

INT. TRAIN - DAY

David is suddenly awakened by the train coming to a stop. He quickly stands up and looks around him. There is no one else on the train. He reaches for his duffel bag, but it's gone. A look of frustration comes over him.

DAVID

Wonderful. That's all I needed was for someone to steal my bag.

The conductor walks back onto the train.

TERRENCE

This is going to have to be your stop. You need to wait here for an hour while we take care of some things and then we'll come back to get you.

DAVID

An hour? What's the hold up?

TERRENCE

Technical work. I promise we'll be back.

DAVID

Whatever. But do you have any idea what happened to my duffel bag? It was sitting right next to me!

TERRENCE

It probably got lost in the mix-up. In the next hour, I'm sure I can locate it for you, so don't worry about it for now.

DAVID

I like to worry. That's what I do best.

As David steps out of the train, he pulls a pair of sunglasses out of his jacket and puts them on.

EXT. CHESTNUT HILL TRAIN STATION - DAY

There are several people walking by David. There is a sign with the town's name: Chestnut Hill. He stops and takes a look around. He tilts his sunglasses down and takes a better look. He turns back to the train and waves at Terrence, who keeps an eye on him.

DAVID

This is the place I was telling you about. It's my stop. There's the sign right there.

David points to the Chestnut Hill sign.

TERRENCE

Are you sure this is the Chestnut Hill you remember?

DAVID

I'm positive.

David continues to look around, then pushes his sunglasses back up.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Kind of. It does look a little different, but I haven't been here in a while.

TERRENCE

I will be back regardless. Keep that in mind.

DAVID

You better. You have my bag.

Terrence steps back onto the train as it starts moving. He hangs part-way out the door.

TERRENCE

Whatever you do, don't panic. I'm sure you will figure things out.

Terrence nods at David as the train leaves the station.

The crowd is gone except for a man sitting on a park bench in the distance. His face cannot be seen because he is holding a newspaper in front of him. David mumbles to himself.

DAVID

I could have sworn this was all built-up. There used to be a mini-mart, a restaurant. They tore it all down.

As David reflects on his memories of the area, Brad sneaks up behind him. Brad limps in pain and it takes a while to reach David, who doesn't see or hear him. When he finally does make it to David, he taps him on the shoulder. As David turns around, his face is met by Brad's fist. David falls onto the railroad track.

BRAD
Where the hell am I?

A trickle of blood drips from David's nose as he sits up. Brad climbs down and hovers over him.

DAVID
Chestnut Hill.

BRAD
Don't lie to me. That wasn't an ordinary train. I saw some crazy things back there. Now tell me what's going on. I'm not kidding around.

DAVID
I don't know.

BRAD
I fell off of a moving train. Do you know what that's like?

DAVID
You shouldn't have been on it in the first place.

BRAD
My leg is broken!

DAVID
That's your problem, not mine.

David tries to get up, but Brad pushes him back down.

BRAD
I would love for a train to come by right now, but I want the pleasure of hitting you myself.

David stares Brad down, then kicks the leg he was limping on. Brad groans and falls to the ground. David leaps up off the tracks, but Brad grabs him by the foot. David falls head first into the dirt. Brad climbs on top of him and they wrestle. Brad lands a barrage of punches to David's face.

BRAD (CONT'D)
You should have stayed away from Charlotte.

Brad reaches into his pocket and pulls out David's hacky sack.

BRAD (CONT'D)
Remember this?

Brad clenches the sack in his fist and punches David in the stomach. David gasps for air as Brad launches another heavy blow to the face.

BRAD (CONT'D)
I'm enjoying my holiday. How about you?

David spits blood out of his mouth as Brad continues to beat him until he is unconscious. At that moment, a hand pulls Brad off of David.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - MINUTES LATER - DAY

David lies face up on a bench at the station. GEORGE, a well-dressed man in his forties, kneels by his side and pats him on his cheek. David slowly opens his eyes.

GEORGE
There you are. Are you okay? You took quite a few blows to the head.

David sits up with his hand to his face. He lets out a moan.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
I know it hurts.

David takes a look all around him. His face is terribly beaten and he has blood stains on his jacket. David looks down at his Led Zeppelin shirt and his white jeans, covered with dirt and grass stains.

DAVID
Look at me, I'm a mess. It even hurts to talk.

David feels his jaw as he looks around.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Where is he?

GEORGE
Don't worry about him. I sent him on his way. He hobbled off down the street somewhere.

David looks intently at the man who rescued him. He stares past the glasses and into his eyes. The man gives David a comforting smile that makes him feel safe.

DAVID
Thanks. I think you saved my life.

GEORGE
It was nothing. I just pulled him
off you is all.

DAVID
He could have hurt you, too.

GEORGE
I acted as any other citizen would
have.

David extends his arm out to George.

DAVID
My name's David.

They shake hands as David returns the smile.

GEORGE
You can call me George.

David sits up and brushes off some of the dirt.

DAVID
This is not how I wanted to show up
for dinner.

GEORGE
Where are you headed?

DAVID
My grandmother's house. My whole
family's going to be there.

GEORGE
My son Bill is on holiday leave
from the navy and was scheduled to
arrive on your train.

George looks at his watch.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
I suppose he'll be on the next
train in an hour.

David's mouth drops wide open as he realizes who George may
be.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I was only going to sit here for the next hour and read the newspaper, but I'd hate to see you have to show up to Thanksgiving dinner looking like that. I only live down the street. You're more than welcome to get cleaned up there if you like. I'm sure my daughter could find you a change of clothes in Bill's room.

David, whose face shows tremendous disbelief, once again stares into George's eyes. But this time, he doesn't just see a courageous man who helped him.

He sees a grandfather he had been longing to meet all his life; a man who didn't get the chance to know his grandchildren. And suddenly, a missing part in both their lives is filled.