

Betrayal

by

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EXT. PARK - MORNING

NICK, a young man of 21 with a beautiful smile sits waiting on a wooden bench in the park. He fidgets and breaths hard. It is a very cloudy dark day. His sky blue eyes are as dark as the weather.

He stands up and begins to pace back and forth impatiently looking in all directions.

He looks at his watch a couple of times. Then back down the pathways of the park. He sits down and his cell phone rings. Nick answers it.

NICK

Hello?

VOICE

(ON PHONE)

Did he show yet?

NICK

Really, hate this guy. He doesn't even have the decency to face me. How sad for him to live his life this way. Wait, I think I see him coming. I'll call you back.

We see JEFF coming up the path walking towards Nick. He is in his late twenties, overweight with dark hair and dark features. He walks slowly up to Nick with his hands in his pockets and his face down. He sits down on the bench as far from Nick as possible.

JEFF

So Nick, what do you want to talk to me about?

NICK

You are a complete joke. What do I want to talk about? How about you explain to me the past year.

JEFF

Hey buddy, I don't like the tone you're taking. I agreed to come here to meet you today. I didn't have to.

NICK

Aren't you even going to try to think up an excuse to tell me? But no more lies please!

JEFF

OK, OK, I told a few small lies. All with good intentions. You know we are friends. I never meant to hurt you. How did I know the car would be a lemon? I was just getting you a good deal. It is a pretty cool old ride.

NICK

Pretty cool old ride!! I trusted you with all my savings and you bring me this piece of junk! Telling me it's a good deal for the money?

In the background behind where the two men sit on the park bench a police car pulls up. OFFICER GOODNESS gets out of his patrol car and walks over to check out an old red pick-up truck that's parked there. Officer Goodness is in his early thirties, with a tall lean build.

Neither Jeff or Nick notice Officer Goodness since by now, they are arguing with each other more intensely.

JEFF

Look, I told you from the start. I could get you a truck for a great deal but it would be cash, no return, kind of thing. You didn't ask any questions then. You thought it was a great idea. You even bought me a beer to seal the deal. Remember!

Nick gets to his feet and towers over Jeff, his jaw is clenched.

NICK

Yes, but I was trusting you. I thought we were friends. Did you just keep half the money and buy that sorry truck from the junk yard to pawn off on me? I want my money back! The truck

NICK (CONT'D)  
is yours. Take it, and get me my  
money back!

Just then they both hear a noise from the parking lot and look over to where the truck is parked. They see Officer Goodness calling in the truck's license plate numbers.

Jeff jumps up and pushes Nick out of the way and starts running across the field to the other side of the park. Nick hits the ground hard, he looks stunned.

NICK (shouting)  
Hey, officer, can I help you?  
That's my truck.

Officer Goodness looks at Nick but also sees Jeff running and takes off after him.

OFFICER GOODNESS (shouting)  
STOP! Stop right now!

As Officer Goodness chases Jeff down, a car pulls up by the truck. It is MAGGIE, Nick's girlfriend driving. She is a slim 20 year old, with brown eyes and long brown hair. Maggie has a look of fear and concern on her otherwise beautiful young face.

Nick waves to her while getting to his feet.

MAGGIE (yells)  
Are you OK Nick?

Maggie gets out of the car and heads towards Nick. Nick dusts himself off and walks over to Maggie for a big hug.

NICK  
That guy is a bigger asshole than I  
even thought.

MAGGIE  
And even bigger than you know. Right  
after we hung up earlier these  
policemen came to the door asking  
questions about you, Jeff, and the  
truck. I told them the whole story of  
Jeff ripping you off getting you this  
truck. The whole betrayal, then told

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

them you were meeting him here to confront him. Nick, they told me the truck is stolen.

NICK

Oh my God! This drama just keeps getting worse.

Officer Goodness walks by, leading Jeff now in handcuffs to the police car. Jeff gets in the back of the patrol car without a glance at either of them.

OFFICER GOODNESS

I will need you and your girlfriend to follow us down to the station to give your account of all that has happened. It's not the first time this guy has done this.

Nick hugs Maggie again.

NICK

I can't believe I trusted that guy. He is not who I thought he was. I can't believe I didn't see it.

MAGGIE

I love you, you couldn't have known. Don't blame yourself.

INT. POLICE STATION — AFTERNOON

Together Nick and Maggie are sitting alone in a small windowless room. Nick is quiet, he looks really sad and beaten down.

Maggie reaches over and touches Nick's shoulder and rubs it softly.

MAGGIE

It's not your fault, he's the bad guy here. There were no other signs that he is a crazy scam artist only out for himself. I'm no therapist but I'll bet he's a sociopath with no feelings or regards for others. So

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

please stop blaming it on yourself.

NICK

I hoped it was all a big mistake.  
It's so hard when a friend  
betrays you. Maggie, don't you  
see, that is the worst part of all  
this. It's not the money, it's  
the lies. I'm just a suckers.  
He looked at me and decided I was  
a good mark to take advantage of.

MAGGIE

You are not a sucker! Why would you  
say that?

NICK

Oh, he figured out I was the shy loner  
guy at work and all of a sudden I had  
a new best friend. It was really fun  
being included with the guys after work  
for beer.

Maggie moves closer to Nick and hugs him and smiles at  
him.

MAGGIE

Nick, think of us, you still have me,  
Mr. loner guy.

Nick manages a small smile back at her, and reaches over  
and strokes her dark brown hair.

NICK

I guess it would be good to forgive  
him but I can't right now.

MAGGIE

It sounds like you need to begin  
with forgiving yourself first,  
then maybe Jeff.

NICK

Are you sure you're not a therapist?

INVESTIGATING OFFICER HOPEFUL, comes into the room. He is  
a big man in his late fifties with a protruding belly and

huge smile. He interrupts the couple's minutes of lighter loving talk.

OFFICER HOPEFUL

Hello folks, I am OFFICER HOPEFUL.  
I know there are a ton of jokes  
about my name.

Officer Hopeful looks at some paperwork in his hand as he sits down in the chair across from the couple.

OFFICER HOPEFUL (CONT'D)

But, I'm thinking we can dispense  
of the jokes. You can probably  
appreciate the hopefulness since  
I see here Nick, you are a pastor  
of a local church. I'm a religious  
man myself. So, Pastor Nick, do you  
think you can forgive this Jeff guy?  
It looks like from this statement  
he really screwed you over.

NICK

God thinks I should and I'm  
trying my best but it's not happening  
yet. I'm just so sad and hurt and  
mad. I'm afraid I'm not a very  
good representative of God's will  
right now.

Officer Hopeful looks surprised and uncomfortable. He hurries them up to sign their statements so he can have them leave.

NICK

Will there be a trial?

OFFICER HOPEFUL

Yes, and you will have to testify  
to put this guy away. You will get a  
court summons when the date rolls  
around. Until then he'll be without  
bail in the county jail. You two  
can go now.

The couple follow Officer Hopeful out of the room and exit the police station. Both look worn out from the whole experience.

EXT. PARKING LOT - LATE AFTERNOON

The couple heads across the parking lot towards Maggie's car. They are quiet until Maggie breaks the awkward silence.

MAGGIE

I'm just so tired, I think I'll head home for a nice warm bath and a good long sleep.

NICK

I'm really needing some alone time. Since I don't have a car, would you mind if I dropped you off at your place and borrowed yours for a bit?

Maggie looks concerned.

MAGGIE

Sure, no problem but go to a good hopeful place Nick. Remember, God thinks you are great. And so do I.

Nick looks at Maggie with a blank stare.

NICK

OK I'll try to. I just need a little time to think and pray.

Maggie hands the car keys to Nick. They get in her car and drive off.

EXT. PARK - TWILIGHT

Nick is walking in the same park where he had earlier met with Jeff. The park is empty as the day grows dark. He stops and looks up and takes a couple of deep breaths.

NICK

God, where are you? This has been an awful day. This time I can't forgive. Not this guy. Other times



NICK (CONT'D)  
when unfair stuff has happened to me,  
I've just gotten over it. I've  
forgiven and moved on. You know that.  
But this, this is too much.

Nick kicks the ground and looks good and mad. He shakes his head no.

NICK (yelling)  
I'm so angry! I hoped and prayed  
for a good friend. I thought you had  
sent him to me.

Nick sits down on the same bench he and Jeff had been sitting on that morning arguing. Some tears slide down his cheeks. Nick leans over and holds his head in his hands.

NICK (whispering)  
God, where are you? Forgive me but  
I cannot do it. I just do not  
understand why. What is this all for?  
You must have a purpose. Hopefully  
it all means something.

Nick sits there until it's fully dark, he looks up one more time. He looks at the beautiful star lit night sky. A smile slowly comes over his face. He gets up and starts walking quickly towards the park parking lot, as he does he pulls his cell phone out.

NICK  
Hi Maggie.

MAGGIE  
(ON PHONE)  
Nick, where are you? I've been  
worried about you.

NICK  
(ON PHONE)  
Maggie, God spoke to me. This is  
crazy, but I'm on my way back to the  
jail. I'm not hopeful that Jeff will  
care or change in any way, but I have  
to go see him. I've got to face him  
and tell him, I forgive him. I'm

NICK (CONT'D)

going to show him that the Christian  
life he's watched me live for this  
past year wasn't just a scam on my  
part. It is real, for me my  
relationships are true and honest.  
And I will hope to forgive him today  
and every day until the struggle  
to forgive him is over.