

Tickets

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FADE IN:

EXT. THOMAS'S HOUSE. DRIVEWAY - DAY

IT IS RAINING HEAVILY. It is Saturday. We see two pairs of shod woman's feet, either side of a Citroen Picasso, get out of their respective driver and passenger doors. LESLIE on driver and SARAH on passenger. Their feet splash about slightly in small puddles.

The back passenger doors are opened by the women, two pairs of Wellington booted children's feet clamber out, one pair to each side. JADE on Sarah's side and THOMAS on Leslie's side. Jade has pink themed Wellingtons, Thomas has blue.

The four hurry away from the car in the direction of Leslie and Thomas's front door.

INT. THOMAS'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

THE SKY OUTSIDE IS CLOUDY AND GREY. Thomas is a ten year old boy. Jade is a ten year old girl. They are 'boyfriend and girlfriend'.

Inside the small, first-time-buyer's house, in a rural village, in Cornwall, Thomas and Jade sit together on a set of cushions by an unlit fireplace near the living room window.

Together they read a picture book about birds living in the Bahamas, because they're not allowed to watch TV that day.

The living room has early 1990s built in display cabinets with various ornaments inside. None of the furniture looks new, except for the TV and related entertainment technology.

Half-an-hour earlier they had both been soaked whilst outside with their mothers coming back from doing the weekly shop.

THOMAS

I don't wanna go outside ever
again.

JADE

Me neither.

They hear a crack of thunder, put the book down and stand on tiptoes to look out the window beside them. Big fat raindrops have begun to fall, and in the distant sky flashes of lightning go through the countryside.

Thomas and Jade look back at the picture book on the floor and then back to the window.

JADE (CONT'D)

If only we could go there.

Jade points at the picture book.

THOMAS

Does look warm. It's not like it's even snowed here. Just rain and more rain. Wet and cold.

JADE

My parents were watching a TV show last night, and on it this man was saying how the winters were going to get even more cold here.

THOMAS

Really?

JADE

And wet.

THOMAS

Really?

JADE

Really.

THOMAS

I want to go somewhere warmer.

JADE

Maybe we could go there, my aunt Mille went to the Bahamas last year, I think. She said it was warm and lovely.

THOMAS

Anywhere is better than here, but it would be really nice to go there. The book makes it seem real nice.

Jade's mum, Sarah, appears from the kitchen doorway.

SARAH

Time to go hon. Go get your coat and shoes.

Sarah goes back in the kitchen and Thomas gives Jade a quick, small kiss on the cheek. Jade hugs Thomas and then stomps out of the living room, not really wanting to leave. Thomas is left by himself, staring at the picture book on the floor.

INT. THOMAS'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

It is the following day and Thomas and Jade are playing on a Nintendo Wii on the living room's flat screen TV, the game is 'Mario Kart Wii' and the children each have a fake steering wheel in their hands that holds the actual controller.

Thomas's dad, ADRIAN, is reading the 'Observer On Sunday' whilst sat in a comfy armchair. The previous day's paper is beside him.

THOMAS

Ah, c'mon -- YES! I've won.

Thomas puts down his controller, shoots up and begins a little victory dance. Jade looks up at him with a jealous glance.

JADE

Only 'cause you used the blue shell on me. It's so unfair, I hardly got any good items during that last race.

Adrian puts down his paper.

ADRIAN

Kids, it's just a game. Anyway--

Adrian picks up yesterday's paper and holds it out for the kids.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

You should have a look at this. There's some nice photos of the Bahamas here.

Adrian gives Thomas a travel supplement, folded on a page about the Bahamas.

THOMAS

Thanks dad.

Thomas takes the supplement, and plods over to Jade and sits back down beside her with the page open to both of them. The Wii is ignored. Adrian levers himself out of his armchair and heads for the door to the hallway, he leaves and there's the sound of him going up creaky stairs.

JADE

Look! You can fly there on an airplane. That bit says you can.

THOMAS

Oh yeah. Hey, we should get tickets to go there.

JADE

How?

THOMAS

There's a phone number. 'Ring now to book tickets. Pay over the phone with your credit or debit card.'

JADE

Your mum or dad must have one of those cards, right?

THOMAS

Sure. OK, you grab the phone from the bottom of the stairs, and go to the garage. I'll meet you there.

JADE

What are you going to do?

THOMAS

Get dad's card.

Thomas and Jade scamper off in different directions. Thomas to the hallway door and the stairs, Jade towards the kitchen door.

INT. THOMAS'S HOUSE. GARAGE - MORNING

Rather than have a car inside, this garage is swamped with various gardening and DIY items, and belongings that have nowhere else to go. Jade is sat on a small, cloth, folding chair.

The cordless phone is gripped tightly in her hands. A similar chair has been set up beside hers. She is shivering slightly as it is cold in the garage. An unshaded light bulb casts a gloomy glow around.

Thomas finally enters through the small door in the back and closes it, and doggedly makes his way over to Jade. He holds aloft Adrian's credit card and the travel supplement.

JADE

Who's going to do the talking?

Thomas sits down.

THOMAS

You do it. You sound a bit more grown up than me.

JADE

If you're sure. Can you put the number in the phone?

Jade holds out the phone, and Thomas exchanges it for the credit card. He carefully inputs the number that's in the supplement.

THOMAS
Here, hold it up to your ear
before it's answered.

Jade takes the phone.

She pulls the handset away to press the button.

JADE
Err, um, two--

She listens to it again. She pulls the handset away to press the button.

JADE (CONT'D)
One--

She listens to it again. She pulls the handset away to press the button.

JADE (CONT'D)
Four.

She listens to it again.

JADE (CONT'D)
I didn't do it right.

Jade hands the phone over to Thomas.

THOMAS
Fine, I'll try and do the
numbers.

Thomas presses the hang-up button, and then dials the phone number again and holds the phone up to his ear. He then pulls it away and presses the button.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Two--

He listens to it again. He pulls the handset away to press the button.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
One--

He listens to it again. He pulls the handset away to press the button.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Five-- Quick, you better have it
back.

Thomas pushes the handset into Jade's hand and she holds it up to her ear.

JADE
Hello? Yes, we would like two tickets to--

Jade quickly studies the ad in the supplement.

JADE (CONT'D)
To Nass-a-u in the Bahamas.
Please.

Jade listens intently to the phone.

JADE (CONT'D)
Yes, return. £2000 per ticket?
My card number, which number is that?

Jade's forehead furrows.

JADE (CONT'D)
Oh, we are adults!

Jade passes the phone to Thomas.

JADE (CONT'D)
She hung up.

Thomas looks sternly at the supplement.

THOMAS
It says here that we can buy tickets at the airport. We need to go to Heathrow.

JADE
At the bus station there's a big bus that keeps going there that has 'Heathrow' on the front. Mummy says that it goes up country.

Thomas appears to be deep in thought.

THOMAS
OK. After school tomorrow, meet at the bus stop with your spare stuff bag, and your pocket money. We're gonna go and get that big bus.

EXT. BUS STATION - AFTERNOON

The weather is still gloomy. The bus station is busy with people going home from shopping, college, secondary school, and work. Thomas and Jade enter the building at the bus station and go to the ticket desk.

A middle-aged woman with a name badge declaring her as 'YVONNE' looks down at the two children.

THOMAS

Can we please have two tickets on the next bus to Heathrow?

YVONNE

Excuse me?

JADE

Could we please have two tickets to Heathrow?

YVONNE

Where are your parents?

JADE

They're waiting in the car.

YVONNE

I'm sorry, but I can't sell tickets to children. Good day.

YVONNE pulls down the screen in front of the desk. Jade and Thomas skulk back outside.

THOMAS

Maybe we can sneak on the big bus?

JADE

What if they don't sell to us at Heathrow?

THOMAS

We'll sneak on the plane.

JADE

I dunno.

It starts to rain, and the pair cower under the bus station's canopy.

JADE (CONT'D)

OK, we'll sneak on the bus.

The two go and wait by a wall that is near where the coach for Heathrow will pull in.

Half-an-hour passes. The two children are now looking bored and tired. Suddenly the coach to Heathrow comes in. They wake themselves up and start glancing around for a way to sneak on.

The coach driver gets off the bus and starts helping people to load their luggage into the compartments underneath. Whilst they are sure no one is looking at them, Thomas and Jade swiftly get on the bus and jog to the back.

No one else is on there at the moment. They hide on the back seats.

Thomas and Jade look at each other in worry when they sneak a peek at some police officers outside. The pair duck down into the foot wells in front of the back seats.

Now they cannot see around the coach or outside. They hear HEAVY SHOES climb up into the coach. Thomas peeks around the seat in front of him and sees a POLICEMAN.

People are starting to talk in high voices outside.

POLICEMAN

I know you're on here. So,
please, come out from where you
are.

Jade gives Thomas a worried glance.

JADE

(Whispering to Thomas)
Should we?

THOMAS

(Whispering to Jade)
Better do.

Thomas stands up and then Jade does as well. Thomas leads the way towards the Policeman.

POLICEMAN

Very good. Well, I expect your
parents are worried about you.

The three of them slowly walk off the coach.

INT. THOMAS'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Adrian is sat with Thomas and Jade on the sofa. The MUTTERING of Sarah, Leslie and NICK can be heard dimly coming from the kitchen.

THOMAS

We just wanted to go somewhere
warmer. We still do.

ADRIAN

I know. It's just kids can't just go and run off like that. Adults normally can't either. It's not safe.

THOMAS

We're sorry.

ADRIAN

I know.

Sarah opens the door from the kitchen, and steps into the living room, followed by Leslie, and Nick. The three of them stand in front of the sofa.

SARAH

We have come to an agreement. Thomas, Sarah, you are both grounded for a week. You're not allowed to go to each other's houses. You may only see each other at school.

Leslie clears her throat to speak.

LESLIE

However, we have decided that during the summer holidays this year... we will all go on a holiday, together, to Southern France.

NICK

Believe me, it'll be warm enough for all of us there.

Thomas, Jade and Adrian get off the sofa. Adrian, Leslie and Thomas hug each other. Jade, Sarah and Nick hug each other.

FADE OUT.