

You Never Know

by  
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FADE IN:

INT. TRAIN - DAY

A slightly built guy in his late 20's, RON, dressed in a beat-up leather jacket and jeans; ever present CD player on his hip and plugged into the headset perched on his head and he's leaning on a bass guitar case while being jostled in this cattle car like everyone else. Ron is a good looking guy with a vaguely vacant look. It could be construed as malevolent but is usually just looked at as distant.

The train stops and a majority of the people get off the train. Ron watches people get off with the disinterested stare of most other passengers. A few people get on at this stop and Ron begins to move away from the seats so that others may sit.

A WOMAN, late 30's/early 40's loaded down with bundles and MAN, cheap suited power dresser who retains an air of importance to the world although his job has none, scurry towards the opening. The man is just about to get to the seat first when Ron lifts his case and forces the guy to stumble just enough to allow the woman to walk by and take the seat. The man gives Ron his best glare but Ron just smiles back at him.

RON

Sorry, man. This thing gets  
unwieldy sometimes.

The man makes an elaborate display of wiping the imagined dirt off of his pant leg.

MAN

Fucking musicians. Why don't you  
get a real job?

Ron continues to smile as his head turns in the direction of the woman who is slyly smiling at Ron. She knows what he did and nods her thanks. Ron smiles back then turns and stares at nothing. The train begins to pull into another station and Ron turns to the door. This is his stop. He turns to look at the woman one last time and they smile. He keeps turning until he almost bumps into the man's face. Ron's smile fades slightly as the man growls his threat.

MAN (CONT'D)

You better watch yourself, buddy.

Ron's smile broadens ignoring the threat. The train stops in the station.

RON

Hey, thanks, man. It's good to see  
that people do care about one  
another in this world.

The train door opens.

RON (CONT'D)

And I will watch myself. Thanks for  
the advice.

Ron exits the train. The man stands still as people push past him. The man is unsure of how to react to his threat being shrugged off like so much detritus. The door closes and the train pulls out.

EXT. SUBWAY STATION - CONTINUOUS

Ron leaves the station and heads across the parking lot. He's walking at a good clip. Not that he has to get anywhere this is just his average walking speed. He stands on the curb waiting for the traffic let up. He's not reckless at all; waiting for all of the traffic to pass before crossing. Then he does the same thing on the median strip. Once on the other side of the street Ron walks down about a block and takes a left.

Almost immediately he comes upon a park that is empty except for THREE KIDS, 16 year old DAVID, NELSON who is 18, and 20 year old JIMBO. They are all holding clubs but the oldest one is the only one hitting golf balls the length of the park.

David sees Ron walk down the length of the park and taps on Jimbo's shoulder after a rather lengthy drive. Jimbo stops, turns around and sees Ron. The kids start laughing and turn to face the width of the park. A much closer drive. Jimbo tees up a ball and drives it about twenty feet in front of Ron who sees it go by and crash into a house across the street.

Ron moves the case to his left hand and unzips his jacket half way. The kids are laughing and having quite a time of this. Ron's pace never speeds up but he does take his headset off and keeps an eye out. Not on the kids but the ball.

The kids tee up another ball and this one passes no more than 5 feet from Ron. The laughter can be heard all the way to Ron who stops for a second and smiles at them.

RON

Hey, nice drive. But you should really keep your head down. Listen, you drive so far why don't you face the other way? People are walking down here. Someone could get hit.

The kids laugh louder than before.

NELSON

That's the precise reason, you dope.

The laugh as David tees up another ball. Ron keeps walking but he can see by the placement that if this is a straight drive he may get hit by it. But Ron keeps walking. The drive flies behind Ron's head missing him by inches. The kids congratulate Jimbo like he just found a cure for cancer.

DAVID

Man, you're the best.

NELSON

Great drive, man. That guy was shitting his pants.

They continue congratulating Jimbo and don't notice that Ron is pretty much out of range right now. David is the first to notice it and points it out to the others.

DAVID

Hey, he's getting away. Give him one more shot.

But by the time they tee up the ball Ron is too far down the street. But that doesn't really matter so Jimbo drives a ball that misses Ron by a mile but does crash through the window of a house. Ron stops and turns around.

RON

Hey, come on, fun's fun but let's not start fucking up people's property. Drive the other way, will ya?

The kids are now visibly upset that Ron would dare stop their frivolity. After all, they missed and they're pretty sure he doesn't live in that house.

NELSON

What the fuck does it mean to you?

RON

It's just disrespectful to people who work hard to get nice things.

JIMBO

Disrespectful? What the fuck are you talking about?

The kids stand there for a second. They want to do something but there is a moment of fear because anyone who would stand up to three kids with golf clubs may just be trouble. Ron looks at them for another second, shakes his head in despair and turns to continue down the street. That's when they think they have him and the atmosphere changes.

DAVID

Hey, look at that? He's running away.

NELSON

Yeah, we should kick your ass, you pussy.

David and Nelson stop and look at David for guidance. He feels the pressure, he knows what they want to do. He only has a second before he has to decide.

JIMBO

Yeah, let's go kick some assholes ass.

The kids run across the park towards Ron waving the clubs and hollering. Ron continues to walk at the same pace as the kids reach him, David jumps the small, stone fence and swings his club at Ron who is just quick enough to block it with his case.

RON

What the fuck is this? Why don't you just go back and play. Fuck up people's shit. I don't care. Just get the fuck away from me.

Ron turns to walk away and Nelson runs towards him and shoves him. Ron loses his balance but regains it quick enough to sidestep Nelson's swing. Ron pushes him with the case.

RON (CONT'D)

Come on, let's not take this any further than we have to. No one's got hurt so let's keep it that way.

Now it's time for Jimbo to slowly walk towards Ron. Nelson scrambles to his feet and moves behind Jimbo.

JIMBO

I don't know. That seems like a good idea but I really don't think I'm in the mood for that.

When Jimbo rushes towards Ron, Ron uses the case as a shield as Jimbo forces Ron to spin around and fall on his stomach. Jimbo raises the club as Ron turns around pointing a pistol at them. Jimbo completes his swing but misses totally. Jimbo starts backing up when he sees the gun. Ron starts to get up as everyone moves backwards.

NELSON

Hey, man, we were just kidding. We weren't going to do anything to you.

They continue to back up as Ron gets up leaving the case on the ground. Ron's aim is level and unwavering.

RON

I'm pretty sure you're lying to me right now and I hate being lied to more than mistaken for a piece of sporting equipment. So why don't we go and have talk to your parents about the proper use of equipment.

JIMBO

Yeah, sure, that's a good idea.

RON

You've got to be careful these days. You never know who you're dealing with.

DAVID

Man, you've got that right.

Ron doesn't move but he closes his eyes and lowers the gun. They take this opportunity and Jimbo throws his club at Ron. The shaft of the club grazes Ron's head but does no damage.

The kids begin running as Ron opens his eyes and levels the gun. Ron is rock solid as he moves the gun to Jimbo who is in the lead followed by Nelson and then the David. Ron's stare becomes harder than we've seen before and he is about to pull the trigger.

Midway through squeezing the trigger he stops and puts the gun down by his side. Ron is dejected. The kids are 3/4's through the park when David looks back and sees that Ron has his gun by his side. David's voice echoes as they slow to a trot and begin to laugh.

DAVID (CONT'D)

We knew you didn't have the balls,  
asshole.

The laughing continues as Ron reaches into his coat, pulls out a silencer, screws it on, takes aim and expertly fires three head shots. The laughing stops.

Ron picks up his case, puts it on the little dividing wall, opens it to display a myriad of guns. It's obvious by this collection and his marksmanship that this is his job. He puts his pistol in, closes the case and picks it up. Ron takes one last look at the three prone kids and shakes his head.

RON

You just never know who you're  
dealing with.

Ron puts his headset on and continues down the street.

FADE OUT.