

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

TERESA, a waitress walks up to a small table by a window. Sitting at the table is JACK MORRIS. He sits quietly reading the paper.

TERESA  
Good morning Mr. Morris. The usual?

JACK  
Teresa please, call me Jack. Yes,  
the usual.

Teresa walks away and Jack continues to scan the paper. Teresa comes back with a cup of coffee and sets it down.

TERESA  
Your breakfast will be up soon.

JACK  
Thank you, hun.

Teresa is about to walk away when she turns back towards Jack.

TERESA  
Mr. Morris ...Jack... do you mind  
if I ask you a question?

Jack puts his paper down.

JACK  
Of course not. What can I do for  
you?

TERESA  
Well it's just ...You come here  
every day, you sit at the same  
table, you order the same thing,  
you never bother anyone, yet you  
always look sad.  
(beat)  
Is everything all right?

Jack is a bit taken back by her bluntness. He thinks for a minute, then smiles.

JACK  
You know what Teresa? I have been  
coming here for several years.  
Probably longer than you have been  
alive, and you are the first person  
to honestly ask me how I am.

(CONTINUED)

Teresa thinks she did something wrong.

TERESA

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to...

Jack motions for her to sit down. She looks around to make sure that she won't get in trouble then sits.

JACK

It's quite refreshing actually.  
I've been going through the paces  
for way too long. It's nice to mess  
it up every now and then.

Teresa is confused.

JACK

Teresa, I'm dying.

Shock as her eyes grow. Jack begins to laugh.

JACK

Not right now silly. What I mean  
is, I'm not getting any younger.

Teresa smiles a bit, relieved.

TERESA

You still haven't answered why you  
come here every day.

JACK

A long time ago I learned that  
people are people. Weather or not  
you like them or not, you can't  
change them. So I made a deal with  
myself. Call it a bucket list of  
things to do. One of those things  
was to see how long it took for  
someone to recognize an old fart  
like me and actually worry about  
how I was doing.

TERESA

Come on, I am sure there are  
several people that worry about  
you.

JACK

You would be surprised. In fact,  
you are the first person in this  
diner to ask.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JACK (CONT'D)

Usually all the waitresses are too busy hitting on all the young bucks to care about someone like me.

(pause)

So it's a good and bad thing that you did that.

TERESA

What do you mean?

JACK

Well it means that I no longer have to come back here.

TERESA

Mr. ...uh ...Jack, I never meant for you to never come back again. I just...

JACK

It's okay. It's a good thing. It shows me that there is still hope out there in the world. Kids these days have no respect for their elders. They never take responsibility for their actions. It's like they don't care about anything but themselves. You just proved me wrong. Whatever your parents are doing, they are doing a great job.

Teresa becomes a bit uncomfortable.

TERESA

I actually don't have any parents. They died a long time ago. You can thank the nuns and foster families I guess.

Jack is saddened by the news.

JACK

I am sorry to hear that. Whatever they did, they did a great job.

TERESA

You can still come back here, you know? I mean, I don't know what I will do every morning if you aren't here.

(CONTINUED)

JACK

You mean you would miss me?

Teresa smiles.

TERESA

Yeah I guess I would. So what do you say?

JACK

I say that I now have two things off my list. To know that I'll be missed.

We HEAR someone calling from the back room.

BOSS (O.S.)

Teresa, quit sitting down on the job and get back to work!

Teresa looks a bit embarrassed.

TERESA

Sorry about that. Just think about what I said. You can still come here every day. In fact, I would like it if you did.

Jack nods and Teresa walks away. Jack pulls out his "List" and crosses off, "Have a near stranger care about ME" and "Be Missed". He reaches into his pocket to leave the tip.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

Teresa walks up to the table. On it there is a piece of paper with the words "Another one on my list". She takes the paper away to reveal a stack of \$100 bills. Under it is written "Tip a ridiculous amount" with a box next to it that is checked off. Teresa smiles as we...

FADE TO BLACK.