

The Old Man And the Bird

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Draft 1

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INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A lonely OLD MAN sits in a restaurant by a window. The last person leaves the restaurant.

CU: BELL ATTACHED TO THE DOOR RINGS

The door closes behind the last customer. The old man looks at his watch and lets out a long sigh.

A WAITER walks up to him apologetically and gives him the bill.

The old man leaves money on the table and walks out.

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The old man looks back at the restaurant and his shoulders slump in disappointment. He stares for a moment and then walks away.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

The old man enters his apartment street and sees a small bird hobbling around. It tries to fly, but then hits the wall and falls down. Looks like its right wing is broken.

The old man reaches for the bird, but it backs away scared from him. It tries to fly, but it can't.

As the old man approaches the bird, the bird plays dead. The old man pulls his hands back in surprise. The bird opens one eye and glances at the man. The man shakes his head and scoops the bird up. He walks towards his apartment.

MONTAGE. OLD MAN NURSES THE BIRD BACK TO HEALTH

The old man puts a splinter on the birds wing, as the bird turns it's face away. It covers its face with the other wing in comedic pain, even after the old man is done.

The old man taps the bird on its head gently and points at the wing that's already been splintered. The bird acts out "Oh, ok, that wasn't that bad"

The old man tries to feed the bird some bread crumbs, but the bird refuses to eat. He tries several times, but it wouldn't budge. He finally decides to take it to the pet store.

In The pet store, he looks at different types of bird food. He points at one, but the bird shakes its head. Then the other, but the same thing. Finally the bird agrees on the last one.

At the apartment, the bird starts eating quickly. The old man tries to tell it to slow down, but it doesn't and chokes. The old man gives it the Heimlich maneuver and it spits a whole bean out. It takes a deep breath in relief. That's when the bird notices a picture of the man's family. It's him, his wife and their daughter standing in front of a big tree.

The bird walks to the picture and taps on it with its beak, as if it has figured something out. The man picks up the picture and passes his finger on the image of his daughter. He then extends his hand to the bird and it walks on it. They walk out.

The old man and the bird are back at the restaurant. He sits in his usual place. The bird bobs its head as it struggles to stay awake.

Back in the apartment, the bird stands on the old man's shoulder as he reads it a book. He is animated moving wildly as he tells the bird the story in the book. The bird is the one that turns the pages with its beak.

The old man falls asleep in front of the TV and the bird tries to pull the cover over him, but can't. It snuggles beside him.

INT. OLD MAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

The old man takes the splinter off the bird's wing. He nudges it to fly. But it's scared.

The old man flaps his arms telling the bird to fly.

The bird starts to fly at first uncertainly, but then it gains confidence, and before long its flying around the room happily.

It comes and stands by the closed window and looks at the great outdoors. It clearly wants to fly outside.

The old man looks at the outdoor scene as well. He smiles sadly and opens the window for the bird.

The bird hesitates and then flies outside.

The old man watches as the bird disappears on the horizon.

He looks back at the empty apartment. He takes his usual seat and opens the book that he read from to the Bird. He stares at it for a moment, then puts it aside.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The old man sits at his table. The last customer leaves. The old man looks at his watch.

The old man's table is by the window. We see the bird fly past the window.

The door to the restaurant opens.

CU: THE BELL ATTACHED TO THE DOOR RINGS

The old man is about to stand up when he notices someone standing in front of him.

It's a young woman, and the bird stands on her shoulders.

The old man hugs the young woman tightly. At first she doesn't reciprocate, but then she does.

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

We dolly away as we see the old man and the young woman sitting in front of each other in the booth talking. The bird jumps from the shoulder of one to the other, giddily.

INT. OLD MAN'S APARTMENT - LATER

We close in on the picture of the old man's family; himself, his wife and the daughter. The daughter is the same young woman sitting with him at the restaurant.