

A Story About Jim
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"A STORY ABOUT JIM"

BLACK SCREEN:

The NARRATOR (voice of a 45-year-old British man) can be heard humming to himself in the background.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
(Humming)

The sounds of a sink's running water can be heard in the background as he hums. Suddenly, the Narrator is alerted to the audience's presence.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
(Surprised)
Oh, excuse me. I didn't notice that
anyone was there. I was just
washing my hands.

The sound of faucet handles turning emerges from the background as the Narrator shuts the water off.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Let me guess, you're here for a
story?

The Narrator pauses for a moment, waiting for a response from the audience.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Are you nodding? I can't really see
you.
(Beat)
Oh, hang on. I can't see anything
in here.

The sounds of footsteps begin to emerge and slowly fade into the background as the Narrator walks away.

Then, the sound of a flicked light switch goes off, and the black screen disappears.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

After the light has been switched on, the screen is focused on a mural painted on the side of a building on an empty street.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
That's better. Now I can actually
see what I'm bloody looking at.

(Beat)
Anyway, what was I saying? Oh,
right, you wanted a story.

The scene still focuses on the empty street.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Well, listen, I can't promise you a
good story. Us narrators may seem
all high and mighty, but frankly,
we are seriously underpaid for our
job. Disembodied voices need to
eat, too, you know!

(Beat)
To be honest, I think it would be a
good thing if we unionized. Did you
know that I have been eating ramen
noodles for three weeks straight
now? I hate ramen noodles!

The camera is still focusing on the street and has not moved
for the entire time the Narrator has been talking.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Not to mention my wife left me.
Then my dog got hit by a car. Oh,
Sheila! That was my ex-wife's name,
not my dog.

(Beat)
Anyway... I was telling you a
story, right?

The camera, still focusing on the street, nods up and down.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Right.
(Beat)
Anyway. This is the story of a man-

As the Narrator speaks, a MAN (26) begins to walk into frame.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
(Angry)
Hey! Not you! Get out of here!

The man throws up his hands in confusion and disappointment
and then walks off-screen.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Like I was saying, this is a story
about a man. A man named Jim.

CUT TO:

A freeze frame of JIM (30, looks like he has not showered in days and is missing all his teeth) sloppily eating an ice cream cone as he walks down the street.

Neon letters spelling out Jim's name appear under the freeze frame of him.

The freeze frame then cuts off, and Jim continues to walk down the street, blissfully unaware of the Narrator talking about him.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Now Jim here is exactly what he
looks like...
(Beat)
A moron.

Jim then licks his ice cream and then accidentally knocks it off the cone, having it splatter all over the ground. Jim sorrowfully gazes down at the splattered ice cream.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Jim also happens to be almost
completely mute, on account of the
fact that when he was 19, someone
dared him to pull out all of his
teeth with a pair of pliers.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. COLLEGE DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Jim is seen at a college party with his many drunk friends cheering him on as he uses a pair of pliers to rip out his teeth.

When Jim pulls out a tooth, the entire crowd screams with excitement.

END OF
FLASHBACK:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jim is crouched over his ice cream on the ground.

He then gently pokes the ice cream with his finger as the Narrator continues to speak.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And since teeth are apparently quite important when it comes to talking, now whenever Jim tries to have a friendly conversation with anyone, his words just come out as indistinguishable gurgles.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - DAY

Jim is seen standing at the counter of the ice cream parlor, trying to talk to one of the employees, KAREN (17, wearing the store's uniform.)

JIM

(Spoken in
indistinguishable
gurgling)

Can I have chocolate ice cream,
please?

Karen stares at Jim, utterly confused beyond recognition.

END OF
FLASHBACK:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jim is still crouched on the street and begins trying to pick his ice cream off the ground and place the dirty food back in his cone.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And since teeth are also useful when it comes to chewing food so you don't choke and die, Jim also had to change his diet to only eating soft, mushy paste. Or ice cream.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jim is standing at his kitchen counter, placing a sandwich, a banana, and a chocolate chip cookie into an appliance one by one.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Fortunately, Jim bought a really
good juicer from a second-hand
retail appliance store.

Jim then flicks the on switch on his juicer, which causes a metal flap inside the device to slowly crush all the food contents.

Jim then places a glass under a nozzle attached to the device, to which the juiced foods pour out.

Jim takes a big gulp out of the glass, downing the whole thing. After he has finished his drink, he then takes a big sigh of relief after having eaten his meal.

END OF
FLASHBACK:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jim, now holding the disgusting ice cream cone in his hand, is staring at it cautiously after having picked it up off the ground.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Oh course, I'm sure you're probably
wondering why Jim didn't just get
dentures or some other form of
dental reconstruction surgery.

Jim then turns around to see Karen walking out of the ice cream shop, staring at him with a revolted look on her face.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Well, that is because Jim wasted
all of his money betting on a horse
race.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. HORSE TRACK - DAY

Jim is placing a huge stack of cash down at the counter of a gambling arena. Jim then takes out a picture of one of the brown horses in the race and points to it.

JIM
(Indistinguishable
gurgling)
I'm betting it all on Sparkles!

The WOMAN (37) behind the counter stares at Jim, unamused, as she takes his money.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Jim actually would have won the
bet, as he was trying to gamble on
the winning horse, Sparkles.

CUT TO:

SPARKLES (a brown horse wearing a number one trophy ribbon)
is seen trotting around in place.

CUT TO:

Jim cries and runs around in a panic as his money is given to
the winners of the bet.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Unfortunately, due to his
indistinguishable speech, the
bookie thought Jim was betting all
his money on Sprinkles.

CUT TO:

SPRINKLES (a brown horse who looks almost identical to
Sparkles) is seen standing defeatedly next to his RIDER (28).

NARRATOR (V.O.)
The horse that came in dead last.

His furious rider throws his helmet down on the ground,
screaming in rage, as he then starts kicking the horse's leg.

RIDER
(Screaming)
You stupid piece of crap!

CUT TO:

Jim is crying as he bangs on the window of the betting
counter, as security begins walking over.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
So now all of Jim's life savings
have been lost, and he can no
longer afford to get new teeth.

Security begins dragging a crying Jim away.

END OF
FLASHBACK:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jim is considering licking his filthy ice cream, as he slowly sticks his tongue out and begins to inch it closer and closer to the dessert.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
But fortunately, Jim was able to
get a part-time cashier job to help
pay the bills.

Karen runs over and begins to fight with Jim, trying to wrestle the gross ice cream cone out of his hands.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Which he was unfortunately fired
from after having terrorized a
small child with his nauseating,
toothless mouth.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. SUPER MARKET - DAY

Jim is standing at the cashier stand, checking out items for a MOTHER (43) and her SMALL CHILD (5).

As Jim is bagging the items, the small child waves at him and smiles.

Jim then waves back and smiles, revealing his toothless mouth.

SMALL CHILD
(Horrificed screaming)
AHHHHHHH!

END OF
FLASHBACK:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jim and Karen are still fighting over the ice cream cone as the Narrator continues to speak.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

But now Jim has a new job working
on a fisherman's boat. A place
where he is likely to not come
across any more small, easily
traumatized children.

Jim then punches Karen in the face so hard that it knocks her
out. As Karen falls to the ground unconscious, Jim takes his
ice cream and walks off-screen, licking it.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. FISHERMAN'S BOAT - DAY

Jim is working on a dirty fisherman's boat in the middle of a
thunderstorm.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Luckily for Jim, most of the people
he works with on that boat don't
have a lot of teeth either.

Jim pulls a net full of fish out of the ocean while a massive
wave crashes into the side of the boat, causing one of the
other workers to fall overboard. Jim looks over to where the
man fell, shrugs it off, and continues working.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And it is really easy to get a
promotion, assuming you have a good
balance.

END OF
FLASHBACK:

EXT. STREET - DAY

The street is empty again.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And that's my story. The end!

(Beat)

What? Is that not good enough for
you?

(Beat)

Well, if you want a good story, try
reading a book. I'm not paid enough
for this crap.

The sound of the Narrator walking away emerges. Then the
sound of a light switch going off goes off.

FADE TO BLACK: