

MEET JOE

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EXT. PUBLIC PARK- DAWN

A man in a dirty brown trench coat sits on a bench. A blank stare on his face. A cigarette in the corner of his mouth, unlit. He raises a lighter to the butt of the cigarette. Lights it. Takes a long drag. COUGHS.

People walk by him. None seem to care of his existence. A few children point and laugh. Mothers and Fathers pull them away.

This homeless man is JOE. He grunts. Stands up and walks down the park's path.

EXT. CITY STREETS- DAY

Joe walks down the streets. People that he passes try hard not to touch him. He grunts and hisses at the people who give him stares.

EXT. ALLEYWAY- DAY

A HOMELESS MAN sits on the pavement. People who pass him by drop coins into a cup in his left hand. But none of these people really seem to care about how this man is doing.

He counts his money. In the background we see Joe staring at him. Joe watches eager. Then when the time is right he sprints off towards the homeless man. Very quickly Joe grabs the cup and continues to run.

HOMELESS MAN  
Hey! That's my money!

Joe pays no attention. Just continues to run.

EXT. CITY STREETS- DAY

Joe counts the money from inside the stolen cup. It is not too much but enough for him. He walks into a convenience store.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE- CONTINUOUS

Joe walks up to the counter. The CLERK reads a magazine.

JOE  
A pack of smokes.

CLERK  
Three fifteen.

Joe pours the change onto the counter top. The clerk counts it just by looking at it.

CLERK (CONT'D)  
 There's a little extra here.  
 (looks at Joe)  
 But I'm gonna throw some gum in  
 just for you.

The store clerk hands Joe the cigarettes and Gum. Joe takes it. Leaves.

EXT. CITY STREETS- DAY

Joe COUGHS badly. But he still grabs a cigarette and lights it. Takes a drag. Continues to COUGH.

He walks into an alley.

EXT. SECOND ALLEY- CONTINUOUS

Joe sits on the ground next to a HOMELESS WOMAN. This person eats a pizza slice from the trash.

JOE  
 Got any there for me?

The homeless woman shakes her head. Turns away from Joe.

JOE (CONT'D)  
 Come on, just one. I'll give ya a  
 smoke.

The homeless woman turns. Joe holds up a cigarette. The homeless woman seems to be thinking hard between the smoke or the food. she takes the cigarette.

Joe grabs the pizza. Takes a large bite out of it.

EXT. CITY STREETS- DUSK

Joe is now COUGHING HARDER and HARDER as he walks down the street. He BUMPS into a MAN who walks with his WIFE.

MAN  
 Hey watch it you lazy bum.

WIFE  
 Honey, leave the poor man alone.

MAN  
 I don't see why those people can't  
 go get real lives.

The man and his wife walk O.S.

Joe watches them as they leave. He has to cough again. He holds his shirt up to his mouth. COUGHS.

People continue to BUMP into him.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK- DUSK

The bench Joe awoken on is empty. Only a few old newspapers sit on top.

Joe walks into frame. He holds the front part of his coat shut. Sits on the bench. COUGHS. Reaches for his cigarettes. COUGHS. Pulls one out along with his lighter. COUGHS. He lights the cigarette.

JOE

You've better be worth it.

As he takes the drag he lies down. COUGHS. The cigarette falls out of his mouth. His eyes shut. The coat opens up to reveal blood on his shirt, where he had coughed on earlier.

Joe is dead. People pass him by, only to ignore him. They must think he is asleep, or they just don't care.

FADE OUT: