

# Common Cents

an original screenplay  
by  
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FADE IN.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

A polite high school student named GEORGE, dressed in his pajamas, comes into the kitchen of his house where GEORGE'S MOTHER, drinking coffee, is standing at the counter.

GEORGE'S MOTHER

Hello dear. Did you sleep well?

GEORGE

Yeah I did, thanks.

GEORGE'S MOTHER

George, I have something for you.

(reaching into her pocket)

This is something that's been passed down for generations and now I want you to have it.

George's mother hands him an old rusty penny from her pocket.

GEORGE'S MOTHER

It's always brought my family good luck. And I think you'll need it... your grade in physics has been going down lately, and your boss at Subway called to ask why you haven't been going in.

GEORGE

(taking penny and looking at it)

Oh, uh thanks. I'll work on it.

GEORGE'S MOTHER

Keep it in a safe place.

George puts the penny in his pocket.

INT. WALPOLE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

George walks down the hallway with his backpack on. His friend VICTOR, a worried but awkward nerd, sees him and starts walking next to him.

VICTOR

He dude, I heard there's going to be a pop quiz in physics! Did

you study at all?

GEORGE

No! Thanks for telling me...

VICTOR

Well, good luck... You're gonna need it 'cause I hear when Mrs. Kraft has a bad day, she grades tough. Especially when she hasn't gotten her Daily Subway sandwich yet.

GEORGE

(reaching into pocket)

Yeah, thanks...

(panicked and searching in pocket)

Where's that penny?!

(looking around)

Oh no!

INT. SCHOOL LOBBY

A short, messily dressed freshman girl is walking. This is PETUNIA.

She spots the penny on the ground and picks it up.

PETUNIA

(beaming)

Yay, I found a penny!

Suddenly the penny is knocked forcefully out of her hands by another person's fist. The fist belongs to ROLF, a husky bully wearing clunky boots and baggy clothes.

PETUNIA

(shocked)

Hey! That was mine!

Rolf picks up the penny and walks away chuckling.

Petunia looks at him sadly.

ROLF

(over shoulder and sarcastically)

Oh, sorry Petunia!

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

With the lucky penny clutched in his fist, Rolf walks confidently down the hall but bumps into URSULA, a popular, preppy girl with long blonde hair, who has just come around the corner.

Ursula looks very annoyed and glares at Rolf.

URSULA

(shrilly)

Rolf why don't you look where you're going! Especially when you know your girlfriend is about to come this way. Because you've memorized my schedule, right?

ROLF

Uhhh I'm working on it, hon. Meanwhile, how can I express my regret for bumping into you? With a penny, perhaps?

Rolf holds the penny in his open hand.

URSULA

(with a disgusted face)

Thanks...

Ursula takes the penny as if it is a dirty sock and walks away, holding it away from her with two fingers.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

A girl with a green tee shirt and holding a box decorated with puppies and kittens stands on one side of the hallway. She holds the box out to a group of kids walking by. They ignore her. This humane society enthusiast is GRETA.

GRETA

(looking after group)

Any donation will help!

Ursula is still holding the penny out like a dead mouse by the tail.

She suddenly looks ecstatic and walks up to Greta.

URSULA

Here, would you like this for your little fund-raiser?

GRETA

(raises eyebrows)

That's not a lot to give... You know what? I'm not going to take such a small amount.

Greta opens the box and takes out the penny, hurling it to the floor.

Ursula shrugs and walks away.

A teacher casually dressed, who has come up the hallway, picks up the penny. This is MRS. KRAFT.

MRS. KRAFT

(scoldingly)

I didn't think I'd ever see the day when Greta Jones littered...

INT. PHYSICS CLASSROOM

George takes a difficult pop quiz as Mrs. Kraft looks on at the class angrily. Victor is sitting next to him.

MRS. KRAFT

(angrily)

OK! Turn in your quizzes right now!

Victor turns to George after passing in his paper.

VICTOR

She's in a really bad mood. She doesn't have a subway sandwich with her. So, how'd you do?

GEORGE

(shaking head)

If she's not happy, then I'm definitely not going to do well.

(to himself)

And I can't even find my lucky penny.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

George's mother drops him off at his job, a Subway restaurant. He is wearing his uniform. He waves to his mother as he gets out of the car.

INT. SUBWAY RESTAURANT

George is standing behind the counter in an empty restaurant when Mrs. Kraft walks in.

GEORGE

Hi...

MRS. KRAFT

Hello, George... would you make me  
Make me a number seven with  
lettuce, tomatoes, onions, black  
olives, peppers, swiss cheese, and  
turkey. No mayonnaise.

GEORGE

(nervously)

OK, hold on...

George makes the sandwich shakily, and while dropping food by accident. When he finishes they both go over to the cash register. He rings up the price and Mrs. Kraft pays him in bills.

She sits down to eat, and George nervously watches her take the first bite.

Mrs. Kraft chews thoughtfully, nods her head, and then goes up to the counter.

MRS. KRAFT

(smiling and chewing)

George, this is an excellent  
sandwich. Let me give you a tip.

Mrs. Kraft reaches into her pocket and finds the penny.

MRS. KRAFT

Oh dear, is a penny alright?

Mrs. Kraft puts the penny into the tip jar on the counter.

She walks out of the building with her sandwich, and George watches her. When the door closes, he jumps for the jar, takes out the penny, looks at it and laughs, and throws it up in the air to catch it.

FADE OUT.