

The Envelope

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

A handful of people sit side on to a coffin, not yet lowered. A VICAR stands at the head of the grave and begins the proceedings.

VICAR

We gather here to remember the life of JOE SAMPSON who lies here before us, about to be laid to rest in God's holy land. A young man who has passed away aged twenty-two. JAMES, Joe's younger brother is going to read out a eulogy.

JAMES (19), fights holding back tears, as he begins to read out the eulogy.

JAMES

Joe was the best brother a brother could have. He was always there for me when I needed him. Always there to lend a helping hand, and there to raise your spirits when times were bad. I remember one time when we were...

EXT. NEWSPAPER STAND - EVENING

It's five o'clock and the sun has begun its descent. A NEWSPAPER MAN sells newspapers standing on the corner of a very busy intersection.

Advertising placards with large bold text, spell out yesterdays news:

SUICIDE AT RUSH HOUR HALTS TRAIN SERVICE

NEWSPAPER MAN

(Shouts)

Chaos on the railways, suicide at rush hour. Read all about it.

EXT. RAILWAY STATION - EVENING

The atmosphere's somber, cold, silent.

A handful of commuters stand back in shock from the platforms edge. Sounds of the emergency services, blur into the background, amongst the station announcements.

A PHONE stares up to the open sky.

JANE (O.S.)
 (On the phone)
 Joe, Joe?

INT. TRAIN

The train approaches the platform on schedule. The driver speaks into his microphone to the CONTROL CENTER.

TRAIN DRIVER
 I've arrived at the platform. Can you repeat?

CONTROL CENTER
 Wait at your present location for one minute. We need to even out the gaps in the service.

JOE (25), jumps out in front of the moving train.

TRAIN DRIVER
 Jesus Christ!

The train's brakes SCREECH amongst the screams that has filled the air.

EXT. RAILWAY STATION

Joe sets down his briefcase and takes out his phone. He scans the saved contact names. JANE's (24) photo appears next to her number. Joe smiles.

Joe makes one last phone call.

JOE
 Jane.

JANE
 Joe, have you read the letter?

JOE

Yes I-

JANE

Well then, you already-

JOE

I thought we'd-

JANE

Listen Joe, stop. I've heard it all before. You're not a man of your word.

JOE

Not a man of my word?

JANE

Yes, and I'm tired of all the lies and disappointments.

JOE

I'm going to do something you'll regret for the rest of your life.

Joe drops the phone.

JANE

Joe, Joe?

The trains brake's screech.

EXT. RAILWAY STATION

Joe stands around nervously on the train platform amongst the rush hour traffic.

He pulls back his sleeve to glance at his watch before flicking his eyes back and forth to the clock hanging on the wall. Sweat rolls off his forehead as if a high power spotlight's on him.

The trains guide indicates the next train will be approaching in three minutes time.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN, JOE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Joe walks outside his house. His neighbor RITA (71) picks up her newspaper from the porch.

JOE
Morning Rita.

RITA
Good Morning Joe. You're dressed to
impress. Job interview?

JOE
No no. Nothing of the sort.

Rita laughs.

JOE
While I have you. Could you do me a
favor?

RITA
Sure, what's on your mind?

JOE
I might be a little late this
evening. I was wondering if you
could feed ROGAN for me?

RITA
Happy to do so.

JOE
You've still got my spare set?

RITA
Don't worry Joe, I'll be around to
feed the little rascal.

Rita chuckles.

JOE
Have a good day and goodbye Rita.

RITA
You too. Bye bye.

INT. HALLWAY

Joe stands in the hallway next to the front door. Turns to
look into the mirror to adjust his tie and compose
himself. Picks up his briefcase and leaves.

INT. DINING ROOM

Joe's dressed in his best Armani suit, standing in front of a round mahogany table. He leaves and an open letter in the center of the table. Before leaving he goes to turn off the radio.

RADIO

It's one o'clock on this bright sunny day. I'm having a good time, are you? Next up The Killers new track...

Joe walks over to his bookshelf. He leans over and tilts his head to read the titles before sliding out-

100 Things To Do Before You Die.

He skims the book to gather a few manageable ideas. Browsing for a few seconds he realizes that he doesn't have the time. He sets down the book before heading into-.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

RADIO

It's seven o'clock this sunny Monday morning. We have an old Elton John classic coming up, but first the news...

Joe sits at the kitchen table shuffling cereal down his throat like there is no tomorrow.

An untouched black coffee sits on his right, while the post's a little beyond the breakfast bowl.

His dog ROGAN jumps around his feet looking for attention.

JOE

Hey boy, good morning. I'll get you something to eat in a few minutes.

Joe gives his dog a comforting pat on the head, before Rogan rests at Joe's feet.

He grabs the post and sorts each letter one-by-one, setting aside the junk mail. A plain white envelope catches his eye.

JOE

What's this Rogan? No address or stamp. I wonder who it could be from?

He stops the daily demolishing of his breakfast and changes tack to use his spoons handle to rip open the letter.

He unravels the letter, and slowly reads the hand written, as it feeds up out of his hands.

He drops the letter to the floor. A tear falls into the bowl's milk.

He stands up, ignoring Rogan, and walks towards the door.

Stops and looks at the smiling photo of Jane, looking back at him. He sets his fingers on top of the frame, before knocking the photo face down.

FADE TO WHITE.