

A Reason To Pray

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The film opens to a long 360 degree take, featuring our protagonist GRAPE, male, 16 and desperate. He starts kneeling down, inspecting something on the ground. He gets up, wincing with pain, slowly walking towards a bottle on the ground. He pauses for only a second to inspect but just kicks it aside. Then, he comes across a few pennies on the ground and reaches into his jacket to pull out a plastic bag, in which puts the coins in. He tucks it in tightly and moves on. A paper then flies his way, skidding across the ground so he stomps on it and picks it up, reading it as he continues to walk. He then reaches down sort through a shopping bag with trash in it, finding a half full gatorade bottle, proceeding to drink out of it. Afterwards, he pauses, sighing as the screen goes black.

COMMENCE SOME KIND OF MONTAGE OF GRAPE BEGGING IN RANDOM PLACES. IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER SPECIFICALLY WHERE ALL OF THIS OCCURS, JUST IN PLACES THAT SEEM SUITABLE. HE'S HOMELESS, USE YOUR IMAGINATION. AT THE END OF THIS MONTAGE, GRAPE IS DIGGING THROUGH TRASH AND FINDS A GLEAMING FAKE-GOLD NECKLACE, IN WHICH HE POCKETS.

BRICK, 19, tough and gritty, is waiting in Grape's hangout spot, angry yet patient. He stands in a way that's generally out of sight, blending in with the dry and drained surroundings. He waits there for a bit, until we hear nearby footsteps. At first, he thinks it's GRAPE, but it turns out to be a normal passerby with a shopping bag. BRICK goes back to his resting position until more footsteps approach, which end up belonging to GRAPE. BRICK waits on standby as GRAPE walks into his sight, confirming his suspicions. BRICK pounces, jumping onto GRAPE and slamming him into a wall. GRAPE attempts to fight back but BRICK pins him, rendering him helpless.

GRAPE
(Struggling)
Get- off!

BRICK
(Agressive)
Stop squirming you little bitch.

GRAPE
Please!

BRICK throws him to the ground and kneels down, his knee directly on GRAPE's chest. Then proceeding to pull out a knife.

(CONTINUED)

BRICK

You move and this is going straight
into your ribcage.

GRAPE stops struggling immediately. We notice that his money bag has fallen out. BRICK also takes notice and reaches for it, dangling it in front of GRAPE's face.

BRICK (CONT.)

Hmmm, looks like you're missing
about 98 dollars and 23 cents. So
I'll go ahead and take this, and
I'm going to expect the rest in
three days. Sounds fair,
considering I've given you a month
already.

GRAPE's face gets increasingly nervous and pale.

BRICK (CONT.)

And if you don't cough it up in
three days-
(He flashes the knife)
Great talk buddy. Also, don't try
to hide, because there's only so
many places for a homeless kid to
hide in a town like this. See you
later Grape.

BRICK hops off GRAPE's chest and flashes a smirk, turning around and walking off. GRAPE lays there, distressed.

3

EXT A BACK PARKING LOT - DAY

3

GRAPE is going car to car, looking inside cars and seeing if the doors are locked. The first few ones he checks are locked, but then the last one has one crucial flaw. One of the doors aren't closed all the way. As GRAPE takes notice of this, he begins to be filled with adrenaline. He looks around to make sure nobody is looking and opens up the car door, slowly. He takes another look around and jumps into the car, closing the door behind him. He goes for the glove compartment, digging through a few things to find two dollars and some change. He scoops that up and does some more searching, finding more coins on the floor and a dollar. Eventually he looks underneath one of the seats to find an ipad. He holds it in his shaking hands, staring at it. This is a moral dilemma, and GRAPE contemplates heavily. Instead, he decides to put it back, his morality getting the best of him. He does another search for loose change and jumps out in a dash, slamming the door behind him and dashing off.

4

EXT NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS - DAY

4

GRAPE is walking down the street, looking through mailboxes. He opens it up, looks through the mail and puts it back in, looking around to see if anybody is watching. Eventually he finds one he wants to open up and tears it open, finding coupons which fly out. Eventually we hear a school bus roaring in the background, accompanied by teenagers walking away from it. This catches GRAPE's eye, and he takes a break from his thieving to turn towards these kids. As they approach he runs towards them, attempting to look normal and less dirty. As he jogs over to them, he pulls out the necklace from earlier.

GRAPE

Hey there!

TEEN 1 pulls out their headphones and looks up at GRAPE, confused.

GRAPE (CONT.)

Look I got this necklace, solid gold and-

TEEN 1 puts their headphones back in and continues to forward. GRAPE does a :/ and moves on to the next teen, TEEN 2, and makes the same offer.

GRAPE (CONT.)

Hey, look at this, solid gold, it belongs to my mom and she's trying to sell it off for really cheap-

TEEN 2

I don't have any money, sorry.

TEEN 2 walks faster, being creeped out so GRAPE goes forward to CHELSEA and TONY, who are a bit further down the sidewalk.

GRAPE

Hey guys!

CHELSEA and TONY stare at GRAPE, curious. They stop and GRAPE jogs towards them.

CHELSEA

What do you want?

GRAPE

Not what I want, but what you want.

(CONTINUED)

CHELSEA

What?

GRAPE

I'm selling my mom's gold necklace.

CHELSEA

Gold?

GRAPE

(Intentionally Inaccurate)

Uh, 27 karat gold, my dad got it a while back but they got divorced and she doesn't want it anymore.

CHELSEA

Can I see it?

GRAPE holds it out, reluctant to give it over though.

CHELSEA (CONT.)

I'm not gonna steal it.

He hands it over and CHELSEA inspects it. It glimmers in the sunlight. After a few seconds of this, she holds it to her side.

CHELSEA (CONT.)

How much?

GRAPE

Just \$100.

CHELSEA

I have a twenty.

GRAPE

It's a solid gold necklace.

CHELSEA

I said I have a twenty.

TONY

And I have three twenties.

CHELSEA looks at him, yet he nods, implying 'don't worry'.

TONY (CONT.)

Is \$80 good enough?

GRAPE

I guess.

(CONTINUED)

TONY hands over the cash as well as CHELSEA and they walk off with the necklace, silently communicating with their face. Let this linger for a moment. GRAPE grips this cash tightly with a tight grin and walks forward.

MATCH SHOT

5 INT THE BUS STATION - DAY

5

GRAPE continues to walk with this cash as we enter the Bus Station, the sounds of bus filling background. We follow GRAPE inside, where we see the Bus Station Employee smiling at the counter.

BUS STATION EMPLOYEE

Hi there, how can I help you out?

GRAPE

Can I uh, get a seat for Montgomery, Alabama.

BUS STATION EMPLOYEE

Visiting family?

GRAPE

(Going with it)

Yeah.

BUS STATION EMPLOYEE

Ok, that's going to be \$64.80.

GRAPE unrolls a dirty roll of bills and counts it out, handing it over. The BUS STATION EMPLOYEE counts it gingerly and runs it over with a counterfeit pen. She inspects it, but gives a bit of an uneasy look.

BUS STATION EMPLOYEE

One second.

She takes it and runs it through another counterfeit scanner, noticing that it still isn't working. She holds up her walkie talkie.

BUS STATION EMPLOYEE

Can I get a manager to tickets.

GRAPE

What's the problem?

BUS STATION EMPLOYEE

I think there's something wrong with your bills, they aren't passing our counterfeit tests. Are

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BUS STATION EMPLOYEE (cont'd)
 you sure there's nothing wrong with
 them?

GRAPE
 N-no, can I get them back then?

BUS STATION EMPLOYEE
 I'm not sure, I have to wait for my
 manager to come by.

GRAPE
 Can I p-please have them back.

BUS STATION EMPLOYEE
 Sir-

GRAPE begins walking backwards and eventually turns around,
 zooming out the door, desperate. He runs out of the door and
 into the parking lot.

6 EXT BUS STATION BACKLOT - DAY 6

GRAPE runs into the backlot of the bus station. He is
 panicked, frenzied by his most recent failure. He stops and
 takes a breather. Then kicks angrily at some nearby trash.

7 EXT NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS - DAY 7

GRAPE is walking up and down neighbor streets. He lumbers
 through a construction site. He stops at the first house and
 sorts through the piles of trash. He cuts his finger and
 angrily throws the piece of wood aside. He stomps out it,
 letting out a yell of frustration. We linger on this for a
 moment until we hear a car approaching. GRAPE looks and
 begins to run, realizing its BRICK's car. BRICK slides in
 front of him and hops out, reaching for GRAPE and pulling
 him down to the ground. GRAPE swings with a wood plank but
 BRICK catches it, throwing it aside and pinning GRAPE down.

GRAPE
 (Struggling)
 It hasn't been 3 days!

BRICK
 That's not the problem. You see,
 one of my pals said he saw a
 homeless boy taking a trip to the
 bus station, and I'm guessing
 that's you.

(CONTINUED)

GRAPE

It-it-

BRICK

It It what? Are you gonna say it
wasn't you? Because I'm sure as
hell-

GRAPE grabs a nail and stabs it into bricks arm. BRICK shouts and GRAPE pushes him aside and dashes. He runs away successfully, pushing through the skeletons of houses with BRICK behind.

8

EXT THE GREENWAY - SUNSET

8

GRAPE, after running for a while, makes his way to a greenway surrounded by fences. He finds a good hiding spot and stops to catch his breath. He waits there for a second as we hear a car pull up. GRAPE is tense, poised, but the car moves on. We have another moment to breath when suddenly another pulls up, slamming on the breaks with BRICK jumping out of the car. He sprints and GRAPE attempts to run but is too slow and out of breath, getting tackled to the ground once again by BRICK.

BRICK swings but GRAPE blocks it and punches him. GRAPE scoots out and kicks him, giving him another room to wiggle out. BRICK grabs his leg, causing him to fall forward where GRAPE finds a baseball bat. GRAPE holds it defensively and BRICK pounces causing GRAPE to fall back. BRICK attempts to punch but GRAPE swings. BRICK then sees another opportunity and reaches for an accompanying baseball bat. He pulls this and blocks an incoming swing from GRAPE. GRAPE is shocked.

GRAPE poises himself from BRICK's attack, deciding not to run but to stay and fight. BRICK moves forward and GRAPE swings, colliding with BRICK's bat. BRICK swings aggressively, with GRAPE jumping backwards. GRAPE takes another hit, catching the edge of BRICK's hand causing him to yell in pain. Another clash of the bats.

GRAPE jumps forward then back as BRICK lunges with his bat. GRAPE swings but BRICK blocks it, pulling back to hit with another collision knocking the bat out of GRAPE's hand. GRAPE scrambles for it and BRICK takes the opportunity to hit GRAPE on the back. GRAPE yelps.

Then, GRAPE swings around, hitting BRICK in the legs, causing him to fall. BRICK holds up his bat to block GRAPE's next swing and pushes it aside giving him enough time to get up.

(CONTINUED)

The two both lunge forward, bats colliding, pushing against each other. GRAPE breaks the collision and swings again hitting BRICK in the hip, enraging him.

BRICK pulls back and swings heavily, with GRAPE barely blocking it. A few more hits like this and eventually he breaks GRAPE'S defense and knocks him in the shoulder. GRAPE cowers in pain and BRICK hits him in the rib, making him fall to the ground.

BRICK
(Arrogant)
Get to praying bitch.

BRICK swings again but GRAPE pulls away. GRAPE, whimpering in pain, throws his bat at BRICK'S face, making him yelp. GRAPE scrambles to pick the bat up and then pounces, turning the table on BRICK. BRICK blocks a few hits but is caught off balance by GRAPE. GRAPE hits the bat out of BRICK'S hand and swings, hitting him in the head. GRAPE stands over BRICK'S body looking down.

9 EXT OUTSIDE OF BRICK'S CAR - SUNSET 9

We see BRICK'S hastily parked car, hearing nearby footsteps. The footsteps grow heavier and we see GRAPE walk into the frame. He unlocks BRICK'S car and opens the door. A few moments later, GRAPE comes out with a bag.

10 INT THE BUS STATION - DAY 10

GRAPE walks in, cautious, wary. He looks around and sees the same employee standing there. They seem to recognize GRAPE and she gives him a look. GRAPE approaches and asks once again.

GRAPE
Can I get a seat for Montgomery.

BUS STATION EMPLOYEE
(Wary)
Sure, that's going to be \$64.80.

GRAPE hands over the cash. The employee tests the money, sees its good and prints out a ticket.

BUS STATION EMPLOYEE
Here you go, you can wait over there until 9, thank you.

GRAPE accepts it and slowly walks to a place to sit. He smiles and sits, accepting it's comfortability. He relaxes.

FADE TO BLACK