## <u>YMMOT</u>

Screenplay by James Ryan and Simon Calligan Story by James Ryan

An act of kindness leads a young boy to a far-reaching implication.

FADE IN:

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

A young boy's face.

TOMMY (9), walks across an inner city playground.

Children play by a slide.

Tommy stops as a little girl runs past - ASHLEY (3), carries a pink ice-cream cone in her hand.

He looks at Ashley, then continues to walk toward a gate.

## A BENCH

A woman stands by the bench, **VICKY** (26), sunglasses on, she videos with a mobile phone. She angles the phone, trying to get better view of Ashley.

on the bench sits - MARK (34), also with sunglasses, he chats to a couple of guys.

## PLAYGROUND

Ashley trips, knocks her butt on the ground next to the slide as other children run around her.

Ashley sits up, still holding on to the cone but the icecream's dropped to the ground. She looks around and starts to cry.

Other children ignore her and keep playing.

## VICKY

brings her phone to Mark, shows him the screen.

PHONE SCREEN: Ashley sits on the ground, looks around at other children, crying.

Vicky laughs as Mark chuckles. Mark gets up and walks toward Ashley, smiling at her.

Vicky follows Mark, but taps him on the shoulder, as...

VICKY

Wait!

She gently pulls on Mark's jacket and, shows him the phone.

PHONE SCREEN: Tommy carries two ice-cream cones and halts next to Ashley.

Ashley looks up at Tommy and looks between the ice-creams.

The ice-creams are two different colors.

Ashley slowly stops crying and snivels.

Tommy hands Ashley the blue ice-cream.

Ashley shakes her head, and points at the pink one.

Tommy thinks... then hands Ashley the pink ice-cream.

VICKY

looks at Mark, both astonished. Vicky checks the phone.

Mark looks at Tommy.

ASHLEY

grabs the ice-cream from Tommy's hand as Tommy saunters away with the blue ice-cream.

VICKY

takes a double-looks at Tommy then with Mark, they return to the bench. Mark sits. Vicky stands and moves the phone around, looking for Tommy. She stops when...

PHONE SCREEN: Tommy talks to a young girl: LELIA (7).

TOMMY

chats to Lelia.

YMMOT

Sorry, I dropped it. But you can have mine.

LELIA

You dropped it? Where?

TOMMY

There.

Tommy points to where Ashley dropped her ice-cream.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I'll show you.

LELIA

It's okay. I see it. But you don't have to give me yours.

TOMMY

(defeated)

I do. I dropped yours. I have to give you mine. And I'm not that hungry. Just take it.

LELIA

You didn't drop my ice-cream. You gave it to that little girl. I saw you. You were right there.

Tommy looks closely at Lelia.

TOMMY

Okay. You can eat half and leave half to me. 'Cause I'm not that hungry.

Lelia pretends like an adult, takes a deep breath and...

LELIA

Okay! It's because blue is also my favorite.

YMMOT

(flashes a smile)

Thanks!

Lelia grabs the ice-cream from Tommy's hand, walks away.

Tommy turns around, goes to the other children and joins them to play.

VICKY

and Mark are talking to other adults next to the bench. Mark points at Tommy as other adults follow his eye-line.

MARK

Whose kid is that?

MAN #1

(looks away)

Who?

MARK

There! The one...

Another man cuts in.

MAN #2

Oh! Those kids play in a group? (clears throat)
They're from a Church, I think.

Vicky talks to a woman, and points at Tommy.

VTCKY

The one's in a blue T-shirt.

WOMAN

Oh, those kids there?

VICKY

Yeah.

WOMAN

They're with Sister Leah. She's always brought them up here. They're from a Church. St. August... St. Augustine. Why? You want to adopt him?

Mark overhears the conversation, turns to Vicky. She looks back to Mark.

Vicky looks at the woman.

VICKY

Ye--ah. We are. If he's not somebody else's kid.

Vicky slowly turns to Mark again. He looks back.

INT. CHURCH - OFFICE - DAY

Vicky and Mark sit at a desk, opposite SISTER LEAH (45), a Sister in St. Augustine Church.

She smiles at Vicky and Mark.

TEAH

We've had him since he was a baby. Tommy is a good boy. Everybody here loves him. I should let you know that he has to choose you, too.

Vicky and Mark turn at each other, look back at Sister Leah.

VICKY

What do you mean?

LEAH

Tommy already rejected a few other couples who came before you. So, if you get turn-downed, don't feel bad because it's his nature.

VICKY

No! No. Not at all. It's just that when we showed her the video, she laughed and shied. She really liked him. We can tell. I think he'd like her too, if he sees her.

LEAH

I understand. What I'm telling you is just a precaution so you don't feel bad about him.

Vicky nods, agreed.

MARK

Well, if he's not going to come then we shouldn't force him either. We're not that kind of couples who demand things. Not like that.

VICKY

Well...

(beat)

Let's take this up to him. See, how it plays out. We want him to come willingly.

(beat)

His name's Tommy?

LEAH

(smiles)

Yes, it is. We'll go and see him.

Sister Leah motions them to the door.

INT. CHURCH - DINING HALL - DAY

Three rows of tables line in the dining hall - children at the tables, eat lunch. Ten tables in each row.

The hall is wide, neat and clean.

The children talk and laugh.

Tommy and Lelia sit at a table, eating. Lelia pokes a potato with her fork, carefully brings it to Tommy's tray. He turns to Lelia, gently shakes his head and flashes a smile.

Lelia drops the potato in Tommy's tray, bites her lip and smiles with her mouth closed.

LELIA

You want some more corn?

Tommy moves his tray away from Lelia.

Lelia gets the picture, and smiles.

To the end of the hall - a double door entrance.

ENTRANCE

The door pushes to open...

ТОММУ

looks up.

**ENTRANCE** 

Vicky and Mark ENTER, smile. Sister Leah stands beside them, she also smiles.

Tommy smiles back at them.

Other children say "Hi" to Sister Leah, lowers their voices as they continue to talk and eat.

Vicky and Mark sit a couple of tables away from Tommy and Lelia. Vicky smiles at Tommy, and gives him a wave.

Tommy slowly waves back.

Lelia scans between Tommy and Vicky, wondering. Her face turns pale, seems to know what is happening. She shifts her eyes away, lost in thought.

Tommy puts his fork down, rises from his seat and slowly walks over to Vicky.

Sister Leah watches in amazement, follows his every move - her eyes agog.

Lelia too, holds her gaze on Tommy as he walks closer.

Tommy stops next to Vicky, and reaches his hand out to her.

TOMMY

I'm Tommy.

Vicky quickly stands and takes his hand, and with a grin...

VICKY

Vicky!

They shake hands. Vicky turns to Mark, and Tommy follows.

VICKY (CONT'D)

This is my husband, Mark.

Tommy reaches out as Mark leans over the table, grabs his hand and shakes.

ТОММУ

Tommy.

Mark nods, smiles.

As Mark sits back down, Tommy scans between them.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Have we met before?

Vicky sits, gestures for Tommy to sit.

Tommy turns to a seat, sits.

VICKY

We have. A few days ago at the Children's park. You don't remember us, but we remember you.

Tommy shifts his gaze between Vicky and Mark.

VICKY (CONT'D)

Do you remember à littlé girl dropped her ice-cream?

TOMMY

(nods)

Yes.

VICKY

She's our daughter.

Tommy flashes a smile.

Sister Leah is still amazed. Her eyes redden to fill with tears. She holds her emotion, moves over to Vicky and touches her shoulder.

Sister Leah shifts her eye between Vicky and Mark.

**T.EAH** 

You two take your time. I'll be in the office.

Sister Leah turns to Tommy, grabs his head and kisses him.

She turns to leave, her eyes filling with tears.

LELIA

watches, her eyes too, begin to fill with tears. She watches as Sister Leah leaves with her hand to her face.

Lelia drops her head, and a tear spills down her cheek. She wipes away the tear and watches as --

VICKY

hands Tommy her phone, with a smile.

Tommy reaches for the phone and looks...

PHONE SCREEN: Ashley looks around, crying.

Tommy chuckles.

Vicky turns at Mark and smiles. She reaches over to Tommy, and touches his hand over the phone.

VICKY

(softly)

Her name is Ashley. And she's going to be your little sister.

Tommy smiles, and returns the phone to Vicky.

TOMMY

She looks spoiled.

VICKY

(laughs)

She is. But we know you're going to take good care of her.

ТОММУ

How old is she?

VICKY

She's three. And you are?

TOMMY

Nine.

Tommy's eyes flick toward Lelia, as Lelia walks past. She spots his gaze. He follows her movement as she leaves the hall. He turns back to Vicky and Mark.

Vicky stands. Mark follows.

VICKY

Welcome to the family!

TOMMY

Thank you!

MARK

You're most welcome.

Tommy smiles.

INT. CHURCH - OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

Deep brown wood lines the walls.

Sister Leah, Vicki and Mark, group together.

LEAH

We'll call and let you know when everything is taken care of.

VICKY

We're not rushing. Just let us know when he's ready. We can wait.

LEAH

Thank you for this. We started to worry about him. We didn't know it would be you guys.

MARK

(smiles)

We didn't know either.

VICKY

We felt that he is the one. Mark didn't hesitate when I talked to him about accepting Tommy.

LEAH

Do you believe in faith?

VICKY

Of course, we do. Otherwise, we wouldn't be here now.

Sister Leah smiles.

EXIT

Vicky and Mark push the double-doors of the exit open wide, and... the sun SHINES in between them as they exit.

FADE TO WHITE:

FADE IN:

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

The sun SHINES on...

TOMMY'S FACE

as his eyes open.

Tommy lies on the grass in the playground. He rubs his eyes and looks around, blinking in the glare.

TOMMY'S POV - Children scamper around the playground, running and laughing, occasionally screaming.

He gets up, and walks slowly toward the children, and past them, on toward a...

SWING

Lelia's stood next to the swing. She gestures "Hi" to him.

Tommy returns the gesture with a wave.

Lelia smiles back.

Tommy walks to the children playing by the slide. As he gets closer, he sees a little girl carrying an ice-cream cone.

It's Ashley.

Ashley looks up, sees Tommy - she runs to him, excited.

She pretends to trip and fall - flops lamely in front of Tommy - ice-cream, firmly held in her hand.

Tommy smiles, leans down and helps her back up.

Ashley tries to feed Tommy with her ice-cream.

Tommy bite his lips and moves his mouth away.

TOMMY

Hmm... No.

BENCH

Vicky and Mark look down at the phone, both chuckle.

PHONE SCREEN: Tommy's face full of ice-cream, as Ashley feeds him.

ТОММУ

open his mouth wide and pretends to take a big bite off the ice-cream.

Ashley giggles.

VICKY

Turns to Mark and puts the phone into her pocket.

Vicky and Mark stand, walk away from the bench.

They pass Lelia and other children playing by the swings.

Vicky looks back at Tommy.

VICKY

Tommy! Come on, take her to the car, hon. Time to go home.

LELIA

on a swing, kicking her feet to sway, watches Tommy.

Tommy runs a few steps away from Ashley. She follows him.

Tommy looks back and turns around.

Ashley runs toward him, hands out-stretched.

ASHLEY

(babbling)

TOMMY! TOMMY!

Tommy bands, and opens his arms, ready for Ashley.

FADE OUT.