

KEY TO THE CITY

THE STORY: Each morning for the past four years, Andy has woken up in the body of a different person in the five boroughs of New York City. Some days he is Black, other days White, Asian or Hispanic. Sometimes he is young, other times a senior citizen. Some mornings he is a man, others a woman. Some days he's in the best of health, other days he is wheelchair-bound or dying of cancer. Every morning is a surprise, a new name, new relatives, and new surroundings. And Andy has no knowledge of the person whose body he inhabits that day. He has to learn everything on the fly, which is complicated when on some days he wakes up with a wife or a husband or children. Some days he wakes up in a warm bed. On a few occasions, he has woken up in an alley or an abandoned building. He has been a rich banker from the Upper West Side and a poor immigrant in Koreatown. He has been husbands and wives, mothers and fathers sons and daughters. He was even a NY Yankee once!

Whatever body he wakes up in, Andy knows he has a mystery to solve. Somehow, some benevolent force is guiding him. Andy isn't sure who or what has orchestrated this life for him. He considers himself part of New York's natural defense system. But Andy isn't saving the city from bombs or natural disasters. He's protecting it, one person at a time, by getting involved in someone's life, helping him or her stay strong, be brave, or make a change. He guided a woman not to commit suicide following the death of her wife. He helped an Asian teenager avoid running away from home. He helped a battered wife and her kids leave her abusive husband. And he helped a reporter find the courage to publish his piece on corporate corruption. So many lives. So many stories. And in saving just one person a day, affecting one life, Andy is helping the city entirely. And at the end of that day, when Andy goes to sleep... BAM... he wakes up in another body, in another borough with a new mission to complete.

On most days, Andy feels blessed to play such a role, but it can be difficult. His is a lonely existence, never spending more than 24 hours with people, and then suddenly he's off to the next life. The only constant in his life is his daily cup of Joe at GOTHAM GROUNDS, his favorite NY coffee shop. Andy usually calls in sick for the person he is controlling. It wouldn't do for him to go to a hospital just because he is in the body of a surgeon since he would have no idea how to practice medicine. All he knows is what he knows. And his knowledge only stretches back four years. Before this life of hopping from one person to the next, Andy has no memory of his own existence, of who he was or where he came from. His only clue to his own identity is a single MEMORY of a white MAN and an Asian WOMAN sitting on a bench in Central Park. He has no idea who they are or what they mean to him. Are they husband and wife? Brother and sister? Was he the man? Was he the woman? Are they his children? His friends? Whatever task the city sets for him on any given day, he is always on the lookout for the people from his memory. If he can find them, maybe he can discover who he is and why this has happened to him.

They say that New York City has a million stories. Andy is going to live each one, providing hope and strength to those who need it. He is the Key to the City.

