

THE SCARECROW

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EXT. TOWN STREET - DAY

JACOB wanders through the streets of the town, past testaments to his former art pieces; yarn-bombed lampposts, paper flowers draped over fences, chalk murals on brick walls.

He makes his way around a wall - to a side covered in pieces of paper. He sticks the sheet he's holding to the wall

JACOB steps back, and looks at his finished piece - a large collage of drawings and paintings, all collated to create the image of an eye.

POSTMAN

What you done that for?

JACOB notices the POSTMAN stood across the road from him - now also looking at the mural.

JACOB

Well it's supposed to show the beauty that can come from our own eyes. If we just took a second to stop and-

POSTMAN

No I mean why have you decided to stick a big picture of an eye on a public wall?

JACOB

Well, I just thought it looked a bit... boring before, honestly.

POSTMAN

It's a wall.

JACOB

But now it holds an art piece.

POSTMAN

It's a wall.

JACOB

Well yes, but-

Before he can finish, the POSTMAN leaves.

JACOB sets off home.

EXT. WOODS/FIELD - DAY

As JACOB walks through the woods, he notices a faint light coming through a gap in the trees - he walks through it, and finds himself in an empty field.

He stands in the middle of the field - looking for something, anything, of interest in this bland field. Inspired by its apparent emptiness, he retrieves a small notepad, and begins to sketch.

INT. GARAGE/HALLWAY - DAY

The garage door opens, and JACOB enters.

JACOB uses the junk in his garage to create a skeleton-like object that he drapes discarded clothes over. He stuffs an old football into a pillowcase and places it atop the frame.

He stands the creation up, and looks at his notebook. He looks back up at it - a scarecrow standing in the middle of his garage.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - EVENING

The Scarecrow stands in the middle of the field. JACOB stares at his creation.

Satisfied with his work, JACOB takes a picture The Scarecrow on his phone. He then leaves it to stand alone in the field.

Soon after JACOB leaves, a PHOTOGRAPHER wanders through the nearby woods - taking photos of birds and trees in the golden wash of sunset. He notices The Scarecrow.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Since when did you get here?

He pulls out his camera, and takes numerous photos of The Scarecrow.

INT. PHOTOGRAPHER'S HOME - NIGHT

The PHOTOGRAPHER posts an image of The Scarecrow on Instagram, before going to bed. The number of likes on the photo starts to grow rapidly.

INT. JACOB'S BEDROOM - DAY

JACOB is woken up by his alarm. He sits up and sees a colourfully decorated straw hat that he forgot to dress his project in. He quickly gets dressed and leaves - taking it with him

EXT. FIELD - DAY

JACOB enters the field to see a crowd of people surrounding The Scarecrow - all taking photos. He approaches the crowd.

JACOB
What's going on?

ONLOOKER
This thing just sort of showed up out of nowhere.

The out-of-uniform POSTMAN approaches the pair.

POSTMAN
Reckon it's one of those modern art types. It's genius.

JACOB
Aw. I'm flattered.

JACOB makes his way through the crowd, and places the hat atop The Scarecrow's head.

The crowd erupts into electric murmurs, as they all take photos of The Scarecrow with its creator. JACOB smiles.

INT./EXT. JACOB'S ROOM/FIELD - DAY

JACOB opens a notepad and writes a list of things he could ask to The Scarecrow to make it more interesting.

"Bonfire Night" - he places a Guy Fawkes mask on The Scarecrow.

"Christmas" - The Scarecrow wears a Santa hat and is covered in tinsel.

"New Years" - he gives it a pair of "2022" novelty sunglasses.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

As JACOB talks to guests, a TOURIST approaches him.

TOURIST
How much for a photo?

Beat for JACOB to think.

JACOB
(unsure)
Uhh... five pounds?

The TOURIST hands him a five pound note.

The next day, he places a sign in front of The Scarecrow, informing guests of this new development.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

JACOB looks down at his "ideas" notepad, at the line "NEW IDEAS...". He looks through social media posts featuring The Scarecrow, then puts his head back in exhaustion.

As he looks back down to re-read his notes, he notices a children's book on the coffee table ahead of him; "The Gruffalo's Child"

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Crowds form around The Scarecrow and JACOB - who is holding a sheet draped over a mysterious object.

JACOB
In honour of Father's Day, The
Scarecrow and I would like to
introduce you all to...

He removes the sheet to reveal a smaller scarecrow

JACOB (cont'd)
His son!

Confused murmurs fill the crowd.

POSTMAN
What's the point of this one?

JACOB
It's just his kid, I don't-

CROWD MEMBER 1
So he's a person now?

CROWD MEMBER 2

I though it was like an abstract thing.

JACOB

It still can be.

POSTMAN

How many abstract concepts do you know with children?

JACOB

I just-

Questions from the crowd grow and overwhelm JACOB. Many visitors disperse to go home.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

JACOB looks through the comments of a social media featuring The Scarecrow's son. A large portion of them are negative - calling it "a cheap cashgrab" or "unnecessary".

JACOB'S MUM sits down next to him.

JACOB'S MUM

Put it down. You won't get anything out of reading what those lot say.

JACOB says nothing

JACOB'S MUM (cont'd)

I thought it was cute. Sod what anyone else says.

Still no response.

JACOB'S MUM (cont'd)

Give it a while. They'll warm up to it, you'll see.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Over the next few days, JACOB returns to the field to talk to visitors. Overtime, however, fewer and fewer people actually stop to talk to him.

He extends his hand to one visitor, only for them to hand him a five pound note and walk away to take a photo.

VISITOR

Bloody rip off.

Eventually, visitors stop talking to JACOB, and he simply watches as groups of people throw money into a bucket next to the sign, take a photo with The Scarecrow, and leave.

JACOB watches a group of teenagers surround The Scarecrow to take photos. One of them jokingly shoves another, causing him to stumble onto the smaller Scarecrow, and break its arm off.

The teens look around to see if anyone was looking, but do not notice JACOB watching, and quickly walk away - laughing about the damage they have caused.

JACOB stares at the broken stick that once belonged to his creation; now discarded in the muddy grass.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

JACOB sneaks into the field at night, covering his face with a hood.

As he passes the sign of "prices" he kicks it over.

He walks up to The Scarecrow, and - in a fit of rage - tears it and its son to the ground. He tears its clothes, and snaps its limbs in two.

He gathers the remains in a pile and takes a second to look at it.

He pours petrol onto the pile of destroyed wood and fabric, retrieves a box of matches from his pocket, and lights one.

He throws the match onto the pile and steps back. The flames erupt from the pile, and the fire burns large and bright.

JACOB sinks to the ground below him, and sits, staring, at his makeshift bonfire.

His creation, his former masterpiece, burns before him at his own hands. He gazes into the eyes of the face drawn onto the bag in front of him - now surrounded by flames.

He stays sitting down in the field, watching the remains of his Scarecrows char in the roaring fire.

FADE TO BLACK

END