

**SOCIAL EXPERIMENT**

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**EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT**

Late hours. Deserted. BOB (30s), in a formal shirt and pants, pumps gas in his car.

DREW (50s), a homeless man in disheveled clothes, shuffles towards Bob.

DREW  
Sir, can you spare me some money?  
You can see I really need some.

Bob looks at him closely.

BOB  
Yeah. Sure, man.

He digs in his pockets and takes out a five-dollar note.

BOB  
Damn! You caught me on the wrong  
day, dude. This is only what I'm  
left with today.

DREW  
That's fine, man. Something's  
better than nothing.

BOB  
True. But if only five bucks could  
get you something these days.

They laugh.

DREW  
Thank you so much.

BOB  
No need to say that. This is  
literally the least I can do.

DREW  
See you around.

BOB  
(smiles)  
I hope not.

They laugh again.

**INT. GAS STATION STORE - NIGHT**

Behind the counter sits JERRY (20s), a college student on a graveyard shift, scrolls through his phone with earphones plugged in.

BOB  
Jerry! Wake up!

Jerry jumps on his feet.

JERRY  
I'm here!

BOB  
Seriously, you gonna have an ear  
infection someday.

JERRY  
(chuckles)  
Coming from an online tech support  
guy.

BOB  
Yeah, whatever. I gonna grab some  
drinks.

JERRY  
Weekend!

BOB  
Weekend! Plus, I'm going on a long  
drive to the waterfalls!

JERRY  
Now, I'm jealous.

BOB  
(giggles)  
As you should be.

**EXT. GAS STATION - DAY**

Bob pumps gas in his car.

JERRY (O.S.)  
Hey, Bob!

Bob turns and looks at Jerry with surprise.

BOB  
Wow! You doing double shifts now?

JERRY  
Na. Covering for Allie. She's down  
with the flu.

BOB  
That's bad.

JERRY  
Yeah, it is. Anyway, you know  
you're on a video?

BOB  
What video?

Jerry pulls out his phone.

JERRY  
Do you recall giving someone five bucks?

Jerry shows Bob a video shot of Drew and Bob from a distance at the gas station at night.

BOB  
Fucking hell! Who's this guy?

JERRY  
He's a social media influencer. He makes these social experiment videos in search of humanity, or that's what he says.

Disgruntled, Bob shakes his head.

BOB  
This is wrong.

JERRY  
Yeah, it is. And lemme tell you, the five dollars didn't fly well with the people in the comments.

BOB  
Well, I was really left with five dollars that day.

JERRY  
I'm not blaming you. But in the comments... you can look if you want.

BOB  
No... I think I'm fine. I gotta go.

Bob removes the fuel nozzle, closes the gas cap, and sets the nozzle back in its place.

JERRY  
You good?

BOB  
Absolutely.

Bob steps into his car and drives off.

**INT. BOB'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Bob lies on his bed, scrolling through his phone with a look of displeasure.

He slams the phone down in frustration.

**EXT. BOB'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

On the sidewalk, in the drizzle, stands Bob. Dejected.

He starts to walk.

**EXT. STREET - NIGHT**

With his head hanging low, Bob saunters on his way. He stops, checks his surroundings, finds the place empty, and pulls out his phone. The screen lights up and shows 1:44 AM.

A noise breaks the silence O.S.

Bob follows the noise and enters an-

**ALLEYWAY**

And witnesses a MASKED ASSAILANT robbing a MAN at gunpoint. The Assailant notices Bob and kicks down the Man with a blow to his belly. The Man winces in pain.

ASSAILANT

Get the fuck out! Or I'll shoot!

BOB

Is there a camera?

ASSAILANT

What?!

MAN

Help!

BOB

Looking for a good Samaritan... for views? For humanity?

ASSAILANT

Are you fucking nuts?

MAN

Fucking help me! Call the cops!

ASSAILANT

Enough!

The Assailant shoots the Man in the head, then aims at Bob. He turns to run, the Assailant pulls the trigger, and the bullet pierces the back of his neck.

Bob flops on the ground. The Assailant flees.

The loud shots create commotion in the neighborhood as we...

FADE OUT