

The Lost Angels

by
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Scene 1

EXT. PARK - DUSK

JIM TEDDY (cop, late-20's, white, ruggedly handsome) strides down an alley. He's the epitome of intensity, the definition of determined, a paragon of focus.

A few yards away, GARY (early 20's, white, skinny), GARY'S MOM and LESTER COLEMAN (Homeless, African-American, older, worn-down by life) are in the middle of a volatile argument. Gary's mom is trying to pull her son away from Lester but Gary is holding on to the older black man for dear life. Meanwhile, Lester is only interested in not spilling the bag of chips he's carrying.

LESTER

(to Gary's Mom)

You can have the cracker but you ain't taking my Fritos!

Jim Teddy arrives at the scene of the fight. Gary's mom steps away from Lester and towards Jim Teddy.

GARY'S MOM

This man is corrupting my son.

LESTER

I didn't ask him to follow me around!

Gary steps forward to plead his case to Jim Teddy.

GARY

Listen officer, I'm just looking for some inspiration. I think Lester here can give me a new outlook on life.

JIM TEDDY

I think I see where this is coming from.

GARY'S MOM

It's that damn rap music.

LESTER

No, it's that god damned Morgan Freeman.

Jim Teddy nods his head and turns his attention towards Gary.

JIM TEDDY

Kid, listen. It's not the job of old black men to save useless white folk.

GARY

But I thought we'd share. I
thought we'd bond. I thought we'd--

LESTER

--You can't be listening to that
Easy Reader mutha fucker.

GARY'S MOM

Honey, I've told you. This isn't
Shawshank.

GARY

But why, mom? Why can't it be?

LESTER

Because Shawshank ain't real! In a
real prison, you and me wouldn't
even be talking. I'd be by the
basketball court, and you'd be with
the Aryans. I'd be on the weight
set and you... Hell, I'd hate to
even THINK where your nancy ass
would end up. It's just the way of
the world we live in. Movies ain't
the truth, son. You gotta live in
reality.

Gary's eyes begin to well up with tears. He turns to his
mother, who has also been touched by Lester's speech, and
hugs her.

JIM TEDDY

So, um, is that it?

Gary looks at Lester.

GARY

You can keep the Fritos. You've
given me so much more.

Gary and his mom walk off into the sunset.

MORGAN FREEMAN (V.O.)

And it was on that day that young
Gary Kryblonski realized his
destiny.

Jim Teddy and Lester watch the mother and son walk away.

JIM TEDDY

So I guess everything's all set
then.

Lester looks at Jim Teddy and puts his hand on his shoulder. He gives Jim Teddy the Fritos and walks away.

MORGAN FREEMAN (V.O.)

Old Lester Coleman also learned something that day. That the ability to help useless white folk is indeed a gift that all old black men have. It's genetic.

Jim Teddy has absolutely no idea what just happened. He shrugs his shoulders and starts eating some Fritos. He walks towards the camera.

MORGAN FREEMAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

As for Officer Jim Teddy, this moment had little-to-no effect on his life. But over the next few year, he would rise through the ranks of the LAPD, becoming a decorated homicide detective and one of...

(beat)

THE LOST ANGELS.