

TOWN STREET

BY
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After waking up to an empty piggybank, a lonely kid dons the persona of a private investigator to find his stolen savings.

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In **CAVERNOUS DARKNESS**, a slit of light appears.

It grows larger as we seem to race toward it.

The slit of light reveals itself to be a COIN SLOT: We are actually INSIDE AN EMPTY PIGGY BANK.

INT. JAKE'S BEDROOM - SATURDAY MORNING - FULL COLOR

JAKE, (9) a chubby kid in athletic shorts, sits on his bed shaking his piggybank - but nothing comes out.

JAKE (V.O.)

Of all the piggybanks, in all the bedrooms on this block, they had to break into mine. So much for those new bike pegs I wanted.

The color slowly drains to Black and White.

INT. JAKE'S KITCHEN - LATER - B&W

EVELYN, (50's), a tired mom, scrubs the kitchen island.

Jake appears, now dressed in his rain coat and a *Hot Topic* fedora. He pulls up a stool at the kitchen bar.

JAKE

Juice, no ice.

EVELYN

Jake, I've told you before I don't like you having sugar before noon.

She pours him a glass of water from the fridge.

JAKE (V.O.)

Them's the rules, but only for the rule followers. Funny how crime never gets a time out.

JAKE

Where is Marcel?

EVELYN

(Trying to sound neutral)
He is off biking with his friends.
Let them have some alone time.

JAKE

Someone stole the money from my piggybank today. Almost \$20.

EVELYN

Are you sure you didn't just
misplace it? Like when your stolen
fedora was under a pile of clothes?

Evelyn watches her son finish his water and exit.

JAKE (V.O.)

Mom was always a good girl. Heck,
I'd known her my whole life, but I
needed answers and she didn't have
them. She didn't even have juice.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY - B&W

Jake rides his bike up to a dirt field.

OLDER KIDS ride mountain bikes over dirt ramps to do tricks.
Jake watches one.

MARCEL, (15), the humble beginnings of a pencil mustache,
spins his front tire around in the air.

JAKE (V.O.)

My brother had every reason to rob
me. He's a jerk, but more than
that, he knows that my bike is one
sick pair of pegs away from wowing
all of his friends enough to invite
me to hang out with them.

JAKE

(Calling out)

Hey Marcel! Did you take my money?

Marcel looks over, surprised and annoyed to see his brother.

OLDER KID

Jesus Mars, how poor are you?

MARCEL

(to him)

Shut the fuck up.

(Calling back to Jake)

I didn't take anything out of your
PINK PIGGY BANK!

The older kids laugh. Jake is embarrassed but fights through.

JAKE

I counted it last night, so did you
take it when I was sleeping? Is
that why you left so early?

MARCEL

I slept at Eric's house last night.
So if you got robbed this morning
it wasn't me. Now piss off and
leave me and my friends alone!

Defeated, Jake walks his bike back toward the road.

JAKE (V.O.)

I couldn't argue with Marcel, he's
really good at coming up with
insults quickly, and I didn't want
to get burned in front of my future
friends. That only left me with
one person to talk to, but I was
going to need some help.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - LATER - B&W

A sign at the entrance reads "KEY CLUB CAR WASH TODAY!"

Uncomfortable TEENAGE GIRLS try to focus on washing vehicles
while MALE CUSTOMERS gawk at them from the sidewalk.

One young woman, Katherine (18), in a one-piece with jean
shorts, walks around with a clipboard supervising. She stops
at one car for encouragement:

KATHERINE

Ladies, thank you for putting up
with this, just focus on the fully
funded service trip this gets us!!!

JAKE (V.O.)

I knew I had to go straight to
Katherine before she could
coordinate a story with Marcel, but
my Mom wanted to stop by Michael's,
so we did that first.

INT. MICHAEL'S CHECKOUT - SAME TIME - FULL COLOR

Jake aimlessly wanders in boredom as he waits on his mother.

EVELYN

(Finishing a transaction)
And can I get cash back too?

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - LATER - FULL COLOR

HONK-HONK! Evelyn pulls into a spot next to Katherine.

KATHERINE
What's going on Evelyn?

EVELYN
I'm your mother, not your sister.
Don't talk to me that way.

KATHERINE
(Noticing Jake)
What's Dick Tracy doing here?

JAKE
I'll ask the questions!

EVELYN
He wants to know if you stole from
his bank to pay for your trip.

KATHERINE
Well, Jake, all of our money is
accounted for. I can walk you
through it but it's a lot of dull,
boring math.

Jake makes an exasperated grunt/sigh and throws his hands up.

JAKE
It's unsolvable then.

EVELYN
(Stroking his hair)
I promise you, your money will turn
up. Just be patient.

Evelyn looks expectantly at Katherine. She understands.

KATHERINE
If you need to make some more
money, we could sure use a hand.

Jake pouts. He doesn't want to, but he's out of options.

EXT. KEY CLUB CAR WASH - LATER

Jake wears only his shorts and hoses a car down.

JAKE (V.O.)
I may not be good at math like my
sister, but I'm smart enough to
know a thief when I live with one.
What doesn't add up is-

KATHERINE

Jake! I need to borrow you.

The word "BORROW" echoes in Jake's head.

Jake drops the hose. Suddenly, he sees it all so clearly.

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE - B&W

IN JAKE'S ROOM LAST NIGHT: Evelyn slinks into the room and takes money from the piggy bank while Jake sleeps.

AT MICHAEL'S EARLIER TODAY: Evelyn is handed cashback.

IN THE CAR EARLIER: Evelyn scowls wickedly at Katherine.

IN HIS BEDROOM RIGHT NOW: Without Jake, Evelyn kicks open the door, and shoves money back into the piggybank. She lifts the ceramic pig over her head laughing manically.

EXT. KEY CLUB CAR WASH - PRESENT - B&W

Katherine walks up and puts a hand on Jake's shoulder.

JAKE

She robbed me... Mom took my money and left me here as a distraction.

KATHERINE

No shit, Mom borrows money from us all the time, but she always puts it back. Forget it Jake, it's \$20.

Jake watches water and soap flow down a drain in the cement.

Jake sees HIS REFLECTION, dressed in a proper P.I.'s fedora, pull a pack of candy cigarettes out of his trench coat.

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - SAME TIME - FULL COLOR

A modest house on the corner of TOWN STREET and TIBET CIRCLE.

INT. JAKE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS - FULL COLOR

Evelyn gently straightens something out of frame and smiles.

She exits, closing the door behind her.

REVEAL: Sitting on Jake's bed is his piggybank with money sticking out, and a NEW PAIR OF BICYCLE PEGS.

END