

SCENE 1

**ON A STREET
CORNER,
CONSCIENCE LANE.**

**ACE sits on a bench,
reading the
newspaper. Flowers
grow out of a crack
in the sidewalk.**

**MUHAMMED'S Chicken
Shack is just opening.
JOE DIRT, in his usual
place on the street
is begging. TROY
shakes his head at
JOE DIRT.**

**JOE DIRT
(panhandling)**

**Feed me...please...I only need about ten cent for a cup
of coffee.**

TROY

**Why you look like this? You need a job! I ain't giving you
nothing. Get that cup outta my face.**

**(TROY smacks the cup out of JOE DIRT'S
hand and crosses to the chicken shack.)**

MUHAMMED

Hey Troy? What's good? What you need?

TROY

What's good? Muhammad, let me get some M&M's.

MUHAMMED

Here's your M&M's. I'm gonna bring Joe Dirt some bread and then I'm gonna water those flowers.

TROY

You shouldn't be giving that bum anything.

JOE DIRT

(calling out)

Why my life ended up like this? Was it meant to be or did I choose this path?

ACE

Well, you shouldn't be talking about how your life ended, you should start thinking about how you gonna change it from this day forward.

(ACE exits. MUHAMMED gives JOE DIRT the bread.)

JOE DIRT

Bless you son.

MUHAMMED

You just like the flowers to me. Gotta water 'em.

(MUHAMMED waters the flowers.)

TROY

You too kind Muhammad, too kind.

(TROY exits. MUHAMMED goes back to his shack. BLACK enters.)

JOE DIRT

**Please help me. All I need is some money man.
Please...look at my state boots!**

BLACK

What you gonna do with the money? Don't be buying no drugs.

JOE DIRT

No man. O'm a buy some food with it. Please!

BLACK

Hold on, let me get some change for you.

(BLACK enters the chicken shack)

BLACK

Yo, Muhammad, what's good? Let me get an Italian cheeseburger.

MUHAMMED

All right son. You got it. Here you go.

BLACK

Thank you Muhammad. Take your change. See you.

MUHAMMED

Bye.

(BLACK walks over to JOE DIRT)

BLACK

Take this business card. They hiring at my job.

JOE DIRT

Thank you. God Bless you!

(BLACK exits)

JOE DIRT

(reading the card)

Black construction....

SCENE 2

**CONSTRUCTION
SITE. TITO,
JUSTIN, D-NICE
work.**

TITO

D-Nice...my back hurt and it's like 1000 degrees out here. I'm 'bout to tell the boss I need to take a break.

D-NICE

Tito, you think he gonna let you get a break? This ain't Mickey'D's - you can't have it your way!

JUSTIN

Man that ain't McDonald's, that's Burger King stupid.

TITO

Man both of y'all shut up and keep working. Man it's too hot for this.

D-NICE

We're working hard and you always trying to find ways to take a break.

JUSTIN

You always taking days off and getting paid and we're being paid minimum wage.

D-NICE

Tito, Black ought to fire you.

TITO

Black's my friend. If you had a friend like I have, you'd be able to take days off too.

(TITO, JUSTIN & D-NICE argue. BLACK enters.)

BLACK

Ho! Ho! What y'all arguing about over here? Y'all supposed to be working. Y'all don't get paid for nothing.

TITO

Black, I need a break bad. My son in the hospital with a bad bee sting.

BLACK

Tito, you always need to take a break over something. Last time you said your dog ate your cat.

TITO

You're my buddy.

BLACK

I'm gonna give you a break but you better be back working in fifteen minutes.

D-NICE

How you gonna give him a break?

JUSTIN

(singing)

**Give me a break, give me a break, break me off a piece
of that Kit-Kat...**

BLACK

Y'all need to stop playing all the time!

(TITO sits down.)

TITO

I'm taking a break...

BLACK

I thought you were going to the hospital.

TITO

Oh, yeah...

BLACK

**You know we been close friends but I think you're lying.
I thought you had emergencies but now I see you're just
using me.**

(JOE DIRT enters.)

BLACK

Can I help you? Oh, wait a minute.

JOE DIRT

**Yeah, it's me. I got your card here and I see you're the
boss of your game but can you spare some change?**

BLACK

That's not the right way to ask for a job. If you want a job...

TITO

Ain't I seen you on the corner asking for change?

JOE DIRT

Leave me alone - why you think I'm here?

BLACK

If you want a job, if you want to earn money, come proper and respectful.

JOE DIRT

Sorry, I was just playing.

BLACK

This is a work site not a playground. So what can you do?

JOE DIRT

I can lift, push, shovel, whatever you need me to do.

BLACK

Okay. I'll give you a chance here. Tito, you're break is over. Y'all need to give Joe Dirt here some example. I'm gonna leave you boys and when I come back I want to see that work got done.

(BLACK exits.)

TITO

That's where I saw you. On the street asking for change.

JOE DIRT

Well, I'm working now.

D-NICE

You're here to work, so get that wheelbarrow.

TITO

And while you at it, bring three shovels and start shoveling.

JUSTIN

That ain't right. Listen Joe Dirt, you ain't gotta do nothing. Just stick to the task of making cement.

TITO

I'm taking a break.

JOE DIRT

All you doing is slow rolling and complaining. I'm gonna take your job.

TITO

I'd like to see that.

D-NICE & JUSTIN

So would we.

JOE DIRT

Look, Tito, I'm sorry if I offended you in any way.

TITO

That's okay. You good. Joe, do me a quick favor please.

JOE DIRT

Sure, I'm down with supporting my fellow worker.

TITO

Do this lifting right here.

JOE DIRT

All right, I got you.

(TITO walks away. JUSTIN and D-NICE play out JOE DIRT.)

JOE DIRT

I ain't paying attention to you two. I'm trying to get me some money.

(D-NICE & JUSTIN laugh. BLACK reenters.)

BLACK

Yo, what's so funny? Why you playing instead of working?

D-NICE

We was laughing at the birds, over by the truck.

BLACK

Never mind. Where Tito at?

D-NICE

I'm hungry, you hungry Justin?

JUSTIN

Did you say Burritos or Doritos?

BLACK

Keep playing with me and you gonna be working four more hours.

D-NICE

Oh! Tito - he in the back, sleeping where the birds be at all the time.

BLACK

I'm'mma handle that. Y'all can go on break.

D-NICE

Somebody about to get fired.

(JUSTIN and D-NICE exit.)

BLACK

Joe, I need to talk to you for a second.

JOE DIRT

What's up?

BLACK

What you doing later tonight?

JOE DIRT

Nothing much.

BLACK

How you feel about working over time tonight?

JOE DIRT

I ain't got no problem with that. I love working.

BLACK

All right, keep up the good work, you can go on a break now. I got to see Tito.

(JOE DIRT exits.)

BLACK

TITO!!!!

(TITO enters, half asleep, as JUSTIN & D-NICE watch from above.)

TITO

Ohhhh....how are you doing boss? If you only knew what Joe did to me.

BLACK

I don't even want to hear that junk. You always got an excuse for something.

D-NICE

(to Justin)

It's wrong. We need to stop this White on Black firing.

JUSTIN

Dummy, it's Black on Black crime!

D-NICE

So what, he still fired!

TITO

Listen Joe Dirt put a sleeping pill in my water!

BLACK

I don't even want to hear that! You still trying to play me out.

TITO

I fell asleep - for about 15 hours!

BLACK

You're fired. I'm tired of you lying.

TITO

How you know I'm lying? Only God knows I'm lying. I woke up and Joe was laughing at me, talking about taking my job.

(JOE DIRT enters)

JOE

Thanks for the break Boss. That Muhammad got me full

with those Italian Cheeseburgers.

BLACK

Congratulations on your first day. You did the work of two men and you got raised up 10.00 dollars more an hour.

TITO

No, I ain't leaving. You can't fire me.

BLACK

You're fired!

(BLACK exits. D-NICE and JUSTIN reenter. JUSTIN makes a beat.)

D-NICE

Who's getting fired?

JUSTIN

Joe Dirt's getting hired.

D-NICE

It's true.

JUSTIN

It's true.

D-NICE

Uh, uh, he fired.

JUSTIN

He fired, Joe hired.

D-NICE

Ooh Tito on fire, somebody call a fireman to put Tito out.

JUSTIN

**You just let our friend here, Joe Dirt take you're job.
That's messed up Tito.**

TITO

Y'all made me lose y job.

D-NICE

You the one who did this Tito, not us.

D-NICE & JUSTIN

Go on now, you have to get out of here.

JOE DIRT

I'm sorry Tito - but you gotta go.

TITO

But, but, but...

D-NICE & JUSTIN

Beat it, Beat it, Beat it. Don't try to plead it. BEAT IT.

SCENE 3

**A FEW MONTHS
LATER.**

**MUHAMMED enters, a
loaf of bread under his
arm. HE bumps into
TITO, on the
street, begging.**

TITO

Help me, I need food. Feed me please, I'm poor. I got fired from my job. This guy named Black fired me. He works people's guts out then he fires them for taking too many breaks.

MUHAMMED

I got you my friend.

(HE gives TITO some bread, and water.)

TITO

Thank you, thank you. I'm tired of being on the streets, eating bread with water and nothing else. I get up in the mornings asking for money and go to sleep with money on my mind.

(D-NICE, JUSTIN, JOE DIRT and BLACK enter.)

JUSTIN

I'm hungry.

JOE DIRT

Me too.

D-NICE

I'm 'bout ready to eat a cow.

BLACK

It's on me fellas.

TITO

Please, I need some change. Help.

BLACK

Yo, D-Nice, look at this guy closely...who does he look like?

D-NICE

I don't know.

BLACK

Look at his arm.

D-NICE

The tattoo - ohm. Tito that's you?

TITO

Please I need some money, help me.

BLACK

Here goes. No dollars Tito. Our business has changed

over time. Come over and work for me when you get yourself straight.

TITO

Oh thank you. But I hate you still because you fired me.

**(JUSTIN, BLACK, JOE DIRT and D-NICE enter
The Chicken Shack.)**

MUHAMMED

Yo, Black, what's good my friend?

BLACK

Let me get an Italian Cheeseburger son.

MUHAMMED

Okay my friend.

THE END.