the WOMAN's voice is faint. The WOMAN bangs on the car window.

WOMAN

Are you alright?

The WOMAN pulls out her mobile phone and dials a number.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

I need an ambulance.

SCENE FADES

EXT. LARGE CEMETARY - DAY

SUBTITLE: ONE MONTH LATER

It is raining. A figure walks through the cemetery. We can only see his back, or his legs. He stops at a headstone and kneels at it. The figure is revealed to be SAM. We see him looking intently at the headstone. The headstone is revealed to have the words: IN LOVING MEMORY OF JACK IRVING: 1989-2007.

The camera shifts back to SAM's reaction, and slowly pans left, to reveal a figure standing about 50 metres behind him. The camera shifts focus to reveal the figure is JACK. SAM looks as though he can feel someone standing behind him. He looks around. JACK is no longer there. SAM turns back around, stands up, and slowly walks towards the exit to the cemetery.

He looks back, slightly puzzled, as he approaches a girl, KATIE. She is smiling at him.

KATIE

You ready to go?

SAM nods. SAM and KATIE walk off together, hand in hand.

END FILM