The Day the Revolution Came to Town

Ву

Joe O'Connor

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Guy gets out of pickup truck bed by jumping over the side with backpack. He give a relaxed salute and nod to the driver who leaves. Guy walks into town.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Guy walks along. He nods and salutes to the people he walks by.

EXT. BANK - DAY

Guy walks by, sees the bank and takes notice of it.

EXT. CITY HALL - DAY

Guy walks by city hall and takes notice.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Guy walks by the police station and takes notice.

EXT. STREETS MURAL - DAY

Guy finds a mural he likes and makes camp on the sidewalk underneath it. Guy pulls off his backpack and lays it standing on the mural. He pulls out a thick peace of cloth and sits on it. He pulls out a bowl and spoon indicating that he is hungry. He sits and appears to be waiting.

People walk by including RANDOM STREET PERSON.

RANDOM STREET PERSON Hey guy, you got a cigarette?

GUY

The flames of resistance burn empires to the ground, my friend.

RANDOM STREET PERSON Huh? is that a yes?

CIIV

We will overwhelm the empire with a self-liberated humanity.

CONTINUED: 2.

RANDOM STREET PERSON (thinking and mouthing out loud "self-liberated humanity")

Dude, what are you talking about?

GUY

Revolution and self-emancipation, my friend. Creating a force greater than empire.

RANDOM STREET PERSON In that case you don't have a smoke?

Guy motions with his hand to hold on. Guy reaches in his bag and pulls out a huge bag of weed and packs a bowl full, strikes a white-tip match on the sidewalk, lights the pipe and passes it to Random Street Person.

RANDOM STREET PERSON
I like you guy. You are all right.

GUY

The revolution is for everyone.

(looking at the the pipe that says revolution on it)

They pass the pipe back and forth.

RANDOM STREET PERSON

Take it easy.

Random Street Person walks down the street.

People walk by. Guy sits and stares into space like he is working out ideas in his head.

A LADY in a fancy dress walks by and throws two quarters toward Guy's bowl. Guy catches the two coins and tosses them in the street.

GUY

Money some say is the root of all evil. It is also dirty and keeps people bonded to capitalism. (beat) You can't eat money.

PERSON 1 and PERSON 2 Teenager street kids go get the change out of the street.

CONTINUED: 3.

LADY

What a jerk! See those people appreciate it.

PERSON 1

You got any more money?

PERSON 2

Hey lady, you got some more money?

Person 1 and person 2 are still standing in the street.

LADY

I work for my money and that was the last of my change.

Lady walks down the street. Person 1 and Person 2 walk back towards the sidewalk as oncoming traffic passes.

GUY

(talking to Person 1 and Person 2)

The revolution will make currency obsolete, my friends. People will reclaim their full dignity and start to look each other in the eye. No more running into the street for pocket change.

PERSON 1

Hey man we will be sitting over here if you want to throw some money our way.

GUY

Money keeps you begging for scraps while the means of life like food, clothing, shelter and medicine is systematically withheld from you. The capitalist system uses the police to deny you access to the means of life unless you can pay them money.

PERSON 1

Sure dude.

GUY

And the concept of the "natural rate of unemployment" (gestures unquote with hands) is the deliberate percentage of the population who are actively looking (MORE)

CONTINUED: 4.

GUY (cont'd)

for jobs and prevented from getting them. This creates disunity among workers and leads to people scapegoating each other for the conditions of poverty they face. A revolution, my friend, could abolish the practice of work as we know it. No more wages, No more bosses, (beat) no more governments.

PERSON TWO

Whatever dude.

A group of (3) small BUSINESS OWNERS approaches Guy, one carrying a broom.

BUSINESS OWNER 1
You can't be out here on the sidewalk begging like this. Shoo, shoo.

BUSINESS OWNER 2 That's right, get out of here.

BUSINESS OWNER 3 (on cellphone)
I'm calling the cops!

The business owners get right in Guy's face, yet Guy remains seated. Business owner 1 looks at Guy and then sweeps dirt off the sidewalk at Guy. Guy holds his breath while the dust settles. Business Owner 1 attempts to jab Guy with the broom handle but Guy blocks it to the side. Guy double punches Business owner 1 and business owner 2 in the groin. Then rolls back for a single kick to the groin of Business Owner 3. The Business Owners roll on the sidewalk in pain. The business owners hobble away down the street with Business Owner 3 shakes his fist at guy.

PERSON 1

(Yelling over to Guy)
You punched the small business owners in the balls!

PERSON 2

We hate those guys. They would only pay us minimum wage when we did have jobs. The lowest wage allowable by law!

CONTINUED: 5.

PERSON 1

Like we weren't whole human beings. No health care or nothing.

GUY

Capitalists exploit their workers by not paying them the full value of the work they produce and they exploit their customers by charging more than their products actually cost. The worst part is they do this to their neighbors and friends.

People walk by. A DOG walks by and slaps Guy 5 on the paw. The dog sits next to Guy for a minute and they look at each other like they are communicating. The dog and Guy slap fives again and the dog walks down the street. Moments later two(2) STREET COPS walk up to Guy tapping night sticks on their palms.

COP 1

What do we have here?

COP 2

Another vagrant in town for the holidays?

COP 1

Are you ready to meet the welcoming committee?

GUY

Tools of the man. You claim to have a monopoly on force and rule by fear. Your day is today!

Guy deflects a nightstick blow from Cop 1 and jumps to his feet. Guy punches each cop with knock out blows. The cops spin and fall on the concrete.

PERSON 1

Whoa! did you see that!

PERSON 2

Look, both of the them out cold.

PERSON 1

Now what are you going to do crazy dude? You knocked out the cops!

Guy calmly gathers his things and moves down the block.

CONTINUED: 6.

GUY

The revolutionary struggle continues, my friends!

EXT. STOREFRONT - DAY

Business owner 3 sees the knocked out cops on the sidewalk and pulls out his cell phone and speed dials the Fascists. HEAD FASCIST answers the phone.

HEAD FASCIST

(Through phone)

Yeah.

BUSINESS OWNER 3

(into phone)

Get the boys together and get down here now. We've got a live one. He just knocked out Bob and Wayne.

HEAD FASCIST

(Through phone)

Where?

BUSINESS OWNER 3

(into phone)

Down the block from my store. Get down here now.

HEAD FASCIST

(Through phone)

Ok, we are on our way.

EXT. DOWN THE STREET DAY

Guy sits down again and sets out his thick cloth and bowl with spoon.

PERSON 1

What are you going to do when they wake up?

EXT. MURAL DAY

People on the street scramble to take the cop's guns, hats, holsters, belts and shoes. The Dog runs off with a shoe. A teenage kid runs down the street with a cop's gun.

EXT. DOWN THE STREET DAY

GUY

I'll fight for revolution.

PERSON 2

You kick ass crazy dude!

GUY

Do you want to know the best part of the revolution, my friends?

PERSON 1

Not believing in money or authority and kicking cop's asses!

GUY

The liberated sexuality. When we overthrow rape culture, homophobia, gender violence and all aspects of patriarchal social relations, expressing love will no longer be a vulnerability. It will be love, expressed freely. Love without hierarchy!

PERSON 2

(dreaming of it)

That does sound nice.

EXT. MURAL DAY

Cop 1 slowly wakes up looking confused and trying shrug off what had happened. Cop 1 shakes awake Cop 2. Both Cops stand up holding their heads. They walk off the other direction visibly irritated.

EXT. DOWN THE STREET DAY

PERSON 1

Let's get out of here before the empire comes looking for home boy here.

PERSON 2

Yeah, see ya crazy dude.

GUY

Liberate yourselves, my friends and reclaim your lives.

CONTINUED: 8.

Person 1 and 2 walk down the street. People walk by. An old woman walks up with a frying pan full of hot food and starts putting food in Guy's bowl.

GUY

Thank you. This is quit a generous contribution to the revolutionary struggle.

Guy starts eating really fast.

OLD WOMAN

It's not much. (beat) Those police officers terrorize this neighborhood. No one has stood up to them in years. But you did. They are the biggest gang in town. With the help of the Fascists and cops, the business owners oppress the people in town.

Old woman puts more food in the bowl. Guy eats more.

OLD WOMAN

Please stay and kick the crap out of them again. They will be back tomorrow.

GUY

This town must face all authority that try to govern it. By participating in the struggle people will learn how to live and work together.

OLD WOMAN

But they will come back, what can we do?

GUY

Who do you know who feels the same as you? Get together to come up with a plan of action.

OLD WOMAN

Thank you Mr. revolutionary.

GUY

Remember not to become a new hierarchy.

Old woman starts to talk to people walking by, trying to organize them. People pass by. Person 1 and Person 2 return.

CONTINUED: 9.

PERSON 2

We want to fight with you.

PERSON 1

Yeah and join the revolution. We are tired of our boring and alienated lives. Let's go fight the man and loot some free stuff!

GUY

The revolution is how we relate to one another, my friends. It's about liberating ourselves from limited ways of thinking and acting.

PERSON 1

So let's go loot some stuff.

GUY

What kind of revolution are your neighbors organizing? Join with them to over throw all the hierarchies you face. Or, as the Old Woman just said, they will be back tomorrow.

PERSON 2

(perplexed)

The business owners and cops aren't going to just give up.

PERSON 1

(questioning and curious)
So get together with our neighbors
and get organized on our own terms?

GUY

And don't become a new hierarchy.

PERSON 1

Thanks revolutionary dude. See ya.

Person 1 and 2 walk down the street. People pass by. Guy pulls out the pipe again, fills the bowl, lights it and starts puffing. A pack of (5) FASCIST THUGS approaches Guy and HEAD FASCIST whips out a knife.

HEAD FASCIST

You must be the guy. I'm going to hurt you real bad.

Head Fascist starts making knife stab motions at guy. Guy quickly rolls to the side, jumps up and punches Head Fascist

CONTINUED: 10.

in the nose causing blood to shoot out the nostrils and knocking him out. The other fascists try to catch the head fascist as he falls and then try to hold him up. Guy stares down the rest of the fascists. They carry Head Fascist down the street above their shoulders. People pass by. A YOUNG KID approaches Guy.

YOUNG KID

Mister, you are a hero. The town is inspired by your actions. Here is some food from the restaurant my dad works at. We think you are a hero. We also want to be free.

GUY

Thank you for the revolutionary contribution. (beat)Self emancipation comes through struggle, my friend. A revolutionary process of action and reflection. Join your neighbors in the struggle to overthrow the hierarchies they face and learn from your mistakes along the way.

YOUNG KID

Some old lady is organizing a neighborhood defense meeting tonight. Are you going to go?

GUY

I have autonomous actions planned all evening. Send my revolutionary greetings, my friend.

YOUNG KID

See ya mister.

As it is getting dark, Guy packs up his things and walks down the street.

EXT. TRAIN TUNNEL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Guy stops and hides his pack in the tall grass by the tunnel entrance. From behind you can see he is taking things from his pack and putting them in his pockets.

EXT. BANK - NIGHT

The last people leave the bank and lock the door. Guy walks by.

EXT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

The last people leave city hall and lock the door. Guy walks by.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

the police station at night.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Guy lights a match on a brick wall.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

2 Molotov cocktails rain down on the front of the police station. Guy runs off

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Guy runs down the alley, peaks around the corner, lights a match and another Molotov.

EXT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

Guy hurls a Molotov at city hall. He stands and lights another and hurls it at the doors of city hall. Guy runs off.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Guy runs down alley. Pausing to light a match and another Molotov.

EXT. BANK - NIGHT

Guy steps out into the street and Guy lights two Molotovs and throws them at the bank doors. Guy runs off.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Guy runs down the alley.

EXT. TRAIN TUNNEL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Guy grabs his pack and heads into the dark train tunnel and disappears.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

A truck pulls over and picks up Guy who throws his pack in the back and hops over the side of the truck bed. The truck drives off.