

Don't Love Me Like That

by

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FADE IN

EXT: DESERT - NIGHT

JANEY, 22, breathtaking beautiful, casually dressed, sits in the dirt in front of a black Chevrolet. Hands tied behind her back, masking tape around her feet and across her mouth. Tears roll down her cheeks.

The car headlamps illuminate JOSH, 23. He paces in front of her, gun in hand. His dark blue suit adds years to his appearance.

JOSH
What was it? His money?
His power?

He stops, stares at her.

JOSH
Did he pay you?

Janey struggles and kicks at the dirt.

He continues to pace, wipes his forehead with the back of the hand that holds the gun.

INT: LARGE HOUSE - NIGHT
(FLASHBACK)

The front door opens, Josh and Janey walk in greeted by Josh's smiling MOTHER, 50s, made up, big hair, largely built woman. By the size of the house and decor his parents have money. Everyone is dressed to impress.

They walk into the

LOUNGE

Josh's FATHER, late 50s, a large man with a large presence stands against the fireplace, cigar in hand. His suit Kiton, his 5 rings gold. He moves forward with a big smile to greet Janey.

Josh looks nervous.

He takes Janey's hand and looks hard at her. He keeps holding her hand and staring, he seems captivated by her. Josh and his mum look at him waiting for him to let go.

She smiles awkwardly then pulls her hand away. He looks away, somewhat embarrassed.

BACK TO SCENE:

JOSH
He doesn't care about you.
He doesn't even care about
his own kids. So why would
you think you're special?

He squats down in front of her.

JOSH
Did you even love me?

Janey looks at him, her eyes well up. She yells through the tape.

JANEY
Yes!

Josh HUFFS, gets up, walks away, comes back and lunges at her.

JOSH
No, no, no!

She SQUEALS and turns her head. The end of the gun presses against her temple.

JOSH
(yelling)
No! You dont love someone
then screw their bastard father
behind their back!

INT: JOSH'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT
(FLASHBACK)

Janey is in the kitchen washing a cup unaware that Josh's father is standing with his head peeked around the door watching her.

BACK TO SCENE:

JOSH
Maybe you knew who he was
all along. You kept that
necklace. Maybe this...you
and me has all been a lie.
Maybe YOU are just a lie.

Josh goes to the car, comes back, throws a small gift wrapped box down by Janey's legs.

JOSH
Happy anniversary.

EXT: JOSH'S PARENTS HOUSE - DAY
(FLASHBACK)

It's Janey's birthday. Josh, and his mum and dad sit at a picnic table and watch Janey open a present. It's a fancy watch. She lovingly gives Josh a hug and kiss. He can't stop smiling.

Josh's father gets up grinning from ear to ear and proudly hands her a present. She politely takes it, opens it and pulls out a sparkling diamond necklace. Her smile drops a little.

Smiles fall from Josh and his mother as father continues grinning.

INT: HALLWAY - NIGHT - LATER

Janey comes out of the bathroom. The father is waiting for her, he whispers into her ear. They go into the

SPARE BEDROOM

She looks around as if there is something there for her to see. The father shuts the door and locks it. She looks at him, confused, waiting. He grabs her, she struggles.

HALLWAY

She walks out of the bedroom slowly, whincing with each step. She stops and wipes tears from her eyes, takes a deep breath and starts walking normally, she walks into the

LIVING ROOM

and sits on the couch next to Josh. She puts her hand on her stomach, indicates she's not well. Josh consoles her, they get up to leave.

BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Father sits on the bed, head in his hands, trousers undone. The bedspread is wrinkled up.

BACK TO SCENE:

JOSH

You know he kills people dont you? He likes to cut them up. No one else is allowed too. That's what your boyfriend loves to do. My uncle, the one I call my real father, is in 20 different pieces buried in 20 different places somewhere in this fucking desert. Thanks to YOUR fucking boyfriend.

Janey lunges forward and SCREAMS

JOSH

Yeah you've been screwing a psychopath.

She SOBS loudly.

JOSH

He killed Jeffs boyfriend, his sons only joy in life. Jeff doesnt even know it was him.. I know.. cause I had to pay off the FUCKING cops.

EXT: JANEYS HOUSE - DAY
(FLASHBACK)

Janey opens the front door. The father stands with flowers, and a wrapped gift, she looks scared and tries to smile. He goes in.

EXT: JANEYS HOUSE - LATER

Father leaves. Doesn't see Josh sitting in his car watching.

BACK TO SCENE:

JOSH
I tried so hard to keep
you away from him, I didn't
want him to know about you,
I didn't want him to ruin us.
But I couldn't escape him.

Josh lifts his gun and points it at her.

JOSH
I can't let him have you.

She throws herself down on the ground and starts rolling across the dirt as fast as she can.

Josh grabs her and rolls her onto her back. She throws her legs in the air to try kick him, it throws him off balance but he manages to get her pinned.

He points the gun at her head...she SCREAMS and struggles.

Josh gets up, stands over her and points the gun at her face. His hand shakes.

Tears start to pool. He closes his eyes. He starts to cry.

He quickly puts the gun to his temple.

His breathing becomes heavy. The barrel of the gun knocks against his sweaty skin. His tears a steady flow.

He opens his eyes and points the gun back at her. Tries to steady it with his other hand.

Finally the gun drops to his side.

JOSH
I can't.

He gently kneels down over her, leans in and nuzzels his face into her neck and CRIES.

JOSH
Why him, baby, why him?

He sits up, looks at her. Tears drip. He wipes his eyes. Looks at her some more. Then gently pulls the tape off her mouth.

She gasps for air and sits up. He moves off her and slumps to the ground.

Janey barely audible, stares down at the dirt.

JANEY
(a beat)
He rapes me...

JOSH
(quietly, sitting up)
What?

JANEY
He's been raping me...
he rapes me.

Josh stares at her, confused.

JOSH
No... no, he wouldnt do that...
no, not to you... no. You and
him... I saw him... with flowers,
going into your house, you
let him in. You looked happy.
You haven't gone near me in
nearly 2 months. You wear that
fucking necklace.

Josh stands up.

JANEY
I have to wear it, you have
to believe me, I haven't been
with you because...
I don't want you to see me.
I didn't want you to see
what he's been doing to me,
because you would know. He
will hurt my family if I
say anything.

JOSH
No, he wouldnt do that, no,
no, no, not to you. Hes bad
but no, not you.

JANEY
He has a video, on his phone.

Josh starts pacing kicking hard at the dirt, presses his hands against his head.

JOSH
NO

He stops, walks over to Janey, gently lifts her up from the ground and puts her in the backseat of the car.

JOSH
Don't try to get away. It's
better you do what I say,
or we will both end up dead.

He gets in the front. The car pulls away leaving a
cloud of dust.

EXT: FATHERS HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Josh's car pulls into the driveway. He puts Janey over
his shoulder, takes her through the back door.

INT: HALLWAY

He carries her into the

LIVING ROOM

puts her on the couch.

Josh's father is tied up in a chair facing the front
door, his head is strapped to a pole attached to the
chair making it impossible for it to move. He struggles
and YELLS through the tape.

A gun sits strapped to a tripod. Its silencer pointed
at his face.

String is tied around the trigger. It stretches back
past the ajar door to the screen door handle, ready to
tighten and PULL the minute the door opens.

Josh violently searches through his fathers pockets. He
pulls out a smart phone and looks through it. He taps
on something. The sound of his mums LAUGHTER echos from
the speakers.

JOSH
Ahhh, Fuck it.

He taps, the laughter stops, he taps again. Suddenly,
Janey's CRIES resonate from the phone. Josh drops it as
if it's about to explode in his hands.

He rushes at his father grabs his jacket and slams his
fist into his head again and again.

Janey SCREAMS at him..

JANEY
Stop!

His father MOANS as each frenzied punch is delivered.
Blood sprays from a split in his cheek. A tooth falls
to the floor.

JANEY
Stop it!
(she starts crying)
You're going to kill him.

He suddenly stops before the next blow, his father's hand firmly grasped in his hand. He lets go and steps back, wipes the blood from his mouth. A half smile

JOSH
Ha, no... I'm gonna let
your fate play out...DAD

He pulls his phone out. Presses a couple of commands then shows the screen to his father.

SUPER:

Hey Jeff, dad wants to have a
father son chat it's abt mom b here at
8, just come in.

BACK TO SCENE:

The father struggles and YELLS through the tape.

JOSH
Thats right dad... Jeff is
gonna walk through that door
and blow your fucking brains out.
Hows does that make you feel?
A little pay back.

He puts his face up close to his fathers.

JOSH
I should get some
of the boys on the east side
over. You know what they love
to do to rapists.

Josh looks at Janey, his angry expression changes to grief.

JOSH
(as he turns to his father)
No...it's gonna be my job.

Josh slams his fist into his dads head again.

He leaves the lounge.

The father tries to unsuccessfully turn his head to look at Janey, the tape is on good. He squirms in the chair, mumbles trying to get her attention. Tears start to drip down his cheek. She turns her body away from him.

The sound of doors OPENING and CLOSING.

Josh returns with a pair of pruning shares, heads straight to his father and grabs a finger. Janey lunges forward and YELLS.

JANEY
No!

The shares SNIP. The father SCREAMS. Josh holds a severed index finger up.

Janey SCREAMS.

JOSH
There you bastard.

He throws the finger at him, then turns, puts his hand on his stomach, doubles over and vomits. Father continues to YELL in agony.

Josh vomits some more. The father yells something through the tape. Josh looks at him for a moment, goes over and yanks the tape off his mouth. Out of breath and in pain he speaks.

FATHER
I couldn't stop.

JOSH
Is that it?

Josh picks up his gun and points it at his fathers head.

JOSH
Is that it!

FATHER
I couldnt help it.

Josh smashes his fathers head with the gun.

He grabs the tape, puts it back over his mouth and heads down the

HALLWAY

and into the

SPARE BEDROOM

Josh picks up an envelope off the desk with Jeff written on it. He opens it and pulls out a letter and a plane ticket. He finds a pen and draws lines through some of the writing on the letter, then writes something at the bottom of the page.

He puts the envelope with its contents in his pocket and starts looking around the room. Under the bed, the closet. There on the closet floor sits 2 large black brief cases. He grabs them, and heads out into the

HALLWAY

and back into the

LIVING ROOM

He puts the envelope marked JEFF on the top of one of the brief cases. Looks at his watch.

JOSH
Well Pops, you've got 20 mins
to live...
You get to ponder your pathetic

existence and commiserate your
inability to fuck our lives
up anymore than you already have.

He picks up Janey, puts her over his shoulder. Walks
down the

HALLWAY

to the backdoor, out to

EXT: CAR

Puts Janey in the back seat with the brief case. Pulls
the car out and drives 2 doors down the street, parks
and waits.

JANEY
What are you doing?

JOSH
Making sure he turns up and
opens that door.

JANEY
Josh you don't need to do this,
please let me go.

JOSH
It's too late now, there's
going to be a hit out on all
of us. I have to protect you,
the cops won't be able too.

Their attention is diverted to a car coming down the
street, it pulls into the drive.

JOSH
Hang on, that's not his car.

He looks closer, he sees a woman get out. The woman
rushes up to the house.

JOSH
Shit, no, thats mum, thats
mum!

He jumps out of the car and runs down the road towards
the house, yelling

JOSH
Mum, wait, don't...

She disappears into the house.

Joshes mother SCREAMS

JOSH
Oh God!

He stands in the middle of the street. Behind him a
distressed Janey crawls along the road. A MAN comes
running out of his house toward her.

INT: SPARE BEDROOM - NIGHT
(FLASHBACK)

Josh is at his parents house writing a letter, he's dressed in his blue suit..

JOSH (V.O)

Jeff, I'm sorry it ended this way but I wanted it to be you. Dad was the one that killed Andrew. Dad and Janey have been having an affair. Our bodies will be out in the Valley of Fire, near the rocks where we use to take the motorbikes. I'm sorry Jeff, my life is nothing without her, I can't explain it. I've booked you a plane ticket to New Zealand, it leaves at 10 tonight, so you can go and be with Raymond. Get to the airport as soon as you can. A guy named Brandon will meet you in Auckland. Everything is set up for you he'll fill you in. Mom is fine, I sent her to Stacies, no one knows Stacy even exists. I told her things were going down and that she was free from dad now. I love you brother, I'll always be with you. Josh.

Josh puts the plane tickets in the envelope with the letter and seals it. Leaves it on the table.

He picks up his gun and walks out into the lounge, past his father tied up in the chair. Checks the gun, makes sure it's ready to go. Checks his father is tied up tight. Looks hard at him.

JOSH

Bye Antonio.

Josh heads toward the hallway, the father YELLS and tries to break loose, but the tape is wound tight.

EXT: HOMELESS SHELTER - CONTINUOUS

Janey, walks out of the shelter. She stops and joyfully greets a HOMELESS WOMAN, late 20's, who's heading in. Janey gives her a loving hug. The woman looks very happy to see her.

EXT: JANEYS CAR - CONTINUOUS

Janey gets into her 1990 Toyota, parked just down the road. Drives away.

EXT: JANEYS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

She pulls up outside, gets out.

INT: JOSHES CAR - CONTINUOUS

Josh sits watching as Janey enters her house, he takes a deep breath, gets out holding a role of masking tape and his gun.

FADE OUT