

Taking Flak - Extract

EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY

Tommy and Jack amble across the pedestrianised area. Dorian spies them, does an 'invisible glass wall' mime, positions himself directly ahead of Tommy and Jack's path and opens an invisible door, gestures them to step through.

Tommy ignores the mimed wall. Jack, fascinated goes along with it, steps through the door. Dorian 'welcomes' him in like a long lost friend. Tommy rolls his eyes as he watches.

Dorian gestures Jack to wait, grabs up an invisible bunch of balloons from nearby and mimes having trouble keeping his balance as they threaten to pull him into the air.

Dorian just manages to hand Jack one of the 'balloons' before being dragged away. It's a terrible mime but Jack chuckles.

Dorian loves the reaction. He lets go of all his balloons and finds his feet again. He gestures Jack to do the same.

Jack shoots Dorian a conspiratorial grin and launches his balloon into the air. Dorian salutes Jack like an overacting American movie star, then breaks into a wide, genuine smile.

Jack's reluctant to leave as Dorian carries on miming fear of stepping onto the invisible tightrope chalk line again. Tommy grabs Jack's hand.

JACK

Can we put a coin in his hat, dad?

TOMMY What for?

JACK My balloon.

TOMMY It's not real, Jack.

JACK

Well I could see it.

Tommy sighs and pulls Jack away.

TOMMY

Come on, we don't wanna be late for your mum.

11.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Jack and Tommy sit at a table, Jack slurps another milkshake. They look up as Emma rushes in through the door.

EMMA

Sorry, couldn't get parked.

Tommy smiles a weak, sad smile at Emma.

TOMMY Wanna go for pizza?

Jack breaks into a wide, hopeful grin.

JACK Can we, mum?

EMMA (aimed at Tommy)

Dinner would be nice... with your old dad... but he needs to book an appointment first. Maybe next time.

Emma touches Tommy's arm leans forward, appears to be offering a kiss but she leans close to Tommy's ear, pulls a business card from her pocket and shoves it in his hand.

EMMA

This is the counsellor I'm seeing.

If not him, find one of your own. It's now or never, Tommy.

Tommy closes his eyes, breathes Emma in. He nods as she pulls away. He understands. He pockets the card.

EMMA

Come on Jack, we have to hurry.

Linda's already made us dinner and she's parked on yellow lines.

Jack jumps from his chair and follows her to the door.

EXT. CAFE - DAY

Tommy follows Emma and Jack out through the door. Jack hugs his dad, both reluctant to let go.

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TOMMY

See ya next week buddy.

He watches his wife and son into the distance. Jack recounts his happy experience with the invisible balloon as he walks alongside his mum, hand-in-hand.