

The Red Bill

By

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INT. SMALL APARTMENT - DAY

JOSHIE, A scrawny 10 year old boy gets ready for school in his mom MARIA's small one bedroom apartment, where he lives. The apartment has broken shades and sparse furniture.

He finishes brushing his teeth, then walks towards the door where MARIA is doing her hair in front of a mirror.

JOSHIE

Mom -- I need money for lunch today,
the lunch lady said that I have a
problem with my account.

Maria rummages through her bag.

MARIA

(surprised)

Okay I'll give you some
(pause)

shoot, I'm sorry honey, I don't have
any cash, but take these quarters. I
guess you can just get a snack from
the store to tide you over until you
get home, and maybe your friends can
share with you.

Maria checks her phone.

MARIA

It's already 7:30 honey, you need to
head to the bus stop or you'll miss it
again!

JOSHIE

Okay, thanks mom.

MARIA hands JOSHIE the money and kisses him on the head.
JOSHIE exits the apartment.

EXT. SLEEPY NEIGHBORHOOD SIDEWALK - DAY

It is a grey, gloomy, overcast day.

Joshie starts walking towards the bus stop.

On his way, he sees a ten dollar bill on the ground. It has a
balloon drawn on it in pen, that has been colored in red.

He stares at the ten dollars for a moment, smiles, then
slowly picks it up.

He continues on towards the bus stop slowly, with his head down, looking at the drawing on the money.

He looks up, and sees that the bus is already there, all the way down the long block.

He starts running towards it.

He makes it close to the bus and attempts to put the ten dollars in his pocket mid stride.

The bill falls to the ground as he shoves his hand in his pocket.

He steps onto the bus just as the driver is closing its doors.

INT. SCHOOL BUS

Joshie walks to the seat furthest in the back and sits next to his FRIEND.

FRIEND

Damn, that was close Joshie!

JOSHIE

Yeah I know, but at least I found ten bucks on my --

Joshie checks his pocket and realizes the red bill isn't there, he looks out the back window of the bus at the now distant bus stop.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

The ten dollar bill is sitting on the sidewalk.

After a few moments, it is picked up by the hand of TONY.

TONY, is a semi well dressed thirty-something year old.

He holds up the money, and smiles.

He continues to walk briskly down the street with the ten dollars in one hand, and his phone in the other.

He is talking to his friend on the phone.

EXT. SLEEPY NEIGHBORHOOD SIDEWALK - DAY

TONY

(to phone)

Yeah bro, shit's crazy. Also I forgot it was Jules and I's anniversary today.

(pause)

Yeah I don't know what I'm gonna get her, I'm pretty strapped for cash.

Tony sees JACE walking right towards him.

JACE is a frantic, junkie looking young man wearing a black beanie.

Jace walks quickly up to Tony and pulls out a small knife.

Tony puts his hands up, dropping the ten dollar bill in the process.

JACE

(manically)

listen man, I don't want to make a scene, just give me your phone, wallet, cash, whatever you got.

Tony looks around to see if there are any witnesses, but no one is around.

TONY

Aw come on man!

He hands Jace his phone, wallet, and keys.

Jace stuffs them into his pocket.

TONY

That's all I got.

Jace puts the knife up to his neck.

JACE

Now turn around, and get the fuck out of here.

Tony turns and and starts walking away.

Jace looks down, sees the ten dollar bill, picks it up.

He notices the drawing on it and smiles.

He looks up and notices a cop car a few blocks down on the

corner, Tony is now running towards the cop.

JACE
(muttering)

Fuck.

He turns and starts running, he runs into the street and gets bumped into by a car stopping at the light. He falls, causing him to drop the ten dollars.

He gets back up and runs into the distance.

The ten dollar bill sits in the street.

It gets blown around in the wind, down the street.

It lands next to a recycling bin, where a HOMELESS WOMAN is collecting bottles and cans.

The Homeless Woman, dressed in raggedy clothes, and a big coat, notices the ten dollars, and picks it up.

She looks at the money, smiles, and stuffs it into her coat pocket.

She throws a bag of bottles and cans into her cart and starts pushing it down the street.

SERIES OF SHOTS

A) Homeless Woman pushing cart down the street

B) Homeless Woman pushing cart across a bridge

C) Homeless Woman pushing cart into a park.

EXT. REMOTE CORNER OF A CITY PARK - DAY

The Homeless Woman arrives at her encampment. It is under a tree. She has a small tent, with junk strewn around it.

There is a dog next to her tent, laying down, tied to the tree.

The dog's ears perk up and it stands.

HOMELESS WOMAN
Hi Charlie boy! You hungry? Let's go
get you a treat!

The dog barks and wags its tail.

She unties him, puts on his leash, and walk away from the encampment.

EXT. BUSY CITY BLOCK - DAY

The Homeless Woman hobbles towards a food truck.

There is a large jar on the counter of the food truck labeled "DOG TREATS".

She is almost at the truck and pulls the ten dollars out of her pocket.

Suddenly, her dog starts to run at something.

She is jolted forward and fumbles the money.

She watches it get blown in the wind down the street.

It stops right in front of the door to an office building.

She starts making her way towards it.

It gets picked up by a BUSINESS MAN, right before he enters the door to the office building.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

The Business man, is a middle aged, grey haired, executive, dressed in a tailored suit.

He looks at the ten dollar bill.

He raises his eyebrows as he looks at the drawing of the red balloon.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - DAY

The Business man Walks towards his large office.

He approaches his RECEPTIONIST.

BUSINESS MAN

Good Morning Sarah, Look at this great drawing on this ten dollar bill!

(in fake french accent)

La Ballon Rouge!

(beat)

I'd like you to get it framed for my office.

RECEPTIONIST
Of course sir.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- A) Receptionist exiting office building
- B) Receptionist entering frame shop
- C) The ten dollar bill being put into a large, gold frame
- D) Receptionist's hand holding framed bill, walking down the street
- E) Receptionist entering office building.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - DAY

The Business Man is sitting, doing paperwork at his desk.

His Receptionist walks into his office.

She holds up the framed money.

BUSINESS MAN
Ah good! put it up on that wall there.

He points to the empty wall to the left of his desk.

He puts his head back down, and continues his paperwork.

His receptionist hangs the frame on the wall.

The Framed bill sits on the wall.

THE END