

The Bus

By

Jenn Charlene Jacobsen

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FADE IN:

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

In front of a modern gas station a large SIGN SHOWS "REG 9.59" and below that "PLUS 9.99". Below the large sign a SMALL SIGN SHOWS "65F 7:30 AM"

HOLLY and her car are next to a gas pump. She wears a simple, blue dress.

She pumps 10 dollars worth of gas into her car and drives away.

INT. CAR - DAY

The fuel gauge on the car dashboard shows the needle below "E" and the low fuel warning light is glowing red. The car ENGINE SPUTTERS then stops running.

Holly pulls the car to the side of the road.

She looks out the window, sees a laundromat, and makes a call on a cell phone.

Holly grabs a small briefcase and leaves her car.

EXT. BUS STOP AT LAUNDROMAT - DAY

Holly walks up to a wooden bench near the Laundromat. In front of the bench, a SIGN READS "BUS STOP".

A bus pulls up and stops.

Holly boards the bus.

INT. BUS - DAY

Holly stands at the toll machine by the bus driver and searches in her purse for the bus fare. She counts out dimes, nickels, and pennies, pays the bus fare, and sits down.

Across the aisle from her sits RALPH wearing a tattered checker shirt, well worn blue jeans, shoes nearly falling apart, and a green felt hat.

Ralph sees Holly sit down. He gets up, walks across the aisle, and sits next to Holly.

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Holly looks Ralph up and down, turns her head away from him, rolls her eyes, and takes a deep breath.

At the next bus stop Ralph gets off the bus.

Holly looks out the window and sees Ralph entering a building with a SIGN THAT READS "FEEDING THE NEEDY FOOD BANK".

The bus continues it's route and stops at the next bus stop.

Holly looks out the window and sees a school.

On the side of the school a SIGN READS "VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL".

Holly gets off the bus.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

In chalk, Holly finishes writing "NOUN - A PERSON, PLACE, OR THING" on a blackboard. Above the blackboard a CLOCK SHOWS "9 AM".

Above the blackboard the CLOCK SHOWS "1 PM".

There are several math addition problems and answers written on the blackboard. Holly writes " $5 + 2 = 7$ " on the blackboard below the other problems.

Above the blackboard the CLOCK SHOWS "3 PM".

Holly erases the blackboard.

A LOUD BELL RINGS.

The CHILDREN all get up and leave the classroom.

Holly packs her brief case and leaves the classroom.

EXT. BUS STOP AT LARGE BLUE HOUSE - DAY

Holly walks on a sidewalk away from a culdesac of homes with well manicured landscaping. She wears a simple white blouse and green skirt and carries a brief case.

She continues to walk a short distance down the sidewalk and arrives at a bus stop in front of a large blue house.

A bus drives up and Holly boards.

INT. BUS - DAY

On the crowded bus there are empty seats on both sides of JOE.

Joe wears a uniform of dark brown slacks and a dark brown shirt. A yellow logo over the shirt pocket reads "MEGABURGERS".

Holly pays her fare and sits down next to Joe.

At the next bus stop, Ralph boards the bus. He wears a worn t-shirt, a pair of blue jeans with holes in them, and a green felt hat. He carries a SIGN THAT READS "HOMELESS, NEED MEDICATION, GOD BLESS".

Ralph stands at the bus fare machine while he fishes around in all of his pockets for money. He finds no money to pay the bus fare.

Joe notices Ralph's lack of money, stands up, pays Ralph's bus fare for him, and returns to his seat.

Ralph follows Joe down the aisle of the bus.

Ralph sits down in his same seat next to Holly.

Ralph sits next to Joe on the far side of Holly.

Ralph smiles and nods his head at Joe. Joe smiles back at Ralph and nods his head.

Ralph lays his sign on his lap.

Joe looks out the window and sees a building with a SIGN THAT READS "MEGABURGERS".

The bus comes to a stop and Joe stands up. Joe waves at Ralph and exits the bus.

The bus continues on it's route.

Holly notices the sign on Ralph's lap, gets a dollar from her purse, and gives it to Ralph.

The bus stops.

Ralph exits the bus.

Holly looks out the window and sees Ralph entering a grocery store. On the roof of the grocery store, a SIGN READS "MURPHY'S GROCERS".

The bus continues it's route and stops at a bus stop.

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Holly looks out the window and sees the large blue house.

Holly exits the bus.

INT. FEEDING THE NEEDY FOOD BANK - DAY

Ralph enters the Feeding the Needy food bank carrying a bag. On the bag on are the words "MURPHY'S GROCERS".

A long line of MEN wearing out of style and dirty clothing wait in front of a counter.

Ralph walks past the line of men, past the counter, and into the back room.

A LADY wearing an apron at the counter gives a box to each MAN in front of the line and the man leaves the food bank.

Ralph emerges from the back room empty handed wearing an apron and takes the place of the lady.

On the apron are the words "FEEDING THE NEEDY FOOD BANK" and "VOLUNTEER".

Ralph hands out the boxes to the men in line

INT. MEGABURGERS - DAY

Joe, wearing his Megaburgers uniform, flips hamburgers in the back cooking area of the Megaburgers restaurant.

A large pile of wrapped hamburgers sits under a heat lamp.

At the front counter of the Megaburgers, LISA wipes the counters, resupplies the empty cups, and refills the straws.

Lisa looks at her watch and walks over to the heat lamp.

Lisa gathers up all the hamburgers under the heat lamp, and places them in a large bag.

Lisa carries the bag as she walks into and through the back area and out the back door.

Lisa leaves the back door open and Joe looks out through the door at her.

Lisa throws the bag into a trash bin and returns to the front of the restaurant.

Joe squints his eyes and slowly shakes his head.

Joe walks out the back door to the trash bin and retrieves the bag.

INT. BUS - DAY

Holly sits on a bus. She wears a green dress.

The bus stops at a bus stop.

Holly looks out the window and sees the Megaburgers restaurant.

Joe gets on the bus and pays his fare. Joe wears his Megaburgers uniform and in one hand carries a large bag with the words "MEGABURGERS" on the side. In the other hand he carries some papers.

The bus stops at several bus stops then pulls up and stops at a bus stop.

Holly looks out the window and sees Ralph standing on the corner of a busy intersection. Ralph holds a hand written, poorly lettered sign that reads, "HUNGRY, PLEASE HELP".

Ralph walks up to the bus and boards.

Ralph pays his fare and sits next to Joe.

Joe hands the Megaburgers bag and the papers to Ralph. Ralph smiles and nods at Joe. Joe returns the smile and nods.

The bus comes to a stop. Ralph looks out the window and sees the Feeding the Needy Food Bank.

Ralph exits the bus carrying the Megaburgers bag and some papers.

INT. FEEDING THE NEEDY FOOD BANK - DAY

Ralph enters the food bank.

He opens the Megaburgers bag. The bag contains several hamburgers.

One by one until they are all gone, Ralph takes a hamburger out of the bag and gives it to each man standing in line.

Ralph walks up to the counter. A glass jar with the WORDS "DONATIONS" sits on the counter.

Ralph fishes in his pockets and pulls out a hand full of change and puts it in the jar.

Ralph leaves the food bank carrying the papers.

EXT. BUS STOP AT STREET CORNER - DAY

Ralph is standing on a street corner. He wears a worn pair of blue overalls.

Ralph holds a SIGN THAT READS "NEED \$ FOR DOCTOR, BLESS YOU".

Ralph's green felt hat lays on the sidewalk in front of him. The hat contains a few nickels and pennies.

VARIOUS PEDESTRIANS walk by Ralph and drop change into the hat.

A BUSINESS MAN wearing a gray suit and red tie walks up to Ralph.

The business man drops a twenty dollar bill in the hat.

Ralph takes the twenty dollar bill and puts it in the front pocket of his overalls.

Ralph smiles at the business man and reaches out to shake hands.

The business man ignores Ralph and walks off.

A few more various pedestrians walk by and drop change into the hat.

A cop walks up to Ralph.

The cop gives Ralph a dirty look then takes Ralph's sign away from him.

The cop points his finger down the street.

Ralph picks up the green felt hat. He takes out the change, puts it in his pocket, and puts on the hat.

Ralph leaves the street corner and walks in the direction the cop pointed.

Ralph comes to Murphy's Grocers and enters.

INT. MURPHY'S GROCERS - DAY

Ralph shops in the vegetable section. He puts a large quantity of vegetables in a shopping cart.

Ralph checks out and the CASH REGISTER SHOWS "19.32".

Ralph takes out the twenty dollar bill from the front pocket of his overalls, pays the cashier, and gets his change.

Ralph exits the store carrying several bags of groceries.

INT. FEEDING THE NEEDY FOOD BANK - DAY

Ralph enters the food bank. He carries several bags of groceries with the WORDS "MURPHYS GROCERS" printed on the side of them.

He walks past a line of men wearing old tattered clothes and into the back room.

Ralph emerges empty handed from the back room wearing an apron and his green felt hat.

He joins a lady behind the counter and hands boxes to the men in line.

EXT. BUS STOP AT MEGABURGERS - DAY

Joe waits by the curb in front of the Megaburgers. He is carrying some papers.

A bus drives up and stops.

Joe boards the bus.

INT. BUS - DAY

Joe pays his fare.

Joe walks down the aisle, sees Ralph, and sits next to him.

Joe hands Ralph some papers.

INT. VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

A school classroom has a LARGE SIGN ON THE BLACKBOARD THAT READS "FOOD DRIVE TODAY". An arrow on the sign points downward to an empty box.

Holly sits at a desk beside the blackboard.

One by one, a group of children enter the classroom carrying cans of food.

Each child walks over to the box beneath the food drive sign, put the cans in, and leaves the classroom.

After the last of the children leave, Holly makes a phone call.

Holly takes down the food drive sign and throws it in a trash can beside her desk.

HENRY enters the classroom. Henry wears a clean, blue gray set of overalls with a patch over the front pocket that reads "VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

Henry walks over to the box, picks it up, and leaves the classroom with it.

Holly leaves the classroom following Henry.

INT. FEEDING THE NEEDY FOOD BANK - DAY

Henry enters the food bank carrying the box of canned food and Holly follows him.

They walk past a long line of men wearing tattered, dirty, old clothes.

Henry sets the box of food on the floor next to the front counter.

At the counter, a lady hands out boxes to the men in line.

A green felt hat hangs on the wall behind the counter.

Henry and Holly leave the food bank.

EXT. BUS STOP AT VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL- DAY

Henry drives his car with Holly in the passenger seat. He stops in front of Valley Elementary School.

Holly gets out of the car, closes the door, and waves at Henry.

Henry drives off.

A bus pulls up and stops.

Holly boards the bus.

INT. BUS - DAY

Holly rides the bus until it stops at a bus stop.

She looks out the window and sees the Megaburgers.

She exits the bus.

INT. MEGABURGERS - DAY

Holly enters the Megaburgers.

She walks up to the counter.

Her eyes get very wide.

She sees Joe working behind the counter with Ralph working beside him. Ralph is wearing a white hat.