

GUIDE DOG

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EXT. SMALL CITY PARK - DAY

Open to DAD and GIRL sitting on a bench. GIRL holds a stuffed dog and a walking cane; she is blind. In the BG we hear sounds of children playing and city noises. We see GIRL looking miserable. She clutches her stuffed dog. DAD is dozing. A dog barks nearby. GIRL perks up. She puts the stuffy down on the bench and walks with her cane towards the barking. GIRL's cane comes in contact with a STRANGE DOG. She motions to pet it. STRANGE DOG growls, lunges at her, and nips her hand. This triggers a flashback.

EXT. CROSSWALK - DAY - FLASHBACK

In the flashback we see a truck run a stop sign where TIMBER the guide-dog and GIRL are crossing. TIMBER pushes GIRL out of the way. We hear tires screech and TIMBER howl. GIRL stumbles backwards into passersby as we transition back to present.

EXT. SMALL CITY PARK - DAY - PRESENT

GIRL bumps into multiple people and becomes more disoriented. We see her worked into a panic and flee. She loses her walking cane. She finds herself in an alley.

EXT. DEAD END ALLEY - DAY

GIRL feels her way using a brick wall. She stumbles over garbage and knocks into trash cans. We see her collapse into the fetal position. A rat runs across her foot. She is afraid.

We see TIMBER, as a ghostly apparition, touch her arm with his nose. GIRL jerks back. We see TIMBER's nose touch her again. She is less afraid now.

LITTLE GIRL

"Timber?"

TIMBER barks. Joy spreads over GIRL's face. They embrace.

We see non-descript FIGURES enter the alley. TIMBER growls in defense. GIRL grabs the lead on TIMBER's back. The dog looks around, then looks behind them at the chain-link fence. TIMBER barks. They go through a hole in the fence and GIRL loses her hat. TIMBER is pleased with himself. They enter a construction zone. TIMBER pulls her through obstacles. GIRL clutches the lead. She loses her glasses. TIMBER guides her through the construction zone until they find an exit.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

We see the two stumble out of the construction zone. TIMBER looks around, alert. They walk down the street. GIRL pats TIMBER. He is pleased with himself. They turn the corner and we see a busy intersection. The dog squints. We see DAD, across the street, frantically talking to two silhouettes. TIMBER barks excitedly. She kneels down to his level.

GIRL
What is it boy?

TIMBER barks. GIRL seems to understand.

GIRL
Dad?

TIMBER barks happily again. They approach the intersection. Cars pass by quickly. TIMBER stops, GIRL is confused. She tugs on his lead. He is petrified with fear. She kneels down to comfort him.

GIRL
It's ok.

TIMBER looks at the speeding cars. He shrinks and shakes his head, "no". He won't move. GIRL stands up, determined. She reaches out and feels the crosswalk pole, and presses the crossing button. We hear the beep from WALK sign.

TIMBER whimpers and doesn't move. We see the crosswalk countdown. Time is almost up. GIRL lets go of the lead. She feels the bumps on the pavement. She steps one foot out onto the pavement. She takes another step, then another. TIMBER watches intently. She feels the bumps on the other side, and drops to the curb, relieved. TIMBER's demeanor changes. He bounces after her, leaping onto her then licks her face.

GIRL
Let's go home boy!

TIMBER looks at GIRL then looks at DAD. His face saddens and he nuzzles GIRL. GIRL understands that TIMBER cannot come with her. We see tears well up in both their eyes, and she hugs him tightly. She gives the dog one last touch goodbye, before she stumbles toward her dad. As DAD embraces GIRL, she "looks" back and from her "POV" we see TIMBER fade away. She smiles.

FADE TO BLACK