

LOST AND FOUND

by

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INT. ORPHANAGE - PLAYROOM - DAY

A toy block castle with a tall archway. LUKE (4), on all fours, his hand pushes a toy truck around it. He imitates truck sounds.

A SOUND of a dropped box. As Luke turns back to see what it is, his truck keeps moving and crashes into the archway. The castle collapses.

A well-built figure of JOHNNY, 30, squats to pick up the colorful box. Luke stands up, curious. Johnny stretches a nervous but happy smile.

JOHNNY

This is for you.

The boy's tempted, gawks at a picture of a fire truck on the box. But doesn't move.

JOHNNY

C'mon, buddy.

He puts the box on the floor, steps back. The boy's eyes are big and too serious for his age, transfixed on the box.

They both freeze in silence. Tension in Johnny's eyes grow. He looks down, hesitates. Opens the box. The boy is amazed but doesn't move an inch.

JOHNNY

Don't you want to check it out?

Luke sprints to hide. Johnny lowers on the floor by the new fire truck. He rubs his face as he lets out a stressed sigh. He recollects himself.

JOHNNY

Do you know who I am?

LUKE (O.S.)

Go away.

JOHNNY

I'm sorry I didn't come earlier.

Johnny frees the truck from the box. Spins its wheels.

JOHNNY

I had a fire truck like this when I was little.

He extends its ladder and lifts it up.

JOHNNY

It was red. With big headlights.

Johnny glances in the corner where he can see the top of the boy's head peeking out from behind an arm chair.

JOHNNY

I happened to have these too.

His hand rustles in his pocket. The boy's head doesn't move.

JOHNNY

(exaggerated)

Gummy bears!

No reaction from the boy.

Johnny blots his forehead.

JOHNNY

You know what I hate most, Luke?

(a beat)

Silence. When it's quiet like this,
something's gotta be wrong.

Johnny looks over at the boy.

JOHNNY

I opened my eyes once, and it was
very quiet, just like now. It
seemed like time has stopped. It
could be one second long or one
year, I just couldn't tell. I sat
and watched the dust flying in the
sun rays.

Johnny's hand pushes the truck as he speaks.

JOHNNY

Then someone touched my shoulder
and I clearly saw his mouth moving.
He shouted but I couldn't hear a
thing.

Johnny's eyes are transfixed on the fire truck but his
thoughts are far away. He mumbles.

Luke's curious eyes study Johnny from afar.

Johnny is in trance of agonizing memories.

LUKE

What was next?

Johnny startles.

JOHNNY

It was a long day... But everything
is okay now.

He looks over at the boy.

JOHNNY

Do you like living here?

LUKE

Yes.

JOHNNY

I see you have lot's of toys and
stuff.

The boy shrugs.

JOHNNY

Would you rather stay here or come
and live with me?

LUKE

With you?

JOHNNY

Yes, we'd live at home, together,
you and me. Like the same way you
lived before.

Luke makes a few hesitant steps towards Johnny.

LUKE

Will you make pancakes?

JOHNNY

You like pancakes?

Luke nods.

LUKE

How come I never heard about you?

Johnny gestures inviting Luke to sit on his lap. Luke comes
up slowly.

JOHNNY

It's very hard to understand. You
see, your Mommy never told me she
had you. It sounds strange. I know.

He peers into the boy's eyes.

JOHNNY

Your Mommy and I, we were in love. But then, you see, suddenly I had to go overseas, but she never told me about you. I didn't know about you the same way you didn't know about me.

LUKE

Why?

JOHNNY

I don't know why. I guess your Mom didn't want you to lose your Dad or even worse, have a crippled Dad.

Luke can't process all the information.

JOHNNY

You know what's important though? Now your Mommy is looking down from heaven and she is happy. We're together now. We have each other.

LUKE

You're not gonna go away like she did?

JOHNNY

Never.

Big arms embrace Luke. Johnny moves his leg a bit and Luke notices a shiny prosthetic limb showing from underneath his pants. The boy leaps off his lap.

JOHNNY

What's wrong?

Luke bursts in tears, scared.

JOHNNY

What? This? It's a --

He lifts his pant leg. The steel joint clicks. Luke sprints to the closed door and bangs on it screaming.

Johnny stands up, but freezes in pain, his back bent.

LUKE

Let me out! Help!

Luke drums on the door, yanks the door knob.

JOHNNY

Luke, wait...

Luke runs out.

Johnny is still stuck in awkward posture.

JOHNNY

I loved your Mom very much.

Johnny gets emotional. He looks toward the door, but there is no one there.

JOHNNY

I hoped she'd marry me, a war hero
returning from Iraq...

He pulls out Luke's photograph and looks at it. Puts some gummy bears in his mouth and smiles chewing.

JOHNNY

That's how I looked when I was
four.

LUKE

(from the doorway)

Do you keep talking cuz you can't
move and stuck bending down like
this forever?

Johnny nods.

LUKE

For hundred years?

JOHNNY

Pretty much.

They both laugh. Luke comes closer.

JOHNNY

You know what's cool about my steel
leg though? I can run and never get
tired.

Little hand pats Johnny on the arm. Luke leans close and hugs him.

FADE OUT.