

FADE IN:

1 EXT. FOREST CLEARING - SUNSET

A young boy with messy hair, a colorful sweater, and jeans tucked into his socks, sprints into a clearing surrounded by dense forest.

There is a FIRE WATCH TOWER in the center of the clearing. The sun is setting behind the tower.

It was taller than any of the trees surrounding it.

The boy, TOMMY YESTER, walks towards it with uneven steps.

Cupping his hands around his mouth, Tommy yells at the tower.

TOMMY  
HELLO! Is anyone up there? Dad?

Silence.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
Dad! I'm sick of playing hide and seek!

All he hears in return are crickets and the WIND through the trees.

The boy begins to ascend the 6 sets of metal stairs. One hand grips the rusted railing and the other begins to rub his earlobe.

2 INT. FIRE WATCH TOWER - EVENING

At the top of the tower, Tommy turns the doorknob, the wooden door CREAKING open slowly.

There is no one in sight.

Inside is a large, round, and table-like map, as well as an emergency two-way radio with a microphone. A thick layer of dust covers both.

Tommy inspects the radio, pressing the power button, surprised when it turns on with a crackling HISS.

He twists and turns the knobs, only receiving loud static.

TOMMY  
Um, can anyone hear me? Mom? Dad?

Tommy begins to rock slightly back and forth on his heels.

(CONTINUED)

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He covers an ear with his free hand.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Dad! I don't want to play anymore, I  
just want to go home.

Tommy freezes when the static stops, and he, at last, hears a  
man's voice.

MIKE

(Over radio)

Does anyone copy? I repeat, does  
anyone copy? My name is Mike Cornell.  
C O R-

Tommy grabs the microphone, holding it too close to his  
mouth.

TOMMY

Is someone there?! My name is Tommy  
James Yester and I'm looking for my  
dad and-

MIKE

Woah! Slow down, slow down. Who are  
you? Is this a kid? Over.

TOMMY

Over what?

MIKE

What?

TOMMY

You said over, what's over what?

MIKE

(Chuckling)

That's how people talk on radios, you  
say over when you're done with what  
you're saying. You say over and out  
when you're both done talking. Over.

TOMMY

Oh, okay, that makes sense. Uh, over!

MIKE

Cool, good deal. So kid, is there an  
adult you can hand the radio to? Over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tommy shakes his head.

TOMMY

I'm the only one here, I'm all alone.  
Over.

Silence hangs in the air.

MIKE

Tommy, can you connect me to the  
ranger station? Or maybe the police?

TOMMY

I don't think so, everything was all  
static-y...

MIKE

Okay, do you see a trail map or a  
forest map anywhere? If you can get me  
to the tower you're at, I could get us  
both out of here. Can you do that for  
me, bud? Over.

TOMMY

Yeah, there's this big round map here.  
Over.

MIKE

Great! So I started at Gother's Bay,  
can you find that on the map? Over.

Walking to the map and scanning the labels, Tommy nearly  
pressing his face into the glass, he quickly finds it and  
bolts back to the radio.

TOMMY

Found it! Over!

MIKE

Awesome! Look, I've been walking for  
two or three days, I honestly have no  
idea where the hell I am. Pardon my  
french. Over.

TOMMY

How many miles do you think you've  
walked? Also, I don't think that was  
french.

MIKE

Jeeze, I have no clue. I have a step  
counter my little bro gave me but that  
only tells me steps, not miles. Over.

(CONTINUED)