

1 **EXT. SUBURBS - TRAIN STATION - MORNING.**

Surrounded by people dressed identically to him in business suits and ties and holding briefcases, THE COMMUTER waits for his train to the city to arrive.

NARRATOR

(V.O., off-screen)

Meet our subject. His name is unimportant. He often worries that when his life is over, nobody will know he existed. How will they think of him when he's dead, if they bother to think of him in the first place?

CUT TO: A CU of the Commuter as the sound of a train pulling into the station is heard, and he walks towards it.

2 **INT. TRAIN - SEATING - FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER.**

The Commuter stares out the window.

NARRATOR

(V.O., off-screen)

His alarm went off earlier than it normally does, and he got on a 6:30 a.m. train instead of his usual 8:15 a.m. He only realized it once he was on board.

As the grating, repetitive noise of the alarm on a BlackBerry is heard, the Commuter smiles apologetically at THE OTHER COMMUTERS as he pats his pockets until he locates his phone, presses a few buttons and the beeping stops.

NARRATOR

(V.O., off-screen)

He realizes it makes little difference what time he arrives at work. He asks himself what he's toiling endlessly for.

3 **INT. PARTY - LIVING ROOM - EVENING (FLASHBACK).**

The Commuter holds a cocktail as he chats with HIS NEIGHBOR.

NEIGHBOR

Painting the shutters on our four-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath Colonial a turquoise blue was unorthodox, but Cecilia and I said, *let's be rebels*. The Sid and Nancy of the accounting world.

As the neighbor laughs at his own joke, the Commuter notices HIS WIFE flirting with A MALE PARTY GUEST. On the other side of the room, she giggles and touches the man's chest. The Commuter frowns, and then turns to his neighbor.

THE COMMUTER

Excuse me, please.

The Commuter makes his way through the crowd until he reaches his wife. Their eyes meet. He glares at her. The realization she's been caught are evident in her expression.

4 **INT. THE COMMUTER'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER (FLASHBACK).**

The Commuter and his wife are in bed as they argue.

WIFE

It was a harmless chat. What can I do to make it up to you?

THE COMMUTER

Threesome with your sister.

The Commuter's wife laughs heartily, as he stares at her.

5 **EXT. NEW YORK CITY - STREET - AFTERNOON (THE PRESENT).**

The Commuter presses the buzzer of a nondescript building.

6 **INT. NEW YORK CITY - MASSAGE PARLOR: A LITTLE LATER.**

The Commuter lies half-asleep as A MASSEUSE jerks him off.

MASSEUSE

(In a bored manner)

Oh baby, you're making me so wet.

The Commuter opens his eyes as the masseuse's fake enthusiasm ruins the moment for him.

7 **INT. THE COMMUTER'S HOUSE - OFFICE - AFTERNOON.**

The Commuter sits at his desk as he talks on the phone to A CUSTOMER SERVICE REP at his cable company.

NARRATOR

(V.O., off-screen)

There's no element of our subject's life that isn't frustrating. No scenario where he's in control. Modern society only cares about him as a source of disposable income.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

(On the phone, off-screen)

I'm sorry you're experiencing problems with your cable service, but we don't have any reports of an outage. We can have someone out to you in, let's see, the earliest appointment I have is two weeks from tomorrow.

THE COMMUTER

(On the phone)

Your company sucks monkey ass. The Internet service is slower than a stoned baby crawling backwards, and your customer service is garbage.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

(On the phone, off-screen)

Sir, could you please try to be a little more professional?

THE COMMUTER

(On the phone)

That's what I told your Mom when I gave her twenty dollars to fuck her up the ass without a condom.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

(On the phone, off-screen)

Perhaps you could treat me with the same respect I'm showing you.

THE COMMUTER

(On the phone)

Sure. I'll sit in the dark and talk to myself like a mental patient, and if I want to know what's happening on *Mad Men*, I'll make shadow puppets on the wall and invent the story myself.

NARRATOR

(V.O., off-screen)

The smallest moment can change a situation completely. Like in *the Sun Also Rises* when one character asks another how he went broke. *Two ways*, the character says. *Gradually and then suddenly*. Our subject decides to no longer let the little things bother him. He'll filter out what's unimportant.

The Commuter's anger leaves him like an exhaled breath.

NARRATOR

(V.O., off-screen)

Unfortunately, it was at this exact moment that he lost this battle. Forever.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

(On the phone, off-screen)

Sir, we're not going to send anyone out to help you. Ever. In the meantime, we'll continue to bill you. And our prices just went up 300%. And we've decided to stop maintaining our cable lines. And give you 50% less channels. From now on, you'll only be able to watch that weird channel that shows traffic in Times Square for twenty-four hours a day, and reruns of *the Jerry Springer Show*. Enjoy. Goodbye.

The Commuter tries to maintain his composure as he mulls over his situation, but gives up and crawls under his desk, where he begins to suck his thumb.

- THE END -