

HOSPITAL HALLWAY

This is a typical hospital. An OLD MAN (about 85 years old) is walking. He is wearing a button that says "St Luke's Memorial-VISITOR".

HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM

He walks into a waiting room area. He then approaches a series of vending machines on the far wall. There a few people sitting down reading newspapers, eating and waiting. A YOUNG MAN (early 20's) appearing to be a bit anxious is checking messages on his cell phone. The OLD MAN walks by him. The OLD MAN walks up to one marked "COFFEE". He reaches into his pockets and pulls out 75 cents. He puts the money into the vending machine and hits his selection. Nothing happens. The OLD MAN looks at the machine. The vending price states that coffee is now \$1.

OLD MAN

Last week it was 75 cents. How can they charge twenty five cents more for? They should give me the quarter for just drinking it.

The OLD MAN searches his pocket for more change.

The YOUNG MAN notices this going and puts away his cell phone. He gets up and approaches the OLD MAN. The YOUNG MAN pulls a quarter out his pocket.

YOUNG MAN

Excuse me sir.

OLD MAN turns toward him.

OLD MAN

Yes.

YOUNG MAN reaches out his hand with the quarter in it.

YOUNG MAN

I thought you might need this.

The OLD MAN takes the quarter from him.

OLD MAN

It seems like they surprised me. I always make sure I have enough on me every day I come here. I appreciate it.

The OLD MAN puts the quarter into the machine. He makes a selection and the coffee comes out this time. He picks up the cup. He takes a sip out of the cup and grimaces a bit.

OLD MAN

Now it's dollar. But it's still lousy.

YOUNG MAN

There's a Starbucks just around the...

OLD MAN

Kids these days. I'll tell you this. Coffee was never meant to be enjoyed like you kids today drink it...No offense...think it should be with all those fancy flavors. Coffee was only meant to wake you up and warm you up so you can get right back at it.

YOUNG MAN tries to smile.

YOUNG MAN

Things have changed a bit.

OLD MAN

You had better get used to that.

YOUNG MAN

Trying to... Just not an easy day for that.

OLD MAN

Never is. Let me tell you something. No matter how hard it has been. I can always mark the time by a lousy cup of coffee

CUT TO:

WINTER-FOREST-NORTHERN FRANCE 1944

OLD MAN appears as a 19 year army soldier in a foxhole. Another soldier hands him a cup of steaming coffee and walks away. He takes a sip out of it and spits some out. And then takes another sip.

OLD MAN (VOICE-OVER)

My best friend Murphy during the war could never make a decent cup. No matter how many times he tried.

All of the sudden artillery explosions erupt. Soldiers scramble.

OLD MAN (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

The Germans made sure he would never have a chance to work out his recipe.

MURPHY is seen lying dead in the snow.

CUT TO:

INT. INDUSTRIAL METAL SHOP

The OLD MAN (looking in his late 20's) appears. He is working on a press. He stops and grabs a cup of coffee next him. He then takes a sip and winces.

OLD MAN (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

After the war. I married the one for me. And then worked in a factory. It was dirty but it was a job. It was for my family.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE-KITCHEN-NIGHTTIME

The OLD MAN (looking in his late 30's) is sitting at the kitchen table. He looks worn out. His WIFE (late 30's) hands him a cup of coffee and gives him a kiss. She then pats him on the back and leaves. He smiles then stretches.

OLD MAN (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

It wasn't unusual for me to come home late. But there was house with three kids to take care. She was always there with a cup to keep me going.

HOSPITAL ROOM

The OLD MAN is sitting in a chair with a cup of coffee. His WIFE (about 80 years old) is asleep in the bed. She is connected to IV tubes and monitors.

OLD MAN (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

And now here I with a lousy tasting coffee just trying to have a little more time.

CUT TO:

HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM

The YOUNG MAN is still looking a bit anxious.

OLD MAN

Sorry, I got a bit long winded.

YOUNG MAN

That's all right. It was nice thing to hear.

OLD MAN

You look a bit nervous. So why are you here?

YOUNG MAN

I'm just waiting for my girlfriend. They're running a few tests.

OLD MAN

Serious?

YOUNG MAN

Not sure. Doctor's just wanted to be cautious. But I'm not sure I have never been through this before.

OLD MAN

You're nervous as hell for your first kid.

YOUNG MAN

Really? But I never said anything.

OLD MAN

Experience. Besides you have been a bit fidgety. So I tried to guess why you were here.

YOUNG MAN

It's not easy waiting for news. And then there are the other things to take care of.

OLD MAN

Like should you marry her?

YOUNG MAN

I want to...It is what I want...But am I doing for the right reason.

OLD MAN

The age old questions ever man eventually asks himself.

The OLD MAN raises his hand revealing a wedding ring.

OLD MAN

The ring is the easy part. I paid \$100 in 1948 for our rings. It was what I could afford. People complicate the simple things. Life does that on its own.

YOUNG MAN pulls a ring case out of his pocket. He opens the case to reveal an engagement ring.

YOUNG MAN

\$300. I was taking her to dinner tonight. I am not sure if it is enough.

OLD MAN

If she really loves you then it's enough. There are enough big things in life you have to pay for. That's when it counts. Just need to be prepared to work hard.

YOUNG MAN smiles.

YOUNG MAN

That's nice to hear. But still.

OLD MAN

Don't start sweating yet. Look I need to get back. She'll be awake soon. Thanks for the coffee.

YOUNG MAN

You're welcome. And thanks for the talk.

The OLD MAN walks back down the hallway and disappears. The YOUNG MAN stands there a moment. He looks at the coffee vending machine. He then takes some change out and puts it into the machine. He makes a selection and the coffee cup comes out. He grabs the cup and takes a sip. He then makes a face.

YOUNG MAN

He wasn't kidding. This stuff is lousy.

The YOUNG MAN with his coffee cup then walks down the hallway.

FADE OUT