

It Goes

written by

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INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

DERRIK, a boy of seven years, is packing the SUITCASE his mom laid out on the bed for him. He carefully places each item in it's proper spot, all the shirts folded and the socks paired. His best friend SMUDGES, the stuffed rabbit, sits on the bed listening and watching silently.

DERRIK

"Let's see, I think I got everything here."

(He looks around the room, and then runs over to his desk.)

"Oh! Almost forgot this!"

He pulls a family photo from the drawer and carefully puts it in a zipper pocket inside the suitcase. Quickly zipping up the bag, he grabs it off his bed, grabs Smudges and heads out the bedroom door.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - MOMENTS LATER

MOTHER, a kind but sad woman, stands on the porch adjusting Derrik's collar and making sure his shirt doesn't appear to be wrinkled.

MOTHER

"Are you sure you got everything? Pajamas, socks, underpants, shorts?"

DERRIK

"Yah mom, I got it all. Turned off my lights and everything."

She gives him a hug and a kiss on the cheek, wiping off a smudge of lipstick that was left there.

MOTHER

"Good boy. Have a great time at grandma's. Tell her I said hi."

DERRIK

"I will. Do you think grandpa will be there? I sure miss him."

MOTHER

"I don't think so, honey. Nobody has seen him in years."

With that, Derrik gives his mom a hug and runs to the car where his FATHER is holding the door open for him. The door is shut and the car heads off.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DAY

Derrik and his father pull up to the house where GRANDMA, a kindly old lady with a weary look, is waiting for them on the porch. As soon as the car comes to a stop, Derrik jumps out and runs to her.

DERRIK

"Grandma!"
(he hugs her tightly)

GRANDMA

"Hey there little bean. It's so good to see you again."
(she looks up to the car)
"Everything good at home?"

FATHER

"Yep. Same ole same ole. Judy says hi."

GRANDMA

"That's good. Tell her hi from me as well. I'll see you next week."

FATHER

"Will do. Bye Derrik, see you in a week."

DERRIK

"Goodbye father."

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Derrik and his grandma walk through the living room and into the little bedroom he will use for the week.

GRANDMA

"We're going to have so much fun!"

DERRIK

"It's so cold up here in the mountains compared to home."

GRANDMA

"Oh, don't worry, I've got a heater."

As Derrik places his suitcase carefully on the neatly made bed, grandma pulls a space heater out and plugs it into the wall socket.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

"There we go. This should warm your room in no time. Ready for some sandwiches?"

DERRIK

"Yeah!"

Derrik and grandma sit on the couch eating some sandwiches and watching TV for a while. They start to grow sleepy and both doze off on the couch.

Smoke fills the air, grandma starts coughing in her sleep. Derrik opens his eyes and smells the smoke. He shakes his grandma awake as sirens approach in the distance.

DERRIK (CONT'D)

"GRANDMA! Fire! Come on!"

He is pulling her up and out the door while she struggles to wake up in a fit of coughing. They burst out the front door just as the fire truck arrives.

EXT. FRONT YARD - EVENING

The two stand near an ambulance as the firemen work to put out the flames. When it's finally out, a fireman comes over to them, carrying the suitcase.

FIREMAN

"The front bedroom is a total loss, I'm sorry to say. It looks like the space heater shorted and caught the curtains on fire. I did find this suitcase on the bed, it seems alright."

The fireman tries to hand the suitcase to Derrik but he just turns his crying face into his grandma's bosom. Grandma simply shakes her head at the fireman and tries to calm Derrik. The fireman heads back to his team, tossing the suitcase on the back of his truck as he goes.

EXT. CITY STREET - POV HOMELESS MAN - NIGHT

The fire truck is heading back to the station down a quiet city street as a HOMELESS MAN lays in his makeshift bed watching the truck go by.

The truck hits a pothole and the suitcase falls off and into the street. When the lights have faded out of sight, the homeless man walks into the street and picks up the suitcase.

EXT. CITY STREET - LATER THAT NIGHT

The homeless man sits on his bed holding the suitcase, he brushes off a bit of soot and opens it. Inside he sees a child's clothes and stuffed rabbit, he throws those out and keeps searching. Unzipping the inner pocket, he pulls out a photo.

HOMELESS MAN

"I...know...you. Who? J..Judy! Oh, my Judy."

(he strokes the photo with affection and longing)

"I remember now. I must go home again."

He carefully places the photo back into it's pocket and loads the suitcase with the few possessions of importance he has. As he is zipping the suitcase, he pauses, looking over at the stuffed bunny. He shoves the bunny into the suitcase and zips it shut.

Leaving his bed and most everything else behind, the man starts walking down the road, following the path of the fire truck that dropped the suitcase. When he arrives at an intersection, he looks down both ways but sees no sign of the truck or a station.

HOMELESS MAN (CONT'D)

"Pappy always said, keep moving forward, and I shall do just that."

He heads forward, not hearing the squeal of the tires that signify a drag race has begun. By the time he hears the roar of the motor, it's too late.

The highly customized import fills the air with burning rubber and squealing as the driver slams on his breaks and tries to swerve away from the man that just appeared in front of him.

The homeless man can't move fast enough, it's as though his body is frozen as he stares in horror at the bright lights coming toward him. The car strikes him and he flies up over the hood, hitting the windshield and the suitcase flies from his hand.

As the car speeds off down the road, the homeless man's unmoving body lays on the pavement.

EXT. CITY STREET - EARLY MORNING

Police have taped off the intersection where the man was found lying in blood. An EMT is shutting the back door of an ambulance which turns on it's lights and siren and heads down the road quickly.

Investigators are looking around the scene, trying to figure out what happened, who the man was, and who hit him. They can't find much, but a police photographer marks and photographs the crime scene as another measures the tell-tale skid marks.

Detective MARK JONAS carefully surveys the crime scene. He is ignoring the taped off area, where everyone else is busy cataloging and finding nothing useful. Ducking under one of the tapes, Jonas heads toward a small row of hedges where he thought he saw something glimmer in the early morning light.

Pulling back the bush, he sees the suitcase laying against the building. He reaches over and grabs it, knowing that he could be destroying evidence or it could be nothing at all.

As soon as he begins to open the case, the stench of the homeless man's belongings hit his nostrils fiercely, and he closes it again. There's no mistake, this belonged to the man that was lying in the road only minutes ago. The outside of the case doesn't match the condition of the items it must hold though, there is something more to it.

Jonas carries the case back to his car and tosses it in the back seat, while waving over the lead uniformed officer.

JONAS

"Hey Mike, it seems your guys have a good handle on things here. I'm going to head back and see what I can dig up."

MIKE

"Sure thing, we've got a couple more hours before this mess is cleaned up."

Mike heads back to his men as Jonas climbs into the car and leaves the accident site.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

A typical detective's desk, Jonas has stacks of files, boxes of evidence, and a computer that's always on.

After brushing a few papers aside and moving his ever-present coffee cup out of the way, he lays the suitcase on top of the desk and unzips it.

The stench is sudden and strong, he waves his hand over the bag as if fanning it will help at all, then lays it open. He starts going through it, pulling out the stuffed bunny and looking at it quizzically while talking to himself.

JONAS

"That's a strange thing for a homeless man to have, it doesn't even look beat up just a little dusty.

(flicking his fingers at the dust he realizes what it really is)

"No, not dust. That's soot. Hmm"

Setting the bunny down, he pulls more items out of the bag. The rest of the items are what he would expect to find in a bag owned by a man like that. A few pair of ragged socks, some empty water bottles, some wadded up garbage bags, a nearly dissolved bar of soap, and what was left of some toothpaste.

None of the items are surprising or useful in figuring out who this man is or was. Jonas keeps searching every pocket of the suitcase and coming up empty. That is, until he finds a small zipper pocket inside the main compartment.

Pulling out the photograph, he flicks it with his thumb and forefinger.

JONAS (CONT'D)

"There it is. There's the ticket."

Before sitting down in his chair, he tosses the other items back into the suitcase and haphazardly closes the lid, setting the whole thing down on the floor next to him. Then he sits down and studies the photo carefully.

The man they found is not in the photo, it's a middle aged couple and a young boy. A young boy, holding a stuffed rabbit. Jonas reaches down to the suitcase and pulls the stuffed rabbit out, holding it up next to the photo, he looks back and forth.

JONAS (CONT'D)

"That answers the bunny, but who are you?"

He slams the photo down on his desk, grabs his coffee cup and finishes off the drink. Picking up the photo, he head toward the door. He calls out to another officer on the way.

JONAS (CONT'D)

"Hey, Joe, you wanna grab some grub?"

JOE

"I could do with sumptin'"

Joe and Jonas both head out of the precinct.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER

Jonas is poking at his meal as Joe obliviously eats a huge burger. The news is running on a small TV attached to the wall above the coffee makers. The volume is off, but a shot of a house burning catches Jonas' eye.

JONAS

"Waitress? Could you turn the tube up?"

WAITRESS

"Yeah, no problem"

The waitress turns up the volume on the TV while Jonas stares at the screen and Joe continues to eat his colossal burger.

REPORTER

"... about 12:55 a.m. and video showed firefighters quickly got it under control. The owner and her young grandson were inside at the time the fire started but managed to escape unharmed."

(The camera cuts to a shot of an elderly woman and boy that seems to be around 7, huddled in blankets.)

JONAS

"That's him! That's the boy!"

(He grabs Joe's shoulder and starts shaking it.)

"Joe! It's the boy from the photo! I have to go."

JOE

(His mouth full of food)

"Erm ohay Onas, ee ya ater."

Jonas runs out of the cafe, jumps into his car, and speeds off with his wheels screaming.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

The sign on the hospital room door reads JOHN DOE, but Jonas knows that's not true. He pulls the sign off the door and hands it to a nearby nurse.

JONAS

"You should get this fixed, his name Marvin Mendez and his family is on the way up."

NURSE

"It's good to know who he is, finally."

Jonas, carrying the suitcase, walks into the room where the homeless man is laying still in the hospital bed. Many machines around him are doing thier beeping and booping, and he has a cast around one leg and one arm. He slowly opens his eyes when the visitor appears.

MARVIN

"Who's there?"

JONAS

"Hi Marvin, I'm Detective Jonas. I've been looking into your case, and I have some good news for you."

MARVIN

"Marvin...that's my name, isn't it?"

JONAS

"Yes, Marvin Mendez, and you're going to need this in a few minutes."

Smiling, Jonas sets the stuffed bunny in Marvin's hands. Marvin looks up at him, tears in his eyes. He's about to speak as the door opens again.

Standing in the doorway of the hospital room is Derrik, his parents and his grandma. Derrik's mom, Judy, is the first to start crying. She runs to the bed and takes Martin's hand gently, tears streaming from both of them.

MARVIN

"Oh Judy, I knew we'd find each other again!"

JUDY

"Daddy, we've all missed you so much."

The two embrace as much as can be done on a hospital bed, and the rest of the family makes their way over. When Derrik gets to the side of the bed, Marvin hands him his bunny with a crooked smile.

MARVIN

"I bet you missed this little guy."

DERRIK

(reaching for the bunny
with tears running down)

"Thank you grandpa, I did miss Smudges, but I missed you even more."

As the family reunites, Jonas sets the suitcase on an empty chair and quietly leaves the room. The questions can wait until tomorrow, these folks need time together.

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