

IN THE MOMENT

Cody Navarro

2024

1. EXT. CITY STREET - EVENING

MAX (18), young and on the move, is power walking down the street, constantly checking his watch. His face is tense, his breathing quick. From behind, MASON (20), friendly and well-mannered, jogs to catch up, calm and curious.

MASON

Max! Hey Max! Where's the fire?

Max barely glances back, his pace quickening.

MAX

(rushed)

Can't talk Mason, I'm late!

MASON

(smirks)

Late for what? You're always late.  
What's one more time?

MAX

It's not "one more time"! This is  
THE time, Mason. If I don't get  
there in the next-

Max checks his watch

MAX

-ten minutes, I'm done. Over!  
Finished!

MASON

And where exactly is "there"?

Mason steps forward, blocking Max's path.

MAX

(trying to sidestep him)

It doesn't matter. Just move-  
please!

Mason gently grabs Max by the shoulder, stopping him.

MASON

(calm, steady)

It matters to me. What's got you  
worked up?

Max looks at him, torn between explaining and bolting.

MAX

(blurts out))

It's... it's an interview. The  
interview. The one I've been  
waiting months for. If I don't show  
up on time, I'll blow it, Mason.  
I'll blow everything!

Mason pauses, considering it. Max tries to break free but Mason holds firm.

MASON

Max... When was the last time you stopped? I mean really stopped.

MAX

(confused)

What? I don't have time for this!

MASON

You're always rushing somewhere. Always chasing the next thing. But when's the last time you bothered to look around? Take a breath?

Max stares incredulous.

MAX

Mason... I.. I don't have time to "look around" I have goals-things I need to do!

Mason nods, unfazed

MASON

Sure, sure, But what happens if you miss this one? What happens if you're late? Will the world stop spinning?

MAX

(yelling)

Yes! Yes! For me, it will!

Mason releases him, stepping back with a small, knowing smile. Max stands, slumped a little.

MAX

I can't fail. Not again.

MASON

You won't. But you're so scared of failing that you're missing everything else. The sounds, the sights...

Mason gestures around.

MASON

This moment.

Max looks around. The golden light of the sunset washes over the scene. For a moment, Max softens.

MASON  
Life's not a sprint, Max. It's a  
series of moments.

Mason smiles gently.

MASON  
And this-right now-this, this is  
one of them.

Max sighs. He lowers his watch, and nods slowly.

MAX  
I don't know id I can just stop.

MASON  
I'm not asking you to stop. I'm  
asking you to live.

Max looks at Mason, and for a moment it seems like the world  
slows.

MAX  
I'll think about it.

Mason gives a closed lipped smile.

MASON  
Okay.

MAX  
Okay.

Max takes a deep breath and starts jogging toward his  
destination. But this time, his stride is steadier, his face  
calmer.

THE END