

"The Cheeseburger"

Master-scene script

Version:

Author: Victor Titimas

FADE IN:

EXT - PARKING LOT - MORNING

A car enters and heads to a parking spot. ANDREW(50), poorly dressed, approaches its doors.

ANDREW

Excuse me, miss, could you please buy me a cheeseburger?

The girl backs off. She looks startled. Andrew follows her. She raises her pace.

Andrew walks behind her.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Please, miss, just a cheeseburger!

TEEN#1

Leave me alone, freak!

He follows her closer to the restaurant. She stops and looks straight at him.

TEEN#1 (CONT'D)

Listen, my boyfriend is a police officer! I'm meeting him soon.

Her boyfriend appears, and she grabs his hand. He takes a look at Andrew.

ANDREW

Young man, could you please buy me a cheeseburger?

The teens make their way to the restaurant. Andrew follows close by.

TEEN#1

That guy gives me the chills!

TEEN#2

Just ignore him.

They enter the fast-food.

Another car pulls over. Andrew heads towards it.

The car parks.

Andrew stops in front of its door.

They open. A well-dressed man leaves the vehicle.

ANDREW

Excuse me, sir, could you please buy me a cheeseburger?

BUSINESSMAN

Yes, of course!

ANDREW

Woow, thank you, sir!

BUSINESSMAN

No problem!

The phone close to the businessman's ear makes Andrew stop.

The man ignores him and begins walking.

BUSINESSMAN (CONT'D)

Yes, right, tell him to sell...

A few more steps with Andrew behind.

BUSINESSMAN (CONT'D)

The stock market is going down, so please sell all these as soon as you can. Buy some gold!

ANDREW

Sir...

BUSINESSMAN

Yes, a few gold bars, invest in China, its economy is...

The businessman disappears inside the fast-food.

Andrew heads back to the parking lot.

INT - JACK'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. - DAY

The cell phone rings. JACK(30), takes it and presses its key. He throws himself on the couch.

JACK
Hello, Diane, about last night. Please explain...

His eyes slowly get wet.

JACK (CONT'D)
I'm your boyfriend, right?

He takes the remote control and shuts off the TV.

JACK (CONT'D)
So, you're with him just because he's got money?
How can you be like that?

He waits.

INT - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

The driver approaches the parking lot.

Next to him is a woman.

INT - JACK'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jack's eyes are now covered in tears. His cell phone is still near his ear.

JACK
I guess it's all over, right? Fine. I wish you nothing
but the best! Goodbye, Diane!

He throws the phone away.

EXT - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

The man exits the car and shuts the door behind him.

ANDREW

Kind sir, could you please buy me a cheeseburger. I know it's a little odd, but it would mean a lot for me.

FATHER

Listen, I'm with my children!

ANDREW

It would mean a lot...just a cheeseburger, sir!

FATHER

Get out of here before I call the cops! Beat it!

The father lies on his knees, looking for a rock.

Andrew catches the move and runs away.

The father throws the rock from his hand and opens the car's door.

FATHER (CONT'D)

Ok, it's all safe!

The rest of his family leaves the car. The father leads the way, looking around him.

INT - JACK'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jack puts away his cell phone. He wipes his tears.

He grabs his wallet. He opens it and starts counting money.

JACK

Perhaps there is still hope.

He separates some bills from the others.

He counts the bills to his left. Then, he moves to those on the right.

When he's finished, he puts them all back into his wallet.

EXT - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Another car pulls over. Andrew rushes close to it. Another teen exits.

ANDREW

Young man, could you please buy me a cheeseburger?

The teen smiles in a mocking manner.

TEEN#3

Sorry, I can only buy you three cheeseburgers!

ANDREW

No, just one will be fine!

TEEN#3

Hey, it's three cheeseburgers or nothing. Your choice.

A few moments of silence.

ANDREW

Sir, why are you mocking me?

TEEN#3

Dude, look in a mirror and you'll figure that out for yourself.

Andrew puts his head down.

TEEN#3 (CONT'D)

I've got an idea: sell a kidney, and you'll have enough cash for ten cheeseburgers!

The teen starts laughing. Andrew gets away from him.

INT - CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jack approaches the parking lot. Andrew appears in front. Jack avoids him and pulls over.

JACK

Just what I needed!

He opens the door.

EXT - PARKING LOT - EVENING

Thick clouds cover the sky.

Andrew approaches.

Jack gets out and closes it. The man approaches him.

ANDREW

Young man, could you please buy me a
cheeseburger?

JACK

Sorry, I'm broke!

Jack heads to the fast-food. Andrew follows.

ANDREW

How comes you're here? Please, you don't know
how much it means to me.

Jack pulls some bills from his wallet. Andrew looks at him.

JACK

I wanted to buy...never mind, she doesn't deserve
it anyway!

A few moments of silence.

JACK (CONT'D)

Fine, let's see how worse can this day get! Come
with me!

They walk towards the fast-food and enter it.

INT - FAST-FOOD - CONTINUOUS

Andrew takes a seat at a table. Jack puts his coat on the empty
chair.

JACK

Fine, you're a lucky dude: For a cheeseburger,
you get the whole menu.

Jacks gets away for a while. Andrew takes a look around.

Jack returns with two plates filled with cheeseburgers, soda and French fries.

Andrew starts with the cheeseburger.

ANDREW
I would like to thank you...

JACK
It's Jack!

ANDREW
Thanks, Jack! This food is very good.

Andrew spitefully takes two fries. Andrew is eating very calmly.

JACK
So, couldn't you simply ask for money, instead of cheeseburgers?

ANDREW
I just wanted to talk to someone, you know...

JACK
Ow, so the cheeseburger was just...

ANDREW
No. My soul also wished for this cheeseburger. It's so tasty!

Jack shakes his head. He also starts eating.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
This whole thing is... I mean, I spent many years on the streets and...

Andrew sips from his soda, making a specific sound.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
By the way, why do you look so sad?

JACK
I had a bad day, that's all.

ANDREW

A day is only as bad as you think it is. Why do you think this is a bad day?

Jack stops eating.

JACK

Let's see: I'm almost broke, my girlfriend left me, I'm chatting with a hobo, people stare at me...

ANDREW

This is nothing, trust me. She didn't deserve you. You...have time, Jack!

Andrew finishes his cheeseburger. Jack looks at the ceiling.

JACK

What's your story, homeless guy?

ANDREW

You can be mean, it's your right! Fine, if you take your time to listen, I'll tell you!

JACK

Do I have a choice?

Jack finishes his fries.

ANDREW

I worked at a company. We were testing substances for the army. Chemical weapons. Top secret stuff.

Jack shakes his head again.

JACK

How fascinating...

ANDREW

An accident happened. I inhaled toxic gas. Later on, guess what: lung cancer.

JACK

Sorry to hear that! What happened next?

Andrew begins eating his fries.

ANDREW

I sued the company. They could afford the best lawyers, I couldn't. The trial went on for centuries. My daughter...she studied Law and became a lawyer just so she can help me.

Andrew has tears in his eyes. Jack watches him, while shivering.

JACK

Motherfuckers!

ANDREW

No need to get angry. I lost it all on this trial. My money, my house. I was living on the streets. All hoping for justice to be done. Now, I don't care anymore. I only have two wishes.

JACK

If there is anything I can help you with...

ANDREW

You did. The first one was a good cheeseburger. The other one...it's not gonna happen!

They both finish the meal.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Thank you for this meal, Jack!

JACK

No problem! If only I knew...

They raise up and head for the exit.

EXT - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

This looks like the darkest of all nights. Jack and Andrew exit the fast-food.

JACK

So, where to now?

ANDREW

At a shelter. Thank you again for your kind deed,
Jack!

JACK

It was..a pleasure. I wish I could have done more.
Good night!

Jack smiles. Andrew fades into the night. Jack heads to his car.

INT - JACK'S HOUSE - DAY

Music flows from a nearby laptop. Jack sits on the couch.

Suddenly, knocks. Jack raises up and heads to the door. He opens
it. ANDREW'S DAUGHTER (30) enters.

ANDREW'S DAUGHTER

Hi, I'm Susan, Andrew's daughter.

JACK

Excuse me?

ANDREW'S DAUGHTER

The man with the cheeseburger.

JACK

Oh, right, please, take a seat.

She takes a seat. Jack disappears for a while, then reappears with
some soda.

JACK (CONT'D)

How's your father?

ANDREW'S DAUGHTER

He passed away yesterday.

JACK

I'm sorry to hear that! My condolences.

She heads him a check.

ANDREW'S DAUGHTER

He wanted me to give you this. We won the trial
today.

Jack takes a look at it.

JACK

This is...a lot! However, I wish this didn't happen!

ANDREW'S DAUGHTER

I remember the day we got his test results. We had cheeseburgers that day. It was...

Tears in her eyes. Jack hands her a handkerchief. She takes it and uses it.

ANDREW'S DAUGHTER

(CONT'D)

Thank you! It was the best cheeseburger ever. He promised me that wasn't going to be his last. And he kept his promise.

She wipes her tears.

ANDREW'S DAUGHTER

(CONT'D)

You helped him do it.

JACK

I'll be at his funeral, if you need my support.

ANDREW'S DAUGHTER

It would mean a lot to me.

The soda glasses are now empty. Jack shows her to the door.

JACK

Goodbye, take care of yourself!

She hands him a piece of paper.

ANDREW'S DAUGHTER

It's my phone number. If you ever need anything...just give me a call.

He takes it with a discrete smile. She smiles back, then leaves. Jack slowly heads back to his couch.

FADE OUT