JUMP!

By

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EXT. BURGER BAR- DAY

The small fast food building sits in a cluttered lot. The building is old and worn. A sign hangs above the front door. It reads:
Burger Bar!

A young man leans against the brick wall next to the front door. This is NICHOLAS, early 20’s, casually dressed. He lights up a cigarette and takes a long drag.

A young boy, about 10, sloppily dressed, walks out of the front door and turns to Nicholas. This is TOMMY.

TOMMY
Hello.

Nicholas looks at the boy, but doesn’t respond. He just exhales through his nose and looks the other way.

Tommy doesn’t get the hint.

TOMMY (CONT’D)
My names Tommy, what’s yours?

NICHOLAS
Beat it kid.

Tommy looks down at his feet. He has something on his mind.

TOMMY
Is there any way...

Nicholas looks down at Tommy.

NICHOLAS
Didn’t your parents ever tell you not to talk to strangers? I said get!

Nicholas takes another puff of his cigarette.

TOMMY
Could I... maybe get a cigarette? Please?

Nicholas coughs uncontrollably. He looks at Tommy and laughs.

NICHOLAS
Are you kidding me?! How old are you? Five?!
TOMMY
I’m ten.

Nicholas shakes his head and laughs some more.

NICHOLAS
Still eight years shy of legal, kid. Now beat it!

TOMMY
Oh come on! If I get caught I’ll say I found it on the ground or something!

NICHOLAS
You’re dreaming. Leave me alone.

TOMMY
Pretty please!? I’ll stop bothering you! I promise!

Nicholas looks over at an old rusted van parked in the lot. He smiles.

NICHOLAS
I’ll tell you what. If you can lift that van over your head, I’ll give you a whole pack of cigarettes. Hell, I’ll even toss in a lighter!

Tommy looks at Nicholas in disappointment.

TOMMY
Hey, that’s not fair! That’s not even realistic! Why not give me something possible to do instead!?

Nicholas shakes his head ‘no’.

NICHOLAS
That’s the deal Tommy. Take it or leave it.

Tommy looks around. He looks up at the building, then back at Nicholas. He smiles.

TOMMY
Okay, I’ve got something.

NICHOLAS
You gonna lift that van?

Tommy shakes his head.
TOMMY
Nope! I’m gonna jump higher than the Burger Bar! Will that get me a cigarette?

Nicholas laughs.

NICHOLAS
That’ll get you a box of whole cigarettes.

TOMMY
Shake on it!

Nicholas shakes Tommy’s hand. Tommy smiles and steps back. He crouches down a little, ready to jump.

Tommy jumps about a foot off the ground and lands on his feet. He looks at Nicholas and smiles.

Nicholas smiles back.

NICHOLAS
Aw man. You were so close! Another foot and you would’ve had it!

Tommy shoots Nicholas a questioning look.

TOMMY
What are you talking about?! I jumped at least a foot higher than the building! Are you blind?!

NICHOLAS
Nope. Sorry kid, but you lost the bet!

Tommy shakes his head, frustrated.

TOMMY
Oh really!? And what was the bet?

NICHOLAS
You were supposed to jump higher than the building. You didn’t.

TOMMY
But the building didn’t even make it off the ground! I jumped much higher then the building did!
NICHOLAS
That wasn’t the bet!? Buildings can’t even jump!

TOMMY
Now know that now! But a few seconds ago you seemed so sure that the building would jump higher than me! Poor you! It looks like I won the bet after all!

Nicholas looks dumb founded. He doesn’t respond.

TOMMY (CONT’D)
Now pay up!

CUT TO-

BLACK