

BLUEJAY

by

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EXT. BARNYARD - DAY

Tobey (9) has locked himself within a small space inside a shed. There has been a town uproar searching for him. Police Sergeant Martino is on the scene after finding the boy.

MARTINO

Tobey...son, can you hear me?

TOBEY

I hear ya.

MARTINO

I'm...my name is Martin but my friends call me, Martino. I'm a police officer.

TOBEY

I ain't coming out there.

MARTINO

You stuck?

TOBEY

No. I just don't wanna come out.

MARTINO

How long you been in there?

TOBEY

I don't know. I saw the sun come up two times.

MARTINO

Aren't you hungry, thirsty?

TOBEY

I have my own food.

MARTINO

What about using the bathroom?

TOBEY

I have a can for that. I come prepared.

Martino chuckles to himself.

MARTINO

Your mother is worried, son.

TOBEY

I know.

MARTINO

Do you want---

JACKSON

I'm a kick your ass boy when you
get out a there!!

MARTINO (WHISPERING)

Pipe down, Marvin, you can't go
scaring the boy like that cause he
ain't ever coming out that way. Go
back to the house and let me
handle things.

JACKSON

Put my foot right in his ass!

Jackson walks off.

MARTINO (TO TOBEY)

Everybody's upset and worried
about you, Tobey.

TOBEY

My stepdad's a total looney.

Martino laughs to himself quietly.

MARTINO

Is he now? You may be right about
that one. Tell me, why you in that
hole, son?

TOBEY

I want to live my own life.

MARTINO

How so?

TOBEY

I want to be independent and make
my own money and have my own
place.

MARTINO

You ain't even in high school yet.

TOBEY

So? I can start early, can't I?

MARTINO

Well, you can do and be anybody
you want to be in this world, so
long as you don't hurt nobody
along the way.

TOBEY
I ain't hurting nobody.

MARTINO
Your mother's over there crying in
the house. Your dog, Bluejay is
it? Bluejay's got the saddest eyes
I ever seen on a border collie.
(beat) You want to see your Mama
and Bluejay sad for you?

TOBEY
...No.

MARTINO
You know Tobey, you ever think
about working for the law?

TOBEY
The law?

MARTINO
Sure. Ever give thought of being
an officer of the law? A police
officer that is...

TOBEY
It's crossed my mind once or
twice.

MARTINO
Has it now?

TOBEY
Yes, sir it has.

MARTINO
Well, how about that? I bet you'd
make one of the finest police
officers in this here county.

TOBEY
How do you know?

MARTINO
I can hear it in your voice. You
have a strong independent
voice...just like me.

TOBEY
Do you like being a police
officer?

MARTINO

I sure do. I love it in fact. I get to help a lot of people, do some good and guess what?

TOBEY

What?

MARTINO

I get to be entirely independent.

TOBEY

How do I get that job?

MARTINO

Tell you what, son, you come on out of there and I'll take you under my wing. I'll show you the ropes. You can come ride with me and see what being an officer of the law truly entails. Would you like to see what it's like?

TOBEY

...Yeah, but...

MARTINO

But what?

TOBEY

...I don't wanna.

MARTINO

...I know. (beat) Can I ask you a question, Tobey?

TOBEY

Okay.

MARTINO

Can you and I be friends?

TOBEY

We can be friends.

MARTINO

Well, now, as your friend, I want you to know that I have your back. Do you know what that means?

TOBEY

No.

MARTINO

Having someone's back means that you will look out for that person, so, if anything were to ever happen to you, you can always know that with me being your friend, I will look out for you at all times. But the deal is, if I look out for you, I need you to promise me that you will look out for me, also. I need to be sure that having you as my friend, that you can have my back, too. Does that sound like a good deal we can make?

TOBEY

It does.

MARTINO

Okay. That's good. I feel better knowing that I have you as my friend. Thank you.

TOBEY

You're welcome.

MARTINO

Why don't you come on out of there now and we can do a patrol together.

TOBEY

What's a patrol?

MARITNO

Keeping the streets safe. You can ride with me and we can patrol the town in my police car and make sure that we are keeping things as safe as can be. What do you say?

Tobey comes out of a hole in a wall attached to the room.

TOBEY

I say okay.

Martino puts out his hand and Tobey shakes it.