

TIMMY & TUCKER

Written by

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INT. ALLMAN FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - 8 AM

CLANK of spoons against ceramic and two voices arguing bring us into the kitchen of the Allmans' house. \*

JOHN (O.S.) \*

I can't! I've already heard them talking about how he hangs around the elephant house too much. He pretty much lives there. \*

MELISSA (O.S.) \*

Sweetheart, please, there's really no harm in it, and it's good for him to have a routine. Routines are super important to kids with Asperger's. I'm uncomfortable with him walking but I like that the zoo is so close. \*

TIMMY (11) is at the kitchen table absorbed in his book and CAROL (17) is meticulously finishing touches on her biology project. JOHN, wearing overalls and rubber boots, and MELISSA, dressed in her nurse's uniform (early 40s) are off to the side arguing, and looking stressed. \*

JOHN

He'll be fine. He wants to see Tucker anyway... Hey Tim!

TIMMY

Yes?

Timmy responds but keeps his nose and eyes on the book in front of him, his Asperger's leave his communication skills lacking. \*

JOHN

Come straight to the zoo today after school. You can visit Tuck, dad has to work until 8 okay?

CAROL

I'll walk him. Its not that big of a deal.

MELISSA

Ahh, honey thank you so much. I know it's not ideal...

TIMMY

Elephants use their trunk to breathe underwater just like a snorkel.

Carol scoffs and rolls her eyes. Both John and Melissa shoot death stares at their daughter, warning her to back off. Timmy doesn't notice.

TIMMY (CONT'D)

Elephants need to drink around 210 liters of water a day.

MELISSA

That's nice honey, can you pack up your bag so I can drop you off at school? My shift at the hospital starts in a half hour.

JOHN

I have to leave now if I'm going to make it to the cages in time for morning feedings. Sweetheart, I'll see you after work, Tim I'll see you after school okay?

TIMMY

Okay dad. Elephants sleep standing up.

JOHN

Well we have that in common then. Ill see you guys later.

John grabs his jacket and his big rubber work boots that sit next to the front door, and leaves.

Melissa assists Timmy in getting packed up and ready while Carol packs up her project and they all leave the house, closing the front door with a big SLAM.

INT. MELISSA'S CAR - DRIVING - 8:30 AM

Carol sits in the front seat talking to Melissa while Timmy sits in the back absorbed in his book.

Timmy looks longingly out the window, ignoring his sister and mothers chatter. The car pulls up to Carol and Timmy's school.

INT. TIMMY'S CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Timmy sits all the way at the side of the class, right next to the large glass windows. CHILDREN in class are taking notes, raising their hands and answering questions. Timmy is sketching pictures of Tucker.

\*

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

At lunch time, Timmy runs into the cafeteria line. Grabs 3 fruit snack packs and sneaks them into his backpack. \*

MONTAGE

-Timmy sits alone at lunch, absorbed in his book.

-At recess, Timmy is sits alone by a tree, reading his book and pulling grass from the ground and stuffing it into his backpack. \*

-During class, Timmy's classmates stare at his book and his drawings with judgement, but Timmy is oblivious.

-Timmy runs to his cubby and grabs his things to go home, with a smile from ear to ear. The final bell rings. \*

END MONTAGE \*

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - 2 PM

Timmy waits outside of the school for his sister. Carol walks up and gives Timmy a smile.

CAROL

Hey Tim, you ready?

TIMMY

Mhm, when Tucker is an adult elephant, he'll be able to eat 300 pounds of food in one day!

CAROL

Tucker has got a little bit until he's eating that much, he's still such a baby.

Timmy scrunches his face at his sister but smiles as they walk down the street together headed towards the zoo.

EXT. ZOO ENTRANCE - 2:30 PM

Timmy skips to the zoo entrance and Carol begins to walk home.

CAROL

See you at home. Mom says dinner is at 7!

TIMMY

Okay okay, bye Carol.

Timmy waits in line and upon reaching the window smiles at the man behind the counter.

TIMMY (CONT'D)

Hi Lou!

LOU

Hey buddy, how's it hanging? Tucker was looking mighty sad today, I know he'll be excited to see you.

TIMMY

I'm excited to see him too. I have some surprises for him. Don't worry, they're allowed.

LOU

I'm not worried, little man, go on in.

\*

INT. ELEPHANT HOUSE - ZOO - CONTINUOUS

Timmy pulls the large doors to the elephant house open. John stands at the edge of the cages with a clipboard in hands.

JOHN

Hey my man. Good to see you.

TIMMY

Is tucker done with lunch?

JOHN

He just finished. You bring him a snack?

TIMMY

Yupp!

Timmy throws his backpack down and rips out the fruit packs.

He walks over to edge of the elephant cage.

\*

A BABY ELEPHANT, TUCKER makes his way from the outside cage into the inner portion of his home.

\*

Tucker lets out squeak when he sees Timmy and skips over to him.

Timmy empties the fruit and grass contents into Tuckers bowl.

\*

Tucker pokes at Timmy playfully with his trunk, and wraps it around Timmy's torso.

John smiles at his son and leaves the elephant house to go finish the rest of the animal feedings.

TIMMY (CONT'D)

You're not so sad anymore are you?

Tucker plops down beside the cage and Timmy sits up against the wall. Timmy pulls out his drawings from his backpack and tapes them on the wall next to Tuckers cage.

TIMMY (CONT'D)

I drew those today. That's you living in our backyard. Mom and Dad say we have 5 acres of land. I really wish you could just come home with me. I know you hate it here.

Tucker places his trunk on Tim's lap and looks at him with sad eyes.

TIMMY (CONT'D)

I wish people would leave us alone. Today we had class presentations and they wouldn't let me draw.

Tucker wraps his trunk around Timmy and gives him a squeeze. Timmy smiles at Tucker as he makes his way to his bowl and starts enjoying his snacks.

INT. TIMMY'S CLASSROOM - 8:30 AM

The morning bell rings in the next day. Timmy is the only one besides the teacher MRS. MARCI (early 30's) is sitting at her desk grading papers.

JACK (11) and two friends walk in laughing loudly. Timmy looks up at Jack and his friends in slight jealousy. Jack stares at Timmy and his drawings.

JACK

Get here nice and early to prep your presentation on elephants?

TIMMY

Stop it.

JACK

Awe come on Timmy, I'm only kidding. I know your best friend is an elephant, its okay.

FRIEND #1

Only friend...

Jack and his friends let out another round of laughter.

MRS. MARCI

Cut it out boys. You interested in extra long vocabulary assignment tonight? No? Sit down.

Timmy puts his down in silence as Jack and his friends shut up and take their seats.

INT. TIMMY'S CLASSROOM

The class is all concentrated on their quiz papers.

Timmy is filling out his answers but then glances up at his bullies. Jack is leaned so far over cheating on his neighbors paper that he nearly falls out of his chair. \*

MRS. MARCI

Alright guys, time's up. Turn in your quizzes on my desk and ill see you on Monday!

Timmy, one of the last ones to exit the classroom, is stopped by Mrs. Marci.

MRS. MARCI (CONT'D)

Wait, Timmy...is everything alright?

TIMMY

Yes, everything is fine Mrs. Marci.

MRS. MARCI

You've been really quiet lately, and distracted. No more pictures or extra reading okay? Let's try to focus on your work. Your counselor will be in soon to help you with your work. \*

TIMMY

That's fine. I do my homework at the zoo..

MRS. MARCI

That's fine, I just want to make sure you're focused on school.

Timmy looks down at his shoes and puts his hands in his pockets. \*

TIMMY

But I AM focused. I did great on the quiz, and I didn't cheat like Jack did. \*

MRS. MARCI

Is that true? \*

TIMMY

Yes. Can I leave now? I'm late to meet Tucker. \*

MRS. MARCI

Yes, yes that's fine. See you tomorrow Timmy. \*

INT. ELEPHANT HOUSE - 4 PM

Timmy is sitting next to Tuckers cage. Tucker is munching on his snacks.

TIMMY

It's not fair that I can't draw. I finish all of my work way before any of the other kids, and I'm not cheating...

Timmy gives Tucker a depressed look, and Tucker nudges him and points to the picture on the wall that shows Timmy and Tucker playing in the backyard at Timmy's house.

Suddenly, Jack storms into the elephant house. \*

JACK

YOU!

Timmy and Tucker look up startled, and Timmy gets to his feet.

JACK (CONT'D)

Tattle tale! You got me detention for cheating on that quiz!

TIMMY

Don't cheat, and then you won't get in trouble.



JACK

You are your stupid elephant are so pathetic.

TIMMY

Stop that.

JACK

You only told on me because people make fun of your dumb pictures.

\*  
\*

Timmy looks down at the ground shamefully.

JACK (CONT'D)

Get some real friends. Oh wait.. You can't. Freak.

TIMMY

I SAID STOP THAT!

JACK

You and your annoying disease...that's why!

Timmy still looking down, loots as if he's about to cry.

\*

Jack is smiling, both standing right next to the elephant cage. Jack looks up at the wall PLASTERED with carious pictures drawn by Timmy.

\*  
\*

Jack laughs.

JACK (CONT'D)

Well that explains a lot. You like live here, don't you?

\*  
\*

Jack reaches up and tears a bunch of the pictures off the wall.

\*  
\*

TIMMY

STOP THAT!

\*

JACK

Make me!

\*  
\*

Out of nowhere Jack is knocked to the ground by Tuckers trunk.

JACK (CONT'D)

OWW! THAT STUPID ANIMAL JUST BROKE MY ARM!!

Jack howls and John rushes into the elephant cage.

\*

INT. TIMMY'S CLASSROOM - 9 AM

Timmy is sitting silently at his desk while class goes on. Absent today is his book and his pictures. He is sitting at his seat, eyes glued on the cast that wraps Jack's wrist.

Jack looks back and glares at Timmy, mouthing the word "FREAKS". Timmy looks down, as if he's about to cry.

INT. THE ZOO - FEEDING ROOM

MR. FREEMAN (50s) is talking to John as John is feeding the polar bears.

MR. FREEMAN

I'm sorry, we just can't have it anymore. Once there's been an official complaint its out of our hands.

JOHN

Come on, Tucker is just a baby. Separating him from his mom would-

MR. FREEMAN

I'm sorry John. The rules are the rules. Tucker is going to be privately sold next week. You should probably tell Timmy, we can't have him hangin' around here anymore.

JOHN

Please, Mr. Freeman, Tucker is Timmy's closest friend. He's the only one Timmy really talks to.

MR. FREEMAN

If that little boy hadn't broken his wrist things might be a little different...

JOHN

I see. Well maybe we can work something out.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - 2 PM

John and Timmy walk out of the school together and climb into Johns car, and start the drive home.

JOHN

Hey man, how are you holdin' up?  
How was school?

TIMMY

School was boring. I miss Tucker.  
Today is Tuesday. I got to feed him  
on Tuesdays.

JOHN

I know buddy. I know its rough, but  
here's the thing, Tucker hurt that  
boy pretty bad.

TIMMY

He deserved it.

JOHN

Eh. I'm sure that's true, but not  
the point. Timmy, Tucker probably  
isn't going to be staying here  
anymore.

TIMMY

What? Why?

JOHN

Well, they privately selling him.  
He's a baby so there are a lot of  
people who want to take him.

TIMMY

But they don't know! They don't  
know how to take care of him and  
how much he eats and what he likes  
to play!

JOHN

Timmy, calm down. It's going to be  
okay. Tucker is going to be fine.  
Well be able to say goodbye, don't  
worry.

INT. TIMMY'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

\*

Timmy is laying on his floor, looking extremely frustrated,  
drawing a picture of Tucker in his new play area at the  
ALLMAN residence.

Timmy is coloring in the picture when his crayon SNAPS.

Timmy gets up and starts piling things into his bag; pictures, snacks, a flashlight. He gets dressed and opens his door and sees the lights on his parents room, TV blaring.

He sneaks out, grabbing his dads keys off the key hook in the kitchen.

EXT. ZOO ENTRANCE - LATER THAT NIGHT

\*

With his flashlight in hand, Timmy makes his way through the zoo. When he arrives to the elephant house, he uses his dads keys and unlocks the door.

The sound of the door opening wakes up the baby elephant, who is delighted to see Timmy, circling around his cage with his trunk waving.

TIMMY

Tucker! Shh, we have to be quiet.

As if understanding, Tucker stops moving and making noise.

Timmy opens up the door to Tuckers cage, and Tucker makes his way out.

TIMMY (CONT'D)

SHHHH. We're going to go stay at my house for a little while. It's super close, just be super quiet okay?

\*

Tucker wraps his trunk around Timmy, delighted to have him back. Timmy smiles and laughs.

TIMMY (CONT'D)

It's good to see you too.

EXT. ZOO ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Timmy and Tucker make they're way out of the zoo and start walking through the woods behind it.

They eventually make they're way to the back end of the Allman property. Timmy and Tucker get comfortable in a clearing, and huddle up for warmth.

Tucker starts nudging at Timmy with his trunk.

TIMMY

Hungry?

Tucker nudges him in confirmation.

TIMMY (CONT'D)

I didn't bring anything! Buuuut, my parents are asleep. I have lots of food waiting in the backyard for you!

Timmy and Tucker make their way towards the back of the house, just as they enter the backyard, the motion light turns on.

TIMMY (CONT'D)

Quick! Come over here!

\*  
\*

Timmy guides Tucker towards a group of TREES.

\*

The inside lights in the house flick on, and the back door opens.

MELISSA

Timmy?? Oh my god! What are you doing?

TIMMY

MOM! They were going to sell him.

MELISSA

(shrieking)  
JOOHHNNNN!

John appears in the backyard.

JOHN

Timmy! What have you done?

TIMMY

I'm sorry ...Mom, Dad, they were going to sell him. Please...

JOHN

I know sweetheart, I know. But we have to take him back. We could get into a lot of trouble for doing this.

Timmy and Tucker look at each other sadly. Timmy hands John his backpack.

TIMMY

Here. Just make sure his pictures go with him.

JOHN

Don't worry, we will.

INT. ALLMAN FAMILY HOME - 8 AM

Carol, John, and Melissa are all eating breakfast in the kitchen.

MELISSA

We need to figure something out John. He wont eat, he won't do any schoolwork. He barely comes down from his room!

JOHN

Sweetheart, I know, trust me. I'm working on.

MELISSA

I hope we can make this whole plan work. I don't know how long Timmy can go on without his best friend, its hard enough with the Asperger's.

John looks up at a picture of Timmy and Tucker hanging on the fridge and sighs.

EXT. ALLMAN FAMILY - DRIVEWAY

Timmy, Carol, and John are all climbing out of Johns car.

JOHN

How was school today Tim?

TIMMY

It was terrible. The kids are terrible. The place is terrible.

JOHN

Awe too bad Tucker isn't here..

TIMMY

Thanks Dad.

JOHN

(chuckling)

Here, follow me. I have a surprise for you.

John leads Timmy and Carol to the back yard, where a new barn structure appears in the expansive Allman family backyard. There, in the outer pen, lays Tucker. Melissa is hanging up all of Timmy's drawings on the side of the barn.

TIMMY

TUCKER!!

Timmy runs over and hops the fence, giving Tucker an enormous hug. Tucker wraps his trunk around Timmy and gives him a big squeeze.

JOHN

We scooped him before anybody else could, I'll be working night hours until the cows come home but it was the right thing to do, I need my family happy.

John hugs and kisses his smiling wife, as Timmy and Tucker play in the backyard.

JOHN (CONT'D)

We used the pictures you drew to build the barn...We wanted Tucker's new home to be perfect.

\*  
\*  
\*

Timmy is smiling as he looks around at Timmy's new house.

\*

TIMMY

Just like I pictured.

\*  
\*