

ANTIQUÉ PHONE SHOP

written by

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EXT. ANTIQUE PHONE SHOP - DAY

Between storefronts of a small-town strip mall that is desperately trying to emphasize its ongoing modernization, there stands a rustic Mom-and-Pop shop with a clean display of various land-line phones in the front window.

OWNER (V.O.)

The modern world is all about consumption. We use things up and we spit 'em out, there's no loyalty anymore.

INT. ANTIQUE PHONE SHOP - SAME

Along the walls there are several enticing models of phone, including two empty cans connected by a string.

Behind the counter are several 50's-style poster ads: "The only phone repair store that won't tell you to get a real therapist", "Xylophone 7 Coming soon! Now with More Notes", "Is your little cub scout spending too much time 'texting'?"

The OWNER (a Morgan Freeman-type) helps a CUSTOMER (picture a senile Kurt Russel).

OWNER (V.O.)

We think of our store as more of a community. We fix your phone, and we fix your heart. Metaphorically speaking.

The Customer places a child's toy megaphone on the counter.

CUSTOMER

When I call my wife, I can't hear her on the other end.

The owner scratches his head.

EXT. ANTIQUE PHONE SHOP - LATER

A HIPSTER (young, any gender) addresses the camera directly, proudly displaying a Blackberry and giving a testimonial of their experience.

HIPSTER

They sold me this refurbished phone from the 1920s, and oh boy, do I feel cool!

LATER

The megaphone Customer from earlier stands where the Hipster stood also speaks to the camera.

CUSTOMER

I visit the store multiple times a week. After my son died, it's sort of all I have.

EXT. ANTIQUE PHONE SHOP - LATER

The repeat-Customer approaches the store. He stops in front of a trash can and pulls out a flip phone.

He snaps it in half. Ditches the pieces in the can.

He walks through the shop entrance, saying...

CUSTOMER

Lost my phone again! Can you believe it?

INT. CUSTOMER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Customer comes in through the front door. He has a moment to register, on the dining room table, a birthday cake with 81 tiny lit candles, before--

WIFE

SURPRISE!

His WIFE (basically Frances McDormand) pops out of nowhere and holds out a gift-wrapped parcel.

LATER

He opens the package and is surprised to see:

Indestructiphone Infinity

WIFE

(so excited)

It's the Indestructiphone. It can't be broken, it never dies, and GPS tracking is always on.

She looks briefly over her shoulder at a PHOTO OF A YOUNG MAN.

WIFE (CONT'D)

We've lost so much in this life, I thought you'd want something no one can ever take away from you.

The Customer chokes back tears.

CUSTOMER

I love it.

EXT. KIDS' PARK - DAY

Small children crawl and jump around a cheap-looking play structure. Two PARENTS shoot weird glances at the Customer, huddled next to a rock.

He SLAMS the Indestructiphone against it.

SLAM.

SLAM.

CUSTOMER
(Sobbing)
Break, damn you!

INT. PHONE REPAIR STORE - DAY

The Customer walks to the counter and hands the Owner his Indestructiphone. The screen is cracked.

The Owner looks it over briefly, then peels a novelty Cracked-Screen sticker off of it.

OWNER
This isn't broken. It's just a sticker.

CUSTOMER
(howling in despair)
I'm so alone

The Owner comes around the counter and grips him into a tight hug.

OWNER
There, there. This is what we're here for.