

HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM

There are a few PEOPLE sitting down reading newspapers, eating and waiting.

YOUNG MAN (22) pacing about anxiously as he is checking messages on his cell phone.

OLD MAN (84) walks in. He is wearing a button that says, "St. Luke's Memorial -VISITOR". He walks to towards a Coffee vending machine. He puts some money into the machine. Nothing happens.

Young Man notices that the Old Man is searching his pocket for change. He goes over to him.

YOUNG MAN  
Excuse me sir.

Old Man turns towards him.

OLD MAN  
Yes.

Young Man reaches out his hand with a quarter in it.

YOUNG MAN  
I thought you might need this.

Old Man takes the quarter and put it into the vending machine.

OLD MAN  
Thank you. It seems like they surprised me. I always make sure I come here every day with enough change. How can they charge twenty-five cents more? They should pay me the quarter for drinking it.

He grabs the coffee from the machine. He takes a sip and grimaces a bit.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)  
It may be a dollar. But it's still lousy.

YOUNG MAN  
There's a Starbucks just around...

OLD MAN

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You 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 have all those fancy flavors. Coffee was 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 I guess.

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-FRANCE (1945) - FOREST- DAY

Old Man (19 YEARS OLD) is an army soldier sitting in a foxhole. SOLDIER BUDDY hands him a steaming cup of coffee. He takes a sip and spits it out. Then he takes another sip.

INCOMING ARTILLERY EXPLOSIONS

SOLDIERS scramble for cover

MORE EXPLOSIONS

Soldier Buddy is lying dead in the snow.

CUT TO:

INT. INDUSTRIAL METAL SHOP

Old Man (28 YEARS OLD) and working hard on a machine press. He stops to take a sip of coffee. He winces and goes back to work.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE- KITCHEN - NIGHT

Old man (38 YEARS OLD) is sitting at the kitchen table looking worn out. His WIFE (35) hands him a cup of coffee and gives him a kiss. She pats him on the back and leaves. He stretches with a smile on his face.

CUT TO:

HOSPITAL ROOM

Wife (81 YEARS OLD) is asleep in the bed connected to I.V. tubes and monitors. Old Man is sitting in chair with a cup of coffee.

CUT TO:

HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM

OLD MAN

Sorry, I got a bit long winded.

Young Man is still looking a bit anxious

YOUNG MAN

That's all right. It was a nice story.

OLD MAN

So why are you here?

YOUNG MAN

I'm just waiting for my girlfriend.

CUT TO:

HOSPITAL- OB/GYN EXAM ROOM

GIRLFRIEND (20 years old) is having an ultrasound scan. DOCTOR is carefully looking at the images on the monitor.

CUT TO:

OLD MAN

First kid always scares the hell out of you.

YOUNG MAN

Really?

OLD MAN

Experienced that plus three more kids. But it never really got that easy. But you need to relax a bit. But you are not sure if you should marry her?

YOUNG MAN

Good guess. I want to...It is what I want... But am I doing it for the right reasons?

OLD MAN

The age-old question every man eventually asks himself.

Old Man raises his hand showing a wedding ring.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)

The ring is the easy part. I paid \$100 in 1948 for both 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 out to dinner tonight. I'm not sure if it is enough.

OLD MAN

If she loves you then it's enough. There are enough big things in life you have to pay for. That's when it counts.

Young Man smiles.

YOUNG MAN

That's nice to hear. But still.

OLD MAN

Don't start sweating yet. Look I need to back my wife. She should be

awake soon... And thanks for the  
coffee.

YOUNG MAN

It was worth it for the talk.

Old Man walks out.

Young Man stands there and reaches in his pockets for  
change.

He buys a cup of coffee out the vending machine. He takes a  
sip and makes a sour face. And then takes another sip.

FADE OUT.