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INT. INSIDE THE TERMINAL - DAY

MIKE MCDOWELL (36), JAKE MCDOWELL (10), and MELANIE "MEL" RODGERS (34) wait at the security checkpoint. Mike and Mel hold hands, and Jake looks at them with contempt.

MEL

Can we get something to eat when we get through? Do you think we have time.

MIKE

Sure. We'll have plenty of time. What do you say, Jake. I think they have a MacDonald's.

JAKE

Sure, whatever.

MEL

I love MacDonald's. The french fries are great.

An awkward silence.

MEL (CONT'D)

Oh god, I hate these lines. They take forever. I think if you have a kid under ten years old, you should get to go right on through.

MIKE

I know what you mean.

JAKE

If they did that, terrorists would just get kids my age to hijack planes.

MEL

I guess you're right. There's no real solution to airport security. It's either fast and ineffective or slow and thorough.

JAKE

Would you please stop agreeing with everything I say? You're not going to win me over that easy.

MIKE

Jake!

JAKE

WHAT!?

MIKE

Behave yourself.

JAKE

She's agreeing with what I say.

MIKE

And what's wrong with that?

JAKE

It's annoying.

MEL

I'm sorry. I'm not doing it on purpose.

JAKE

Of course you aren't. Why would you?

MIKE

Jake. cut it out right now, or...or...

JAKE

Or what, Dad.

MIKE

Or we'll go home. Skip out on the trip.

JAKE

You wouldn't dare.

MIKE

Don't tempt me, Jake. You think I like dinosaurs? This trip is for you. I'd rather be home watching football than at an excavation site.

JAKE

Then why is she coming?

MIKE

I'm warning you, Jake. If I hear another word out of your mouth that I don't like, we'll go straight home.

JAKE  
How should I know what you'll like  
or not.

MIKE  
Just cool it.

JAKE  
Why should I?

Extreme Close Up on Jake's mouth.

JAKE (CONT'D)  
(Slow motion)  
She's not my mother.

INT. THE MCDOWELL HOME (JAKE'S BEDROOM) - DAY

Jake's suitcase leans against the wall. He plays with a toy Albertosaurus with a depressed look on his face. He becomes determined about something, and gets up.

INT. THE MCDOWELL HOME (LIVING ROOM)

MIKE (36) and MEL (34) sit at the coffee table, each with a cup of coffee. Their suitcases are against the wall.

MIKE  
I'm sorry about that. I'll help you  
unpack if you want.

MEL  
It's not your fault at all.

MIKE  
I just don't understand why he's  
acting like that. He was always so  
well behaved.

MEL  
This has to be hard on him.

MIKE  
Well hopeful now he'll realize that  
there are consequences. If he's  
going to act like a jerk to you,  
I'm not going to take him on any  
trips.

(takes a sip of coffee)  
(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

You know, I think this is the first time I've ever really punished the kid. I just hope he doesn't hate me too much.

INT. THE MCDOWELL HOME (JAKE'S BEDROOM) - MEANWHILE

JAKE (10) puts a pair of pants and a long sleeve shirt, a sleeping bag, and a pillow in a bag. He walks out the door of his room.

INT. THE MCDOWELL HOME (HALLWAY OUTSIDE JAKE'S BEDROOM) - CONTINUOUS

Jake tip toes down the hallway and downstairs.

INT. THE MCDOWELL HOME (FRONT HALLWAY) - CONTINUOUS

Jake hears Mike and Mel chatting.

MEL

Can you imagine how much fun it would have been to help with an excavation?

MIKE

Not really. I don't have much of a frame of reference except for Jurassic Park.

MEL

Dinosaurs never interested you?

MIKE

No. That was always Jake's thing.

MEL

Well, I think it would have been cool.

Jake sneaks over to the front door. He quietly opens it, and carefully shuts it behind him, making sure not to make any noise.

MEL (CONT'D)

I know for sure Jake would have loved it.

MIKE

He had his chance. Maybe one day  
I'll bring him back there, but not  
until he learns some manners.  
(beat) Say, are you hungry?

INT. THE MCDOWELL HOME (LIVING ROOM) - LATER

Mike and Mel sit together on the couch, eating pizza. They watch some classic movie. I suppose we could go with Casablanca. Over the movie we hear foot steps frantically coming down the stairs. Mike's sister, LINDSAY MCDOWELL KEATING (41) appears and looks worried. She quickly walks around the rooms in the house and eventually makes it back to the living room.

LINDSAY

Um, Mike. Jake's gone.

MIKE

No, I made him go to his room. He's up there.

LINDSAY

No he's not. I checked. His door was open, and his sleeping bag is missing.

EXT. THE MCDOWELL HOME - DAY

The front door swings open. Mike sprints out, Followed by Lindsay, followed by Mel.

MIKE

Jake!

LINDSAY

Jake!

MEL

JAKE!

INT. MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC BUS - DAY

Jake, with his bag, get's onto the bus. He slides a dollar bill into the ticket station, and finds a seat near the front.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE NEIGHBORHOOD AROUND THE MACDOWELL HOME - DAY

Mike Lindsay and Mel separately knock on neighbor's doors asking if they've seen Jake. After 6-8 such clips they converge in the middle of the street. At the end of the street Mike sees a public bus stop at a stop. He doesn't see Jake, but he realizes that Jake could be mobile.

MIKE

Let's go.

MEL

Where to?

MIKE

The science museum.

INT. MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC BUS - DAY

Jake sits on the bus. He is reading a pamphlet with the bus schedule and city map.

EXT. MINNEAPOLIS SCIENCE MUSEUM - DAY

A public bus drives by the entrance of the museum. We see a sign that says there is an exhibit on Dinosaurs.

INT. MINNEAPOLIS SCIENCE MUSEUM - DAY

Mike talks to a security guard. Lindsay and Mel come up behind them.

LINDSAY

Anything?

MIKE

No. He says they don't let children in without adult supervision. I gave him a picture.

MEL

Same thing they said at the ticket booth. No one's seen him.

MIKE

(to the security guard)

OK. If you guys see him please call me.

SECURITY GUARD  
(holding up a piece of  
paper with Mike's name  
and number.)  
Will do, Mr. Macdowell. I hope you  
find him.

MIKE  
Thanks.

Mike, Lindsay and Mel walk towards the exit.

LINDSAY  
When do we call the cops?

MIKE  
So I can get arrested for child  
neglect? We'll find him.

LINDSAY  
We are only three people. He could  
be anywhere. Do you know how big  
this city is?

MIKE  
Yes. I've lived her my whole life,  
but I know my son better than  
anybody, so we are not calling the  
police yet.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

A public bus pulls up and the doors open. Jake gets off the  
bus, and takes a seat at the bus stop, waiting for a  
transfer.

EXT. MINNEAPOLIS SCIENCE MUSEUM (PARKING LOT) - DAY

Mike and Lindsay run towards his car, which is parked next to  
Mel's. Mike fumbles with the keys trying to unlock the door.  
He drops them.

MIKE  
Damn it.

Mike picks up the keys, and unlocks the door. Him and Lindsay  
get in the car.

MEL  
Where's his school?

MIKE  
 Uh Lowry, between Johnson and  
 Central.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

Jake's transfer arrives at the bus stop. He grabs his bag and gets on the bus. The doors close behind him and the bus drives off.

EXT. JAKE'S SCHOOL (PLAYGROUND) - END OF DAYLIGHT

A public bus drives past the playground. The camera pans to Mike who is standing behind a bench scanning the surrounding area For Jake.

MIKE  
 JAKE!

Lindsay comes jogging up behind him.

LINDSAY  
 No one's seen him. The lady in the  
 office says no one's come by all  
 day.

Mike sits down on the bench, but it's more like he falls in despair, than consciously takes a seat.

MIKE  
 I have no idea where he is.

Mel comes up behind them

MIKE (CONT'D)  
 The only thing I know about my son  
 is he likes Dinosaurs and school  
 work.

MEL  
 So where to now?

MIKE  
 I have no idea. Call the cops.

LINDSAY  
 Thank you.

Lindsay grabs her cellphone and dials 911.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)  
Hello. I'd like to report a missing  
a child.

EXT. BUS STOP - END OF DAYLIGHT

A public bus pulls up to the stop. The doors open and Jake gets off. He walks down the street with his bag.

EXT. JAKE'S SCHOOL (PLAYGROUND) - NIGHT

Lindsay is still on the phone with a dispatcher. Mel sits next to Mike

MEL  
There has to be something.

MIKE  
I have no idea where he'd go.

MEL  
Come on. Where's the one place he'd  
want to be right now?

Mike's got nothing.

MEL (CONT'D)  
What's does he loves more than  
dinosaurs?

Mike looks up at Mel, He is starting to cry. At first he has no idea, but after the two look into each other's eyes for a moment, he sees something in her that fires a synapse.

MIKE  
Lindsay. Lindsay!

Lindsay looks up from her phone call.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
I know where he is.

LINDSAY  
(on teh phone)  
Hang on a second.  
(to Mike)  
Where is he then.

MIKE  
He's with his mother.

MEL  
Oh my god, he's dead!

MIKE  
No. He's fine.

Lindsay realizes what's going on.

LINDSAY  
Well lets go. She's not that far.

Mike gets up and runs towards the car. Mel and Lindsay follow him.

MEL  
Where are we going?

EXT. OAKHILL CEMETARY - NIGHT

A tombstone reads:

"Sara Lynn Macdowell

June 18th, 1969 - Febuary 12th 2003

Loving wife and mother"

The camera pans and we see Jake is standing next to his mother's grave. He is crying.

JAKE  
Mom? I miss you mom. I want you to be here again. Dad doesn't love me anymore. He won't let me see dinosaurs, and he's trying to replace you. He wants to forget you ever existed, but I won't let him. I'll make sure he doesn't forget about you.

EXT. THE STREET OUTSIDE OF OAKHILL CEMETARY - NIGHT

Mike's car screeches to a stop. He gets out and starts running across the street.

LINDSAY  
(in the car)  
You can't park here.

Mike throws her the keys.

MIKE

Park it.

Lindsay gets out of the passenger seat and walks around the front of the car.

LINDSAY

(sarcastic)

Park the car, Lindsay. Strain the spaghetti, Lindsay. Help raise my son, Lindsay.

Lindsay gets starts it up and drives off.

EXT. OAKHILL CEMETARY - NIGHT

Jake reaches into his bag and pulls out the sleeping bag and pillow. He lays them on the ground next to his mom's grave. He puts on the long sleeve shirt

JAKE

(to his mother grave)

It's cold.

Jake hears Mike approaching. He gathers all of his stuff and hides them behind other gravestones. He then hides himself behind one of the biggest tombstones in the area.

Mike walks up to the grave. He looks around quickly and then looks at his wife's grave.

MIKE

Hi, honey. It's been a while. I've been kind of busy. I don't know if you heard, but I quit smoking.

Jake is listening on from his hiding spot.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I had to, the doctor said I would die if I didn't. At first I didn't care, but then I thought about Jake, and how unfair that would be to him, and to Lindsay. (beat) She says hi, by the way. She was great with Jake while I was in the hospital. It was the first time I was back there since, well since you died. (beat)

Lindsay and Mel show up but keep there distance. They can hear Mike.

MIKE (CONT'D)

God, I miss you. I wish I could be with you again. Every night I wish that you were still here, and it kills me inside. Do you remember what you told me before you died, how you wanted me to move on, and make sure Jake grows up into the great man we know he will be? Well, it took me a few years to get on top of that. I was in such a rut after you died. But recently I met someone. She's...well, I don't want to bore you with the details, but we are doing well. I think I love her. I never thought I'd say that about someone after you, but it's true. So anyway I'm starting to move on. As for Jake, I'm sorry to say, I think I let you down on there.

Mike starts to cry.

MIKE (CONT'D)

You did such a great job with him while you were still here that I think he'll be fine, but I can't seem to make things right with him. He's trying to sabotage my relationship and I had to punish him for the first time this morning. We had this whole trip planned out, and I pulled the plug on it. He got me mad, and I said we weren't going. I didn't know what to do. And now, he ran away. I thought he'd be here, but I guess I was wrong. I hardly know my own son.

Jake can't take it anymore. He gets out from his hiding spot.

JAKE

I'm right here, Dad.

Mike rushes over to Jake. They embrace. They both start crying.

MIKE

Jake. Don't you ever do that again.

JAKE  
I'm sorry, Dad.

MIKE  
I was worried to death.

JAKE  
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Lindsay comes next. She gets in on the hug.

LINDSAY  
What were you thinking, Jake?

JAKE  
I wanted to be with my mom.

LINDSAY  
We spent all afternoon running  
around trying to find you. Your  
father nearly lost his mind running  
around town.

JAKE  
He did? I mean, I'm sorry.

Mel is standing and watching. Jake looks at her.

JAKE (CONT'D)  
Was she with you guys.

MIKE  
All day. Everywhere we went.

JAKE  
I'm sorry, Mel.

MEL  
You've apologized to me before.  
What makes this one different.

JAKE  
This time I mean it. You deserve my  
dad. You two are good together.

MIKE  
What about the three of us? Are we  
going to be good together?

JAKE  
Are you kidding me? She knows what  
an Albertosaurus is.

MEL  
Well I had to look it up.

JAKE  
That's fine. It's the thought that counts.

MIKE  
So you're going to try and be nice to her?

JAKE  
Yeah. Mom would understand.

MIKE  
Then we should go pack.

Jake is confused. So is Mel

MIKE (CONT'D)  
For the dig. It doesn't start until tomorrow.

Mike Jake and Lindsay smile and start to walk to the cars.

MEL  
Wait a second!

The three McDowell's turn to her.

MEL (CONT'D)  
Did you mean what you said, Mike?

At first Mike is confused.

MEL (CONT'D)  
Do you love me?

He looks back at Sara's grave.

MIKE  
Oh, you heard that.

MEL  
Yes I did.

MIKE  
Well, I was going to tell you.

MEL  
Than you did mean it?

Mike looks at Jake, then back at Mel

MIKE

Yeah. I love you.

MEL

Because I was going to tell you the same thing.

MIKE

You were? Can I hear you say it?

MEL

I love you.

For a second Mike is at a loss. After a beat, Jake nudges him.

JAKE

Wait are you waiting for?

Mike walks over to Mel and they share a passionate kiss.

THE END