

A TICKET TO RIDE

Tim Boyce

1 EXT. OUTSIDE THE AMUSEMENT PARK NEAR THE TICKET OFFICE - 1
MORNING

BILLIE a young Black girl with bright pink glasses, frizzy hair and an eager personality rushes toward the ticket booth with great excitement.

Many other patrons of the park stand outside, some with anticipation of the wonders within. Their CHATTER can be heard.

Billie hands a dollar to the cashier and glances around at those waiting in line. She is excited but perhaps a bit nervous to be on her own. The cashier hands back 5 GOLDEN TICKETS.

She excitedly scoops them into her arms and bounces through the gate into the park.

2 EXT. INSIDE THE AMUSEMENT PARK GATES 2

Billie runs inward and looks around with absolute wonder. Her head whips wildly as she sees the roller coaster, the food stands, the games, the teacups and all manner of excitement. It's clear she has been awaiting this day.

As she walks through the park around other children and their parents she sees a group of kids and it catches her interest.

JAMES a young boy with red hair and freckles stands at THE BALLOON STAND clutching A GOLDEN TICKET in his hand. Just as he goes to redeem his ticket some children jump out of the bushes. One child pushes him over causing him to drop his ticket. The other child grabs it and they both rush off as James lays face first on the pavement.

James sobs on the ground until Billie puts a hand forward to support him up. He looks up as he takes her hand tears still falling from his eyes. She smiles at him kindly and he smiles back.

Billie looks around and pulls him up. She runs into the park now with James clutching her hand trying to keep up. He smiles obviously so grateful for her kindness.

3 INT. INSIDE THE ARCADE 3

Billie and James rush into THE ARCADE dropping their FIRST TICKET in the hand of the employee who stands at the door. The arcade is full of video games flashing colors and sounds. They hop onto machines where both can play together. Billie excitedly points at the screen as James smiles sweetly at her.

4 EXT. OUTDOOR ICE CREAM PARLOR 4

Once again the children drop their SECOND TICKET into the hands of another employee at the OUTDOOR ICE CREAM PARLOR. Billie sits down as James walks up with TWO ICE CREAM CONES. He hands one to her and keeps one for himself. They share the moment happily kicking their feet. James looks at THE PURPLE ROLLER COASTER with yearning in his eyes. Billie smiles a bit noticing it.

5 EXT. THE GREEN ROLLER COASTER - MID DAY 5

Their THIRD TICKET is dropped into the hands of an employee. Billie and James sit in the front of the roller coaster cart for THE GREEN ROLLER COASTER. This roller coaster jerks them around quite a bit. Billie smiles very big. With every turn James's face gets greener and greener.

6 EXT. NEAR THE GREEN ROLLER COASTER 6

The momentum is completely halted as James pukes into a trashcan covering the sight with his body. The muffled groans of VOMITING can be heard.

Billie pats his back softly. Even she is struggling to smile.

7 EXT. IN FRONT OF THE PURPLE ROLLER COASTER 7

James looks up at THE PURPLE ROLLER COASTER yearning for it. Billie runs ahead excited about other attractions. James stays put. She runs back confused at why her friend stayed. He points at it with excitement. She grabs his hand and pulls him way towards the attraction she is excited about. James feels a bit sad about this.

8 INT. THE HAUNTED HOUSE 8

Their FOURTH Tickets are placed in the hands of the employee. They enter into the haunted house. A cardboard cut out of a vampire flips forward scaring Billie. She hugs James. They laugh.

9 EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE HAUNTED HOUSE 9

Billie and James leave the haunted house laughing. Billie smiles at James with a kindness in her eyes. She grabs his hand and decides to take him to THE PURPLE ROLLER COASTER.

10 EXT. OUTSIDE THE PURPLE ROLLER COASTER**10**

Billie and James arrive at the purple roller coaster and he smiles big. She does too.

The employees hand reaches out once again for a ticket but only Billie's hand is seen dropping one in. As Billie notices that James doesn't place one in she looks up at him.

For the second time again today his eyes are wet with subtle tears. She looks up with realization that he does not have one more ticket. He will have to leave the park without riding his most anticipated ride. He sits on the ground deeply sad that he is going to have to leave.

Billie's hand reaches forward just as it did when they met. This time with her last ticket in hand. He looks up with a teary smile.

He takes the ticket and runs towards the ride. Billie smiles at her friends excitement. As she turns to leave James runs back to give her a hug. They break apart and go their separate ways.

The final ticket is placed in the hands of employee.

11 EXT. OUTSIDE THE AMUSEMENT PARK NEAR THE TICKET OFFICE - NIGHT**11**

Billie leaves THE AMUSEMENT PARK though this time more reflective than excited. She walks into the empty parking lot where the only light in the dark night is a street lamp. The light illuminates her face as her phone buzzes. She pulls it out and looks at a text which reads:

"From Dad - I hope you had a great day sweetie. It's time to come home :)"

She smiles at the text with slight tears in her eyes.

The lamp's light dies leaving nothing but darkness.

THE END