

THE OLD MAN OVER THERE

**By**

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FADE IN:

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

There is a string of row houses. It's a sunny day. There's no traffic and only a couple of '30s vintage cars.

DOROTHY 10, and her family pose in front of a house. Dorothy notices an OLD MAN, with odd clothing across the street. The shutter snaps. Her FATHER walks in front of her.

The OLD MAN is gone.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The houses are decorated with American flags and red, white, and blue bunting. Everyone is in a festive mood. Most of the military age men are wearing military uniforms.

DOROTHY 15, poses with her siblings for a picture. In the crowd there is the Old Man. He is wearing the same clothes. He has a reserved smile. The picture snaps. The man disappears into the crowd.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

It is well kept and has rolling hills. It has a combination of tombstones, crypts, and monuments of various sizes.

Dorothy and a couple of her friends walk the grounds. One FRIEND has a camera. They each pose for pictures. Dorothy poses for a picture and sees the old man. Her friend snaps the picture. The man steps behind a large monument.

DOROTHY

Did any of you see the old man  
over there?

FRIEND ONE

I didn't see anyone.

Dorothy's other friends gesture, "no".

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

There is a play in progress. An ACTRESS is sitting in a chair. DOROTHY 19, steps from behind the curtain and lurks towards the woman. She extends her arms. A flashbulb FLASHES. Dorothy sees the old man in the audience. Dorothy hesitates and the actress seems impatient. Dorothy regains focus and pretends to choke the actress. The actress feints death.

EXT. WASHINGTON DC MALL - DAY

Dorothy and two of her friends are touring Washington DC. Dorothy points her camera at the Capital Building. She sees the old man in the frame. Dorothy snaps the picture. She is pleased.

DOROTHY

Now I have proof.

INT. DRUG STORE - DAY

Dorothy, excited, opens her package of pictures. She scans through the pictures and stops at the one of the Capital Building.

There is no man in the picture. Her excitement turns to bewilderment.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Dorothy, in a wedding dress, is kissing her HUSBAND. They face the pews. Dorothy sees the old man, in the same clothes.

Flash bulbs go off and Dorothy and her Husband walk down the aisle.

INT. RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

Dorothy is at her wedding reception. She sees the old man in the crowd. His strange and casual dress is inappropriate for a wedding reception. She steps away from her husband.

DOROTHY

Dorothy, it's your wedding. Don't make a scene.

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

Dorothy's husband is taking pictures. Dorothy sees the old man in the distance.

DOROTHY

There's an old man I've seen around the neighborhood a lot.

HUSBAND

Are you sure it's the same man?

DOROTHY

Yes, I'm sure. It doesn't make any sense. He seems to follow me.

HUSBAND

People tend to look alike when they get old, besides, it's a small world.

DOROTHY

No. Yes, I suppose.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

There's a typical summer crowd.

Dorothy and her husband are with other contemporary relatives. Her husband has a camera with him.

They pose for different bathing beauty and muscle man poses.

She spots the old man a couple of times. He appears then melts into the crowd.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Dorothy and her AUNT TESSIE drink coffee at the table.

DOROTHY

He pops up all kinds of places. Always with the same clothes.

TESSIE

A ghost.

DOROTHY

What?

TESSIE

All those walks you did in the cemetery. You may have disturbed a ghost.

DOROTHY

Aunt Tessie.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Dorothy and her SISTER are on a blanket. Dorothy's DAUGHTER, 3, plays next to them as her SON, 5, and NEPHEW, 5, play in the water.

DOROTHY

The only one who gives me an explanation is Aunt Tessie and she's a cocoo.

SISTER

What was her explanation?

DOROTHY

A ghost.

SISTER

That's aunt Tessie.

DOROTHY

Yea.

SISTER

Look, what you don't know won't hurt you.

DOROTHY

I suppose.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Dorothy is at a New Year's Eve party. A homemade cake has white icing with "1960" written on it. The party is low key. A record player is on. There is eating and drinking. Her husband takes pictures. Dorothy spots the old man.

TRACKING

The night progresses and Dorothy seems to be playing a game of cat and mouse with the old man. She spots him and he steps behind a wall or into another room. When goes to where he went, he isn't there.

Dorothy keeps her movements and looks dignified.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Dorothy walks with her husband.

HUSBAND

You seemed preoccupied tonight.

DOROTHY

I was just concerned about the kids.

HUSBAND

The idea was to get away from them for one night.

INT. ROOM - DAY

There's a table and a couple of chairs. There's a strong box and some old pictures on the table.

JOHN, 65, gathers the pictures and puts them in the strong box.

INT. VEHICLE - DRIVING - DAY

It's a residential area with houses on one side of the road and a cemetery with rolling hills on the other side.

John is alone in the vehicle.

The user interface displays an incoming call from MARY.

JOHN

Hello sis.

MARY (O.S.)

Have you seen mom yet?

JOHN

I'm driving there now.

MARY (O.S.)

Mom's condition has deteriorated a lot since you last saw her.

JOHN

I wish I could have made it back here sooner.

MARY (O.S.)

Mom calls me The Nurse and she  
calls Dave, The Orderly.

INT. DAY ROOM - DAY

There are patients in various stages of dementia and mobility.  
They are all wearing masks. There are a couple of attendants.  
A flat screen TV is on. There are some puzzle boxes on a large  
table. There are a few pictures of actors of yesteryear.

John enters. He scans the room and make his way to an ELDERLY  
DOROTHY.

Dorothy seems to recognize John.

John takes off his mask.

JOHN

Hello Mom!

DOROTHY

You're the old man!

FADE OUT.

THE END