

The Homeless Man

by
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FADE IN:

EXT. STREETS - DAY

GEORGE THOMAS, (mid-40s), down on his luck lately, awakens to a cold, Autumn, morning. He's wearing tattered clothes and a worn-out army jacket.

He pulls a cigarette pack from a worn-out backpack. There's none left. A disappointed scowl crawls onto his face.

He slumps and crumples the empty pack and throws it into the gutter.

He has a hard time getting up, but is able to find the strength.

After zipping up his jacket, he slings the backpack over his shoulder and heads down the street.

INT. SHELTER PARK, MEN'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

VOLUNTEER #1, a male in his 40s, is standing behind the counter looking at his watch.

George stands still under the shower head as the steamy water falls over his body.

DAYDREAM SEQUENCE:

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

George stands in front of a foggy-steamed mirror, shaving; a towel wrapped around his waist.

His three-year-old daughter, KATIE, is watching and giggling, sitting on the side of the sink.

NANCY, (30s), his pretty wife comes in holding a laundry basket and a big smile. She gathers the clothes from the floor.

She sneaks a kiss to George and Katie, who now has shaving cream on her nose.

VOLUNTEER #1 (V.O.)
Time's up folks.

END OF DREAM SEQUENCE:

George turns off the water and grabs a towel.

LATER

George stands in line to get new clothes.

Volunteer #1 hands him socks and a bag of toiletries.

VOLUNTEER #1

Here ya' go, bud.

He points at a locker room behind George.

VOLUNTEER #1 (CONT'D)

Dig through those boxes for a clean shirt and pants.

GEORGE

Thanks.

George digs through the boxes and pulls out a shirt and socks, but he's not finding any pants that fit him.

INT. SHELTER CAFE - DAY

There's a room full of homeless people and volunteers serving breakfast.

George stands in line and gets a plate of food from VOLUNTEER #2, a nice looking lady in her 60s.

VOLUNTEER #2

Is that enough?

GEORGE

Can I get more eggs?

VOLUNTEER #2

Sure.

She scoops more eggs on the plate.

VOLUNTEER #3 approaches behind Volunteer #2.

VOLUNTEER #3

We can't give more food, yet. We might not have enough food to feed everyone.

Volunteer #3 walks away.

Volunteer #2 shakes her head and motions George to sit.

EXT. SHELTER PARK - DAY

George leaves the library and sits down on a picnic bench. He takes a sip of coffee from a styrofoam cup and opens a paperback.

A rough looking man, CARL, (30s), sits next to him.

CARL
Got a cigarette?

George shakes his head no.

Over the intercom.

INTERCOM (O.C.)
Sign ups for work detail is open at
window number one.

George and Carl head for window number one, but a number of people already form a line quickly.

George turns to his book while in line.

LATER

George is closer to the window.

Carl turns to George.

CARL
We probably won't get work today, see?

He points to the work bus that's almost full.

George looks at the bus.

FLASHBACK:

INT. CUBICLE - DAY

George, sitting, dressed in business clothes, types on his laptop.

LAURA, 20s, a perky lady walks up.

LAURA
Ready for the ten o'clock?

George closes up his laptop, removes it from the docking station and picks it up.

GEORGE

Let's go.

LAURA

You bringing the family this weekend?

George smiles.

GEORGE

My daughter will kill me if she misses out on Flying Flags America. You?

LAURA

My boyfriend would kill me, too. I'm hitting every roller-coaster. He hates them.

They both laugh as they walk down the hallway and enter a conference room.

END FLASHBACK:

EXT. SHELTER PARK - DAY

The work bus pulls away as George walks out of Shelter Park. A WORKER closes and locks the gate.

WORKER

We'll be open at noon.

MONTAGE:

EXT. STREETS - DAY

George walking aimlessly down city streets, one after the other. He talks MOS to other street people then moves on.

END OF MONTAGE:

EXT. RIVER - DAY

George arrives at the river shore. He slowly walks up to a couple that are fishing, keeping some distance.

FRANK, 20s, and dressed in a flannel and jeans, next to GEANIE, 20s, also dressed in flannels and jeans.

GEORGE

How're they biting?

FRANK

Nothing, yet.

Just then, the tip of Geanie's pole bends. She yanks it back hard.

GEANIE

Got one!

Geanie reels in a good-sized trout.

Meanwhile, Frank pulls out a pack of cigarettes and flips one out towards George.

FRANK

You smoke?

GEORGE

Bless you, sir.

FRANK

Take two.

He pulls out two smokes and pulls out his lighter.

Frank pulls out two himself and sticks them in his mouth as he puts the pack back in his pocket.

George lights up Frank's two cigarettes, then his own.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Thanks.

George exhales a cloud of white smoke.

GEORGE

God, that first drag is always the best.

Frank sticks a smoke in Geanie's mouth as she's removing the fish from her hook.

FRANK

You said it. Frank.

Frank extends his hand.

GEORGE

George.

GEANIE

That's Geanie.

Geanie baits her hook and flings the line back in the water.

GEANIE (CONT'D)

I'd offer you a fish, but that's our first for the day.

GEORGE

That's okay. I appreciate the thought.

GEANIE

Come back in an hour and we might have extra.

GEORGE

We'll see. I've got things to do and people to see.

FRANK

Don't we all. We busy like that.

GEORGE

Thanks for the smokes. Have fun, guys.

George walks away.

FRANK

See ya'.

GEANIE

Bye.

George finds some shade under a tree and reads his book, taking a drag on his smoke.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

George looks up from his book and notices it's getting darker. He packs up his things and heads down the road.

MONTAGE:

INT. SHELTER CHAPEL - NIGHT

George sits on a pew singing as people on stage are leading worship songs.

INT. SHELTER DINING ROOM - DAY

George sits at a table eating, surrounded by other homeless people.

END OF MONTAGE:

INT. SLEEPING AREA - DAY

George stands in a line and approaches the table.

VOLUNTEER #4, a large lady in her 30s sits on the other side of the table hovering over a clipboard.

GEORGE

Any beds tonight?

She looks through the clipboard and shakes her head no.

VOLUNTEER #4

Sorry, sir, maybe try again tomorrow.

LATER

INT. SHELTER LOBBY - NIGHT

George bundles up his jacket as he heads out the door.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

George arrives behind a building and sneaks behinds a couple of trash bins. He's out of breath.

He grabs some cardboard boxes and forms a makeshift mattress. He lays down and uses his backpack as a pillow. He bundles up in his jacket. He drifts asleep.

DREAM MONTAGE SEQUENCE:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

George sleeps in his bedd next to his wife, Nancy.

He snuggles up close behind her. She turns her head and they kiss.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

George reads a children's book with Katie, 4-years-old, on the couch with Nancy.

Katie takes over reading the book.

KATIE

My turn, daddy. I read it.

She reads from the book.

George turns to Nancy with a smile. She smiles back.

LATER THAT DAY

George and Nancy are arguing. It gets heated.

Nancy walks off.

George, alone, grabs a vase and throws it through a window.

END OF DREAM MONTAGE
SEQUENCE:

EXT. BEHIND THE TRASH BINS - DAY

George grunts himself awake. Looking beat and tired. He gets up and grabs his pack, yanking it.

LATER

EXT. SHELTER PARK STREET - DAY

He nears the shelter park gate and sees that it's closed.

GEORGE
What the... Jesus it's Saturday. Frick!

He turns around and heads down the street.

LATER

George walks down a street and spots a crowd around a huge, church, passenger van with it's back doors open and a table with people serving food and drinks.

George runs towards the van and gets in line as others join in the race. He anxiously waits and he peers around the line towards the table.

He reaches the table.

CHURCH VOLUNTEER #1, 40s, a bald male hands in him a styrofoam cup, steaming.

CHURCH VOLUNTEER #1
Hot chocolate?

GEORGE

Dumb question. Much obliged.

George grabs the cup as the man also hands him a filled brown lunch sack.

CHURCH VOLUNTEER #1

Sorry, we ran out of hot food already.
But, there's some food in here.

George gets out of line finds a place to put his cocoa down. He rummages through the brown sack. There's two sandwiches, an apple, a cheese stick, a juice box, and a bible tract.

An eight-year-old girl, ROSE, dressed in mis-match clothes, yells in joy and runs towards the van as more people are joining the line. She's prodding her father, STEVE, (30s), and older sister, DEANNA, (12).

ROSE

Hurry up, dad. They're giving away food.

The family arrives but only one bag is left, which they get. The dad looks inside.

The Church Volunteer hands the girls some hot chocolate as the rest of the group start packing up the van.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Oh, yummy. Hot chocolate, Deana.

DEANA

I know, Rose, right? It's been so long since I've had some.

Steve extends the bag towards the girls as they sip on their hot cocoa.

STEVE

You girls better eat up.

The girls look at Steve.

DEANA

Aren't you gonna eat?

STEVE

Eh, I'll grab something later.

ROSE

There might not be any later.

George finds himself staring at the family while he's holding his sack of food. He pulls out the apple and hands the sack to Rose.

GEORGE

Here ya' go. I've got extra.

Rose's face lights up.

ROSE

Wow! Are you sure, mister?

George bobs his head and extends a hand out to Steve.

GEORGE

The name's George.

Rose smiles wide as the men shake hands.

Steve hangs his head, embarrassed.

ROSE

Thanks, George.

George smiles at Rose.

STEVE

I don't know what to say. You're gonna need more than that apple.

GEORGE

It's enough. Besides, your girls look as hungry as you.

George walks off down the street drinking his cocoa, walking in a stride.

ROSE

That was nice of George. God bless him.

Steve cranes his neck towards Rose and cracks a sideways smile. He nods his head.

STEVE

God bless him, indeed.

The family eat the sandwiches.

EXT. PARK - DAY

George finds a bench and sits on it. It's near a playground where children are playing. He pulls out the apple and stares at it.

DAYDREAM SEQUENCE:

EXT. PARK - DAY

George dressed in nice, casual clothes is playing with Katie, now seven, on the playground.

Nancy arrives near a bench next to the playground.

NANCY
C'mon, baby. We gotta go.

KATIE
Aww, Mom, just a minute more?

NANCY
Alright, just a minute.

Katie jumps off a platform in victory and heads for a slide.

KATIE
Yay!

George walks up and sits on the bench.

GEORGE
Won't you sit?

NANCY
Sure, thanks.

She looks at the bench and sits a bit away from George.

NANCY (CONT'D)
You okay?

George nods his head.

GEORGE
Yeah, you?

NANCY
Yeah...
BEAT
Well, y'know.

GEORGE
Katie seems happy. You must be doing something right?

NANCY
She's a handful.

GEORGE

Yeah, she is. She looks good and says her grades are good. Well, you know... kids.

NANCY

She takes after her daddy.

Nancy hangs her head.

George notices and looks away.

Nancy lifts her head and wipes her face.

GEORGE

She says she like her new bad a lot.

NANCY

Yeah, it's one of those princess beds. Grandma helped pitch in for her birthday.

Nancy turns to Katie.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Katie!

Nancy turns back.

NANCY (CONT'D)

We really gotta go. I have to get to work soon.

GEORGE

I wish she could stay longer, but thanks for bringing her.

NANCY

Sure. Same time next Saturday?

GEORGE

I have something coming up next weekend. It may be a --

NANCY

Seriously? What's so...

Nancy smiles patronizing George.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Well, you have my number. Let me know.

Nancy stands up.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Let's go, Katie. Mommas gotta get to work.

Katie runs up to them.

KATIE

Sorry, mom.

NANCY

Tell your daddy goodbye.

Katie runs up and he picks her up. They both hug tightly to each other.

KATIE

Love you, Daddy.

GEORGE

Gimme a big kiss, butterfly princess.

Katie gives George a smooch and a butterfly kiss.

Nancy and Katie head for their car as George waves goodbye.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Love you, Smoochers. See you guys.

Nancy and Katie wave back as they reach their car.

END OF DAYDREAM
SEQUENCE:

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

George in tattered clothes sits on the same bench. He looks at his wrist watch.

Smiling, he pulls his jacket around his chest as he takes a big bite of his apple.

FADE OUT.

THE END