

THANKS FOR THE PANCAKES

Written by

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INT. BEDROOM - SUNRISE

A vibration sound wakes MARCUS, leaving JEN soundly asleep as the rising sun starts to bathe the room in warmth. He silences the buzzing APPLE WATCH that enlightens his squinting eyes. His back growls as he sits up and stretches wide in silhouette.

MARCUS

Uggg

Jen rolls comfortably in his direction and cuddles under deep, warm covers.

JEN

(Yummily)

Mummm

Marcus arises and gently tucks her back in with a kiss. She unconsciously swats it away.

MARCUS

(With a wry grin)

Love you too

EXT. APARTMENT - STAIRS

SHOES tied tightly, he bounds down the stairs, looks around, breaths deeply, ramps up his playlist and launches down the street.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Caffeinated music pulses as he sprints over uneven terrain, parkouring busy streets, blasting up his stairs.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Shower, shave, pants stumble, then tie tighten. Done. He looks GOOD in the mirror.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN

Marcus clanks down his IPHONE on the counter, and starts to whip up PANCAKES with the precision of a watchmaker. MILK, EGGS, and INGREDIENTS are whipped into a laminar flow of liquid bread. He makes all kinds of PANCAKES; MICKEY shaped, SMILE shaped, the last of which is very intricate.

Jay, BABY and PATRICE sleepily shuffle towards the kitchen as an overly awake Marcus starts to serve up pancakes like a roller skating waiter from the 50's; spicing up each person's day. One. by. one.

Laughing, singing, smiling, cutting, spilling; sticky hands all over the place. As he finishes helping them, he finally settles down to eat. Just after his first big bite, his APPLE WATCH rudely interrupts "You're late"! Despite Marcus's annoyance, he races to deliver all the requisite kisses around the table.

EXT. APARTMENT - STAIRS

Same staccato bounce down the stairs, but this time with distinctly orange soled business SHOES. He is already getting crap done on his iPhone.

EXT. SIDEWALK - COMMUTING INTO WORK

Cuts back and forth from low pedestal and high pedestal tracking shots with progressively denser pedestrian traffic & Metro till he is walking on a packed downtown sidewalk. He begins to disappear behind all those people, as high pedestal matching shots of him intently working on his IPHONE show through.

Images of various TEXTS, EMAILS and NEWS NOTIFICATIONS sprout up all over the screen till they fill the frame. At about 1/3 full, he accidentally bumps into a looker, stops, and returns an apologetic smile backwards.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DENSE TRAFFIC DOWNTOWN

He plows down the busy street as he punches out replies. The on screen images go away with each send or click; till he focuses, on the incoming IMESSAGE he really cares about.

He looks down at MY LOVE as the sender, next to his wife's image. His smile brightens as he watches the incoming text line appear; steps off the crowded sidewalk, on to the empty street.

Oncoming TRUCK!

HORN!

His face, pale as death.

His IPHONE flies though the air in slow motion to cautious piano notes as it smashes into the side of a rumbling, massive eighteen wheeler.

EXT. DETAIL OF SMASHED IPHONE SCREEN ON GROUND

Heart - Thanks for the Pancakes - Heart

BLACK SCREEN

Beat

Beware; white text on black.

Double beat

"Beware" text morphs and separates into *"Be Aware"* Which then splits into various *"Be"s*. *"Be Smart"*. *"Be Cautious"*. *"Be Careful"* *"Be Safe"* *"Be There for them"* is the last line.

Using the same split line morphs into:

Closing title info over cell phone videos of people not paying attention to what the hell is going on in the world around them cinema vérité style. Witness Protection BLACK BARS over eyes to hide their identity.

End.

NOTES

THIS CITY EMBEDDED TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN THE SIDEWALKS SO THAT
SMARTPHONE USERS DON'T HAVE TO LOOK UP
[HTTPS://WWW.WASHINGTONPOST.COM/NEWS/WORLDVIEWS/WP/2016/04/25/
THIS-CITY-EMBEDDED-TRAFFIC-LIGHTS-IN-THE-SIDEWALKS-SO-THAT-
SMARTPHONE-USERS-DONT-HAVE-TO-LOOK-UP/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/04/25/this-city-embedded-traffic-lights-in-the-sidewalks-so-that-smartphone-users-dont-have-to-look-up/)