

An Eternal Struggle
By Mohammad Khan

SCENE 1: Solomon

EXT: Storefront

It's pouring rain. People are dashing back and forth to get out of the rain. We can't see the store sign, only its glass sliding doors. A small awning juts out above the storefront.

A man and woman walks outside at the same time, but the woman trips to the side. The man catches her by the arm. Like Prince Charming catching the damsel in distress, time froze for the women when he caught her.

SOLOMON

(pulling the woman back up to her feet)
"You alright ma'm?"

WOMAN (shaken up)

"y-yes. Thank you."

Solomon patted her on the shoulder to assure her she's ok.

SOLOMON

"Right...well. Stay safe then."

He walked through the rain without an umbrella with a calm gait and a radiating smile. This is Solomon.

He continues to walk through the rain and doesn't mind a bit. Well almost.

He shivered a bit in the cold luckily he arrives at his apartment building and heads indoors.

Loves to help everyone else but himself.

CUT TO:

INT:

We see an old door frame. The keys jingle in the lock and the door opens. Solomon walks through. We follow him as he walks into the dark room. Solomon flips on the light to reveal a dingy studio apartment. Barely any room. A mattress on the ground across from the stove. Three doors. 1 for the bathroom, 1 for storage, 1 to leave the apartment. 1 window open to the street below.

Solomon walks forward slowly, we hear his stomach grumbling. He steps on an envelope on the ground. Someone must've slid this beneath his door. It's an eviction letter. *FINAL NOTICE* in big red letters on the front.

Solomon sits on his mattress and grabs a can of beans and spoon and begins to eat. There's no tv. Just Solomon eating in the darkness.

He places the can down. He searches for more food but can't find any. He finds paper and writes down something and places it in his pant pocket.

Then collapses onto the mattress and falls asleep.

EXT: next day, a sunny day.

Solomon is walking on the sidewalk with the same radiating presence. He sees a homeless person sitting on the sidewalk beside a green building asking for spare change. A homeless man with a kind face. Solomon rummages in his pocket for spare change and hands him a \$10 bill. I gave the money to

HOMELESS MAN
"Appreciate it."

SOLOMON
"No problem."
He's about to walk away but stops.

SOLOMON (to the Homeless man)
"Actually, I'm on my way to the store to pick up some groceries, you want anything?"

The Homeless man is surprised. No one had ever asked what he wanted, only gave him money.

HOMELESS MAN
"Any food would be helpful. Thank you."

The sincerity and gratitude in his voice was clear. The man truly felt thankful for Solomon getting him food.

SOLOMON (smiling)
"sure thing. Don't go anywhere alright?"

Solomon walked to the corner store. He browses the aisles looking. He takes out a shopping list.

SOLOMON (mumbling to himself)
"Ok, apples. Grapes. Bread. Beans. And sandwiches, maybe."

Solomon walks around gathering his groceries for himself and the homeless man. He walks to the counter. We see an actual person as the cashier, rare these days.

Solomon puts his items on the conveyor belt.

CASHIER
"How are you doing sir?"

SOLOMON
"Great. How about you?"

The items beep as the cashier scans them.

CASHIER
"That'll be \$34.50"

Solomon takes out his wallet. He finds only \$20 in his wallet. He looks at the prices for the items.

SOLOMON

"Y'know what? I'll just take the beans and two sandwiches. You can return the rest."

CASHIER

"Ok, that'll be \$18.50"

SOLOMON hands the Cashier a \$20 bill. The cashier cashes the \$20 & hands Solomon a \$1.50.

CASHIER

"Have a great day sir."

Solomon nods and smiles. He leaves the store.

He finds the homeless man in the same spot where he left him.

Solomon hands the homeless man beans and the sandwiches.

HOMELESS MAN

"I'll only take these, if we share."

SOLOMON

"Ok."

Solomon sits beside the homeless man and takes one of the sandwiches.

SOLOMON

"what's your name?"

HOMELESS MAN

"Leo."

SOLOMON (offers handshake)

"Leo. I'm Solomon. Nice to meet you."

A small dog runs up to Leo. A white and brown terrier.

LEO (picking up the small dog)

"And this is Mary"

SOLOMON

"She's cute. Where did you get her?"

LEO

"I had a few rations so I offered her mine. I saw she was starved."

SOLOMON

"That's nice of you."

LEO
"Do you work?"

SOLOMON
"2 jobs."

LEO
"Do you enjoy them?"

SOLOMON
"I do.....I work as a tutor and a salesman."

LEO
"Why those two?"

SOLOMON
"I love to help others. Might as well get paid doing it."

LEO
"That's great but you need to take care of yourself.....do you take care of yourself?"

SOLOMON (hesitant)
".....I do."

LEO
"Good. Can't help others if you're hurt or in trouble. You need to save yourself first, before others."

The two sit quietly on the sidewalk. People walk by them taking no notice. Leo feeds Mary part of his sandwich. Mary runs over to Solomon asking for his sandwich. Solomon hands Mary part of his sandwich. She licks Solomon's hand, thanking him.

LEO
"She likes you. And she licked your hand. That means something good will happen."

The sun is high in the sky. Solomon chuckles.

SOLOMON
"How do you know?"

LEO
"It's how I met Mary."
(pause)
"And look at me now."

Leo, a homeless man, is proud of his circumstances.

SOLOMON (standing up)
"I should get going."

LEO

"Of course. You're always welcome here, Solomon."

Solomon walks away. He walks further down the street to his part-time job as a grader at the learning academy.

INT: The Academy.

Solomon's job. He walks in and walks up to supervisor desk for his assignment.

SOLOMON

"which room am I in again, Carol?"

CAROL (without looking up)

"Room 12."

SOLOMON

"Thanks."

Solomon walks to his room. The teacher, Greg Hurston, has already started. He's teaching quadratic equations.

A row of 6 desks lined the middle of the room facing a large white board. Two more desks in the back. A stack of papers sat on one of the desks. Solomon takes a seat in the back with the 2 desks.

3 kids sit attentively.

He begins grading the HW of the kids while Greg Hurston teaches.

GREG

"Quadratic equations. How are they different than linear equations?"

KID 1

"They have the 2 instead of the 1"

GREG

"Right! How would you draw it?"

KID 2 (snidely)

"using a pencil."

The kids erupt in laughter. Even Solomon chuckles a little.

GREG (snaps fingers)

"hey, let's focus now. How would a quadratic function look like?"

KID 3

"Mr. Hurston, Would we draw it the same as before? Like the line ones?"

GREG

"YES! Good! Let's draw it together.

(turns to white board)

How do we start?"

Greg begins to draw an x&y value table with the quadratic equation on the y value side.

GREG

"So if $X = 1$, then $y = ?$ "

KID 1

"1!"

GREG

"If $X = 3$, then $y = ?$ "

KID 3

"9. So quadratic curves up?"

GREG

"Exactly! Quadratic makes a U-shape & Linear makes a line."

KID 2

"Where would we ever use this in life?"

Greg hesitated for a bit.

SOLOMON

"You'd use it in cannons and catapults. In finding how much money you'd make and how far you can throw a ball.

(pauses, seeing Greg's glaring look)

Learn this well enough and a lot of things will come easy."

The kids were interested by the equation.

KID 1

"Can we do a cannon problem?"

GREG

"sure. Let's finish this first"

Greg continues to teach while Solomon grades the children's homework.

CUT TO:

Solomon is getting ready to leave. He walks past Carol's desk.

CAROL (shouts)

"Wait! Solomon"

Solomon screeches to a stop. He knows what this is about.

CAROL

"You interrupted Greg's class today."

SOLOMON

"I didn't interrupt. A student asked a question and I answered

—"

CAROL

"It's not your job to answer. You can't keep doing this. Greg is the teacher. You are just grading homework. If you want to teach, we could've moved you to the study hall area."

SOLOMON

"Well I'm sorry, but Greg wasn't answering. I wasn't going to let the -

(pause)
wait, could have?"

CAROL

"I'm letting you go Solomon. I can't -"

SOLOMON (angry)

"You're firing me because I helped a student?"

CAROL (remorseful)

"You're done Solomon...you'll receive your paycheck in the mail soon."

Carol spoke in a somber tone, as if she had regret but had no choice. Solomon looks around one last time. He sees a clock and heads out. Greg is also leaving and walks behind Solomon by a few steps.

Solomon exits the double doors with Greg a bit behind. Solomon holds the door open for Greg.

Solomon trips on the uneven asphalt and falls to the ground. Greg looks down at him, a flash of regret appears on his face. Greg continues to walk on to his car.

The camera follows Greg to his car. We look through the windshield at Greg in the driver seat. Looking through the windows behind the driver side, we can see Solomon getting up. Greg's face is filled with remorse. Almost on the verge of tears as he drives away. *What's bothering him?*

Solomon gets up and brushes himself off. He tries to calm himself, trying to stay positive.

SOLOMON (to himself)

"At least I'm an hour early"

Solomon heads to his next job. Door-to-door salesman for weed & pest control at Sal's pest control.

SCENE 2: Greg Hurston

Greg's character: a person who's tired of being told he's doing something wrong.

Greg drives to the grocery store. Before he enters, he pulls himself together. He picks up some light grocery. Bread. Eggs. A book on the geopolitical nature of water for his mom.

He drives home to a suburban home. He opens the door. His house is moderately decorated. A few paintings on the walls. And common furniture. An old woman sits in a rocking chair. It's his mom. Nearly 80 years old, but still sharp as ever.

GREG

"I brought the groceries mom"

MOM

"Did you find *The Last Drop: The Politics of Water*?"

GREG walks by his mom and gives her the book on the table.

GREG

"yeah. Looks interesting. Why do you want to read about water?"

MOM

"I'm surprised. You always tend to forget my books.

(pause)

Water controls everything now and in the future. It's time I understand it."

Greg places the rest of groceries away. He's moving lethargically. Something is weighing him down. And she notices.

MOM

"Gregory, you're moving lethargically. What troubles you?"

GREG

"It's nothing mom."

MOM

"If it is nothing, then I recommend you get into shape. You move slower than I do. Even Mr. Earl down the street with his walker would've placed the groceries away faster than you."

His mom stands from her rocking chair. A petite figure, but moves with the grace of ballerina. She's holding a cup of tea. Greg sits at the dinner table and his mom joins him. Greg's head rests in his hands in exhaustion.

MOM (tapping her fingers on the cup)

"what troubles you dear?"

GREG

"It's just-it's somethin' that happened today"

MOM

"Use your words."

GREG (scoffs)

"I was teaching quadratic equations today."

MOM

"Did you use the examples I told you to?"

GREG

"No, I-"

MOM

"You always did forget things. Teaching skills need some work."

GREG

"It's not like that! I -"

MOM

"..and communication skills."

GREG (slams the table)

"MOM!"

(whimpering whisper)

"..please"

The two sit quietly for a while. His mom notices that Greg isn't responding well to her.

MOM

"Where's Alicia?"

GREG

"She left for a conference two weeks ago in South Korea. You know this."

MOM

"Perhaps you should call her. See how she's doing. I miss her."

GREG

"She's busy."

His mom grabs the phone and slides it to Greg.

MOM (lovingly)

"Call. Her"

Greg picks up the phone and leaves his mom at the table. Greg walks into another room to call Alicia.

Greg calls Alicia's number. No answer.

He walks back to the dining room.

MOM

"No answer?"

GREG

"no"

MOM

"that's cause she's in South Korea. It's 3 pm here."

GREG

"So it's 2?-"

MOM

"4"

GREG

"4 am. South Korea time"

(defeated)

"right"

Greg sits once more at the dinner table.

MOM

"What happened at work today?"

GREG

"A homework grader corrected me when I was teaching."

MOM

"what"

GREG

"I couldn't come up with real life examples for quadratic equations, but Solomon did....then Solomon lost his job"

MOM

"Gregory."

GREG (breaking down)

"I made him lose his job."

MOM

"You did."

(pause)

"The least you could do is take is advice."

Greg looks at his mom.

MOM

"He gave you another chance."

SCENE 3: Solomon

Solomon is in uniform walking up to a door and knocks.

EXT: Front porch of a typical American suburban home. A green lawn with a pleasantly decorated entrance.

The door opens. A tired man opens the door. His eyes were awake but his face weary.

SOLOMON

"Good afternoon, sir are you the homeowner?"

TIRED MAN

"I am"

SOLOMON

"I'm here on behalf of Sal's pest control. We're going around the neighborhood door-to-door asking if anyone would be interested in pest control. Since it's getting close to that time of year again where spiders, ants, earwigs, and other pests start invading homes, everyone needs and deserves a pest control system."

The man just stares at Solomon during his soliloquy.

SOLOMON (handing pamphlet)

"Here's our pricing. The first application is \$30. We do applications on a quarterly basis to not just keep the summer pests away but also winter ones like stink bugs. Every 3 months you'd pay \$70. AND -"

TIRED MAN

"Look, I appreciate the offer. We..we just can't right now."

SOLOMON

"Is something wrong?"

The man was surprised that Solomon took interest, a salesman took interest.

TIRED MAN

"I just lost my job and I'm not sure how I'm going to pay for the mortgage now or food for my 2 kids and 1 on the way. I can't-"

SOLOMON (without hesitation)

"-I'll put in my number. Since I work at the company, you'll get the employee discount. The first year of applications is entirely free."

TIRED MAN

"Thank you. I really appreciate it."

SOLOMON (offers handshake)
(sincerely)

"Anytime. My name Solomon by the way. What's your name?"

TIRED MAN

"Albert. Albert McKinin"

SOLOMON

"Albert McKinin. I hope things improve for you. Take care."

ALBERT

"Thank you Solomon."

Solomon leaves and heads to his car & drives back to the main office of

Sal's pest control.

INT: Main office of Sal's pest Control

The clean offices of Sal's pest control. Solomon enters to log what he has done for the day.

Before Solomon leaves, Sal calls him over. We don't see Sal yet only hear his voice. Solomon walks down the hallway and reaches Sal's office and knocks.

SAL
"ENTER!"

The door is closed yet Sal's voice booms throughout the hallway. Anyone could hear him in the buildings.

Solomon enters the den. Sal is working at his desk when he sees Solomon

SAL
"Solomon! Have a seat."

SOLOMON
"No thank you sir. I imagine I won't be here a while."

SAL (Smiling)
"Why is that?"

SOLOMON (hesitant)
"Is it...I...I.."

SAL (booming)
"You gave ANOTHER free year to a customer. NOW I HAVE TO TELL THEM TO PAY THE YEAR OR I WOULD HAVE TO REMOVE THE SERVICE!"

SOLOMON
"They cannot afford it right now. You -"

SAL
"I HAVE TO. We need the money to stay afloat."
(calms down)

"Solomon, we can't have you handing out discounts like candy on Halloween. We need the money. I can't keep allowing this."

SOLOMON (knowing what's coming)
"I...I can try it again.-"

SAL
"Solomon.."

SOLOMON (begging)
"Give me another shot"

SAL

"Solomon, you're done. Leave your uniform here."

Solomon nods. He turns to exit Sal's office. He stops after opening the door. He looks back and speaks to Sal without making eye contact.

SOLOMON

"At least take the first year's cost out of my paycheck for today's family."

SAL

"Ok. If that's what you want. Goodbye Solomon."

Solomon walks to his car, defeated once again. He went to get more food from the grocery.

He parked at the grocery parking lot. He walked mindlessly into the store.

A person was walking in front of him into the store. He was dialing number on his phone and wasn't paying attention.

A speeding car is headed right for the person.
Solomon sees this.

SOLOMON (running to the guy)
"HEY! WATCH OUT!"

The man turns around to see Solomon running towards him. He grabs the guy and yanks him out of harm's way. The man's wallet dropped out of his pocket.

Solomon picks up the wallet and looks at the name, *Nick Carbone*.

SOLOMON

"Hey Nick. You dropped your wallet"

They're surrounded by glass shards. Nick is still dazed but sees Solomon handing him his wallet.

NICK

"Oh...t-thanks."

SOLOMON

"Sure thing. You take care of yourself."

Nick stands brushes himself off & continues to dial a number.

Solomon walks to the crashed car. The person inside was injured.

Solomon calls 911 for the person. People come out of the store to look at what happened.

NICK

"This can't be what you planned for today. I'll stay with the driver

until help arrives."

SOLOMON

"You sure? I don't mind waiting."

NICK

"I'm sure."

(pause)

"By the way, What's your name?"

SOLOMON (offering handshake)

"Solomon."

NICK

"Thank you Solomon."

Solomon goes to the grocery store looking for something he can buy \$1.50

Then Solomon walked back to his car and drives home. As he drives out of the parking lot, he sees Nick make a call and the paramedics with the injured driver.

SCENE 4: Albert McKinin

INT: After Solomon left, Albert closes his door. Albert's home is a suburban home with his daughter's clothes strewn in some places. He picks up the some of the clothes. His young daughters are running around the house. His wife, Nora, is walking slowly down the stairs. She's 3 months pregnant.

NORA

"girls left their clothes on the ground again?"

ALBERT

"yeah.."

NORA

"Who was at the door?"

ALBERT

"a pest control company.... Sal's I think."

NORA

"ugh. Never liked walking salesmen. You turned them away?"

ALBERT

"actually no....I accepted it."

NORA

"wait, you accepted it? Why did you accept it!"

ALBERT

"We have the first year free"
money!"

NORA

"We don't have any more

NORA

"Wait free? How did-"

ALBERT

"Solomon, the salesman, gave it to me for free."

NORA

"How do you know he'll hold up his end of the deal?"

Albert thinks for a second.

ALBERT

"I don't. But he seemed to be a decent enough person to hold up his end."

NORA (touching her stomach)

"I hope you're right. For everyone's sake."
She's carrying 6 month old child.

ALBERT

"How are you doing?"

NORA

"Better. We still have some money for food and
medicine."

ALBERT

"But only for a few months. We have at least 6 months left."

(pause)

"I have 5 months to find a job."

Albert walks over to his laptop. Nora follows behind. His daughter can be heard upstairs running around. The desk has papers neatly stacked with binders filled with projects and paperwork.

NORA

"Have you heard anything?"

ALBERT

"No. 72 applications. 72 rejections."

NORA

"What are you going to do now?"

ALBERT

"Continue to apply & reach out to contacts"

NORA

"But you've already tried that. How will this be different? What changed?"

ALBERT

"It feels different. I feel different after I spoke with Solomon. He was kind enough to ask how I was. He felt genuine and his kindness seemed to rub off."

(pause)

"Before I was casting a wide net with no focus. But now, I need to change resumes to fit the job description rather than the job description to fit my resume. At least I'll get call backs that way. I'm paying Solomon's kindness forward."

NORA

"I hope it works"

ALBERT

"It has to. If it doesn't, we'll need a miracle."

Nora leaves Albert to his work. He continues to work on the project. His phone rings in the distance on the dinner table. Albert picks up the phone.

ALBERT (on phone)

"hello?"

CALLER

"Is this Albert McKinin"

ALBERT

"yes. Speaking"

NICK

"This Nick Carbone."

ALBERT

"Nick?"

(laughing)

"Wait, this is THE Nick Carbone? The one who slept through physics lecture and asked me to help him with his homework. THE Nick Carbone who saved my grade in chemistry labs? That Nick Carbone?"

NICK

"The one the only. It's good to hear your voice again Al. "

ALBERT

"Where have you been? What have you been doing?"

NICK

"You wouldn't believe what just happened. Why don't we catch up over lunch tomorrow? I'm swinging by the area. My treat."

ALEBRT

"I'd love that."

NICK

"Great! Also, I have an interesting project I want to run by you."

ALBERT
"Yes. I'll see you then."

SCENE 5: Solomon

INT: The Apartment. EVENING TIME, Close to Sunset

Solomon returns to his apartment building.. He's got a lot on his mind and runs on autopilot up the stairs to his apartment. He walked by and didn't even notice his super waiting in the hallway. Solomon enters the apartment and closes the door. He collapses on his mattress.

A knock comes on the door.

SUPER (behind door)
"Solomon."

Solomon opens the door.

SUPER
"Solomon, I need you to pack up your things by tonight."

SOLOMON (tired)
"what."

SUPER
"Solomon. You're being evicted."

The super ushers to people out of view and they walk into Solomon's apartment and begin to remove the items from his home.

SOLOMON
"wait, you can't do this!?"

SUPER (remorseful)
"I'm sorry but I can. I filed a unlawful detainer suit, and the court agreed in my favor. You haven't paid rent for a few months. I gave you leeway the first few months because you lost your family, but I can't now. Unless, you can give me rent. You're going to have to leave."

Solomon searches his pockets & wallet for spare change. He found no money.

SUPER
"I'm sorry Solomon.
(pause)
Where do you want us to move your stuff?"

Solomon could barely speak through his shock.

SOLOMON
"give it to a shelter.....
(quietly)
I won't have use for it."

Solomon grabs his warmest jacket and his can of beans and a spoon and leaves his apartment.

EXT: The sun is setting as Solomon walks into the empty street. The red-orange sky and dying sunlight paint the buildings crimson. There's no one around but Solomon.

He hears the people inside their home. He sees the families enjoying dinner. He smells the home cooked meals.

Voice from an alleyway
"Solomon is that you?"

Solomon turns to see an old friend, Leo.

SOLOMON (walking closer)
"Leo?"

LEO
"Hello Solomon."

Leo is hunched against the wall of the alley holding stuff. Mary was nowhere to be seen. Solomon stands beside Leo.

SOLOMON
"What're you doing here?"

LEO
"Gathering my stuff. 'bout to head to the shelter. Care to join me?"

Solomon and Leo walk together to the homeless shelter. Mary walks beside Leo.

LEO
"What were you doing out this late.?"

SOLOMON
"I lost both of my jobs. I was evicted."

LEO
"I'm sorry.... You'll survive. I know you will."

The sun is getting lower in the sky. The streetlights turn on. The homeless shelter is at the end of the street.

SOLOMON
"I know.....it's just.....it's-I just can't believe it."

LEO
"What do you mean?"

SOLOMON
"I love to help others. It feels great. But what do I get?"

LEO

"what do you get?"

Solomon seemingly ignores Leo and continues speaking. He seems to be asking himself the question.

SOLOMON

"I know shouldn't expect a reward for helping, but it'd be nice. Y'know?"

(pause)

"It would be nice to get something for helping. At least to see the fruits of my labor."

LEO

"maybe you will"

(pause)

"Maybe you won't....it's virtuous to do the right thing."

SOLOMON

"But why should I continue even if everything goes to crap? What's the alternative? What's virtuous about getting cheated? About getting run over when you've offer to drive someone to work? About getting hit down for pulling someone back up? What's virtuous about an outstretched hand pleading for help but finding no reciprocating hand regardless of how much that hand has toiled?"

LEO

"It's all there is."

They reach the homeless shelter. A beautifully area that's well lit. It was an old school gym & cafeteria that has been repurposed to a kitchen and shelter. There was a large mural on the wall showing kids playing on a playground.

Leo shows Solomon where he can sleep. A small cot on the gym floor.

SOLOMON

"What do you mean 'it's all there is'?"

LEO

"We go to sleep. And help people the same tomorrow. All we can do"

SOLOMON

"What's the point?"

LEO

"What's the alternative?"

(pause)

"We can operate on a tit-for-tat basis. We can ask for payment for holding a door open or helping someone up and offering a hand. We can do that."

(pause)

"But at what cost?"

SOLOMON

"You don't get it. I've been working the same jobs for 7 years. I've been grading homework or helping with homework."

LEO

"And you feel you deserve something for helping someone."

Solomon nods.

LEO

"Then I'd ask yourself, were you actually wanting to help others? Or were you only in it for the accolade?"

SOLOMON

"...I don't know."

(pause)

"I've always been told helping others is a good thing to do."

LEO

"It is. But you must take care of yourself first. A structure without supports falls no matter the weight."

SOLOMON

"So what do I do now?"

LEO

"Up to you. You may not see the fruits of your labor, but that doesn't mean others won't."

FADE OUT:

TITLE CARD: **5 years later**

SCENE 6: Fruits of your labor

FADE IN:

The news is running on the tv. It's a slow zoom out from the tv screen where a female reporter is reporting on a two deaths and prevented robbery. As we zoom out, we see a young boy watching the tv.

NEWSCASTER

"A robbery was prevented by two homeless men. Unfortunately they died in the struggle from their wounds before officers and paramedics could arrive."

(pause)

"Their names, Leo Abernathy, age 52 and Solomon -"

A voice shouts at the boy from out of screen. "Solomon!"

The boy turns around and the camera turns with him.
We see.....*Albert McKinin*.

ALBERT

"Solomon. C'mon it's time to eat."

The boy named Solomon shuts off the tv and runs to the dinner table. The camera slowly follows the boy. We see a nicely decorated house unlike the previous house we saw with Albert.

We hear the clatter of dishes and silverware on the dinner table.

The camera pans slowly as we see two teenage girls sit at a table with their younger brother. Nora is sitting at the table while Albert is cooking. Things turned out well for Albert. Albert taps Nora on the shoulder and they walk away from the table for a second.

Albert shows her a check.

NORA

"where did you get this?"

ALBERT

"One of the clients Nick & I worked on decided to fund our other projects. We have some left over."

NORA

"Who was it?"

ALBERT

"Sal. From Sal's pest control. We built an optimization algorithm for his employees to help them get to more houses efficiently."

(pause)

"It took use 5 years."

The camera zooms out until it leaves the home and we see Nora and Albert embrace through a window. They return to their dinner.

FADE TO:

We're in a high school classroom of interested students. A calculus class. Students raise their hands asking insightful questions.

STUDENT 4

"So related rates would be used where?"

We track right to show the teacher. Greg Hurston

GREG

"Excellent question. Anywhere. Wherever you need to find relative speeds, velocities. It doesn't have to be speed. You find the rate of water flowing into a sinking boat as the boat drowns in water and see how they're related."

Greg's students love him. He's a great teacher and he's loving his job.

At the end of class, a student walks up to him.

STUDENT 5

"How did you get so good at teaching?"

GREG

"I wasn't always, but someone had the kindness to tell me. Through example."

Greg and the student walk out of the classroom. A student walking the opposite direction falls down. Without hesitation, Greg picks them back up. Pats them on the shoulder

GREG

"you alright?"

STUDENT 6

"yeah, yeah...Thanks Mr. Hurston"

They continue to talk, but we no longer hear them. We follow Greg & his student as they walk pass a wall of recognized teachers. We linger on this wall for a few seconds.

Greg Hurston is on the board among the company of retired teachers. His is the only photo with no gray hair in sight. He's an accomplished teacher now.

FADE TO:

A graveyard in twilight. Two gravediggers preparing the graves for the two homeless men.

GRAVEDIGGER 1

"They don't pay us enough for this shit."

(pause)

"who are we burying today?"

GRAVEDIGGER 2

"Two homeless people."

GRAVEDIGGER 1

"Ugh such. Wasted potential."

GRAVEDIGGER 2

"I'm not sure we're one to talk. We are digging their graves."

The two continued to dig the graves. A small dog walked up to them. A white and brown terrier.

GRAVEDIGGER 1(seeing dog)

"Awww, Hello love! What's your name?"

The dog has no tags. Gravedigger 1 starts petting the dog.

GRAVEDIGGER 2

"We should take it to the shelter."

GRAVEDIGGER 1

"I think I'll keep her. My daughter always wanted a pet. She wants to be a vet when she grows up. I think she'll like her."

GRAVEDIGGER 2

"What will you name her?"

GRAVEDIGGER 1

"I'll name her after my daughter....Leona"

GRAVEDIGGER 2

"..I think you should let your daughter name her."

GRAVEDIGGER 1

"Yeah. You're probably right."

THE END