

Worlds Unbroken

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY, SIDEWALK - MORNING

A thick mass of people walk down the sidewalk. The sound of honking horns as cars battle traffic.

JAKE, 20, exits a used bookstore holding a book. He opens to the first page, starts reading, and proceeds down the sidewalk, dodging people as he goes. He flips pages slowly as he walks.

Jake stops at an intersection. He flips a page. The walk sign turns on. Without looking up, Jake smiles and walks across the street.

Over Jake's shoulder, a middle-aged MAN crashes into LEILA, 26, as he crosses the street. Leila spills coffee on SATOCHI, 30. Leila reaches into her purse and pulls out a handkerchief. Jake flips another page.

Jake walks passed a long line of people at a bus stop. Over his shoulder, The BUS pulls up, people unload. The line begins to move forward as people get on. Jake grimaces.

The middle-aged man walks up to an elderly WOMAN in line, snatches her PURSE and runs off. The woman gets the attention of Satochi as he walks by and points at the man. Her voice cannot be heard over the city sounds. The bus pulls into traffic. Jake flips a page. Satochi runs after the man.

Jake crosses another intersection, dodging more people. He looks tense. Over his shoulder, the BUS hits Satochi at the intersection. Jake gasps still reading the book. The man escapes around a corner with the purse.

Leila rushes to Satochi, panic stricken. Other PEOPLE pull out cell phones. The DRIVER exits the bus, he waves his arms and yells but his voice is drowned out by the sound of sirens.

Jake turns a corner, walks two blocks, flipping a few more pages. Seen over his shoulder, the ocean, a bay with sailboats, people walking, some with children or animals, along the promenade.

Jake passes a HOSPITAL. Behind Jake we see the front doors of the hospital slide open and Leila exits pushing Satochi in a wheelchair. Satochi has a cast on an arm and leg.

Jake continues down the street between two buildings. Sun reflects off the glass and there's a flash of light. Jake sighs. He is several chapters deep in the book now. His eyebrows furrow and a bead of sweat falls down his face.

Jake continues through a scaffolding tunnel that blocks a construction site from the sidewalk. Wooden boards on the ceiling box the sidewalk in, construction signs are propped along the side of the walkway.

Behind Jake a BIKER pedals down the bike lane. A large steel beam crashes through the wooden boards on the ceiling pinning an unsuspecting PEDESTRIAN to the ground.

Jake stops, closes the book, takes a deep breath, opens the book again, and continues walking without looking up.

The biker hops off the bike, pulls out a cellphone, and runs to help. Jake flips a page. A group of construction workers run past Jake and crowd the injured pedestrian.

Jake stops at an intersection. An AMBULANCE zooms by, sirens blaring. The walk sign beeps and he continues down the sidewalk. After another block Jake passes a church.

A PRIEST stands at the doors. PEOPLE dressed in black trickle through the doors. Some leave down the street, others mingle on the stairs. Leila stands at the bottom of the steps and cries on Satochi's shoulder.

Jake stops beside the church SIGN. A picture of the Pedestrian is pinned behind the glass with text below that says: Funeral service for JOBE STETLER, beloved husband and father, to be held on Saturday June 28th at 3:30pm.

Jake grabs a kleenex from his pocket, sniffles, and blows his nose, still reading. He cuts through the church graveyard. The trees cast long shadows across the gravestones. He continues through a door in the iron fence and into an apartment courtyard; flowers bloom in the garden.

A fire alarm screeches and people race out the front doors of the apartment building.

Jakes eyes dash across the page as he reads faster.

Glass shatters, and shards fall from above. People crowd on the sidewalk and point to the third floor where smoke billows out a broken window. The elderly woman leans out holding her cat.

Jake maneuvers around the growing crowd and continues down

the street. At the next intersection a FIRETRUCK rumbles by, lights and sirens flashing.

Newsflash on a large billboard shows a picture of the bus driver with the headline: Good Samaritan Saves Elderly Woman From Burning Building.

Jake, near the end of his book, flips another page as he cuts through an alley. He chews on a fingernail.

Beside a dumpster stands the biker and the middle-aged man. He rummages through a backpack and pulls out a wad of cash. The biker takes the cash, reaches into his coat pocket and pulls out a police badge revealing himself to be an undercover cop.

A POLICE CAR skids around a corner into the alley, lights flashing, from the far end. The undercover cop handcuffs the middle-aged man and escorts him into the back of the cruiser.

Jake exits the alley onto a quiet residential street. Parked cars and trees line the sidewalk. He stops in front of a three story row house. Opens the gate, and walks up the front steps.

Jake, now on the last page, closes the book. The street lamps come on. A car door slams and Satochi helps a pregnant Leila out of the passenger seat. They walk to a neighbouring house. Jake waves at them, and enters his house. The front door shuts behind him.

FADE TO BLACK.