

CC3103

"BLOODWORK"

by

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UEL

INT. HOSPITAL E.R - DAY

DAN a man in his mid 20's is standing over a hospital bed talking to an elderly woman. There are other doctors and interns pacing about and beds full of patients.

DAN

O.K Margery, a surgeon will be over soon to explain your surgery options. I know it may seem scary but-

MARGERY

Oh I'll be fine, could you do me a favor and ask if the doctor will splash this on me before the operation?

She rifles through a bag on a small table in front of her and brings out a vial of holy water.

DAN

(straining a smile)

Er...sure

Dan takes the bottle, looks at it quizzically and then begins to walk away. When he is out of sight from the woman he opens a bio-hazard bin and tosses the vial in it.

INT. HOSPITAL NURSES STATION

Dan walks over to the nurses station where another intern is flipping through a chart.

DAN

You got anything good SARAH?

SARAH

Yeh, I'm assisting Dr. Hall with a neoblastoma patient.

Dan nods nonchalantly. After a beat the Sarah looks up at him quizzically.

SARAH (CONT'D)

What about you?

Looking through some charts in the tray he answers.

DAN

Some senile old woman who wanted me to christen her with holy water before her surgery tomorrow.

SARAH

And you're going to do it?

DAN  
(sarcastically)  
Of *course*, I'll sprinkle her with  
it while dancing around and  
chanting.

SARAH  
(snickering)  
O.K, O.K

Dan looks around and then back to Sarah.

DAN  
Hey I'm gonna get some rest. Let  
me know if anyone is after me  
please.

SARAH  
Yeh sure.

DAN  
Cool, thanks.

Dan walks off rubbing his eyes and face.

INT. ON CALL ROOM

Dan is asleep on a bed. The sound of the E.R Starts to slowly build into a crescendo and then Sarah opens the door flooding the room with sound startling Dan.

SARAH  
Hey wake up, you're needed in the  
O.R.

DAN  
(groans)

Sarah crouches down by him and puts her hand on his back.

SARAH  
It's an emergency you need to  
hurry up and assist DR. STAMP.

DAN  
OK, OK I'll be there don't worry.

Before Sarah exits the room she smiles at Dan, she then closes the door as Dan rubs his eyes and takes a swig of an energy drink. He then gets up and walks out of the door.

INT. HOSPITAL E.R - NIGHT

Dan looks around in shock at the hectic room. After a few seconds he begins to make his way past people until he reaches a door with a number six on it. He enters.

INT. HOSPITAL SCRUB ROOM

Dan enters the room and sees Dr. Stamp scrubbing up.

DR. STAMP  
(not looking at him)  
You're late. Hurry and scrub up.  
We're starting the surgery.

DAN  
Yes Doctor.

Dan walks over to the wash basin and begins to scrub his hands and forearms.

INT. HOSPITAL O.R

Dan enters the room and a nurse puts on his surgical apron and he goes and joins Stamp at the table.

DR. STAMP  
Internal bleeding...this is going  
to take some time so stay alert.

DAN  
Yes Doctor.

DR. STAMP  
Hold these clamps in place while  
I explore the cause of the  
bleeding.

Dan takes the clamps and holds them in place.

INT. HOSPITAL O.R - LATER

Dr. Stamp lets out a sigh.

DR. STAMP  
We've seemed to have stemmed the  
blood loss for now but we'll need  
to keep-

A voice comes through on the intercom and two look up to see a Dr. Hall standing there.

DR. HALL

There's been an emergency, a patient came in and needs an angioplasty.

DR. STAMP

There's no one else?

DR. HALL

No one.

Stamp looks around and then to Dan.

DR. STAMP

Can you handle this?

DAN

What?

DR. STAMP

She only needs to be stitched up. That's it. Can you handle it?

DAN

I guess it's just like an appendectomy...but with more track...

DR. STAMP

Yes then?

DAN

Y-yes.

DR. STAMP

Good.

Dr. Stamp leaves the O.R leaving Dan in charge.

INT. HOSPITAL O.R - LATER

Dan is finishing stitching the girl up when her heart rate starts to increase. Dan looks around frantically.

SCRUB NURSE

What are you going to do?

DAN

Shit...

SCRUB NURSE

We need a decision.

DAN

Er...we'll have to open her up.  
It must have been an internal  
bleed we missed...we'll have to  
get back in there.

Dan reopens the stitches and goes back in. The girls heart rate continues to increase as Dan frantically attempt to find the bleed. All of a sudden her heart rate crashes and flat-lines.

DAN (CONT'D)

Get the paddles!

A nurse brings the paddles over and charges them to capacity.

SCRUB NURSE

Clear!

The nurse uses the paddles but nothing happens. Dan nods for her to keep trying but after several attempts nothing changes.

DAN

One more time, come one!

SCRUB NURSE

She's gone...you'll have to call  
it.

Dan stands there staring at the girl whilst breathing heavily.

SCRUB NURSE (CONT'D)

Surgeon Sadler.

DAN

Time of death...2:05

Dan walks out of the operating room.

INT. HOSPITAL SCRUB ROOM

Dan is cleaning himself in the basin as Dr. Stamp enters.

DAN

(not looking at him)  
She crashed...I-

DR. STAMP

I know what happened.

DAN looks at him distressed.

DR. STAMP (CONT'D)  
There was nothing you could've  
done...I didn't even catch it.

Dan looks at him sorrowfully and nods.

DR. STAMP (CONT'D)  
You have to go and tell the  
parents what happened in there.  
They're in the waiting room.

DAN  
What?

DR. STAMP  
You were in charge. It may not  
have been your fault she died,  
but it's your responsibility to  
inform the parents.

DAN  
No, I can't...I

DR. STAMP  
Have you had anyone die on you  
before?

DAN  
No, never...

DR. STAMP  
This was something that was bound  
to happen, you knew this day was  
coming.

DAN  
I just can't do it...it was just  
me in there...I don't think I can  
face them.

DR. STAMP  
Ugh...so you expect me to tell  
them for you?

DAN  
Please, I'm...I'm just not ready  
for all this.

DR. STAMP  
Stupid interns  
(pause)  
Fine, I'll do it, but only  
because you were on your own in  
there.

Dan nods and Stamp exits the room. Dan walks over to the observation window and peers through at the dead girl on the table.

INT. OUTSIDE WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Dan approaches the hospitals waiting room and stops when he's notices Stamp talking to a middle-aged man and woman. Stamp puts his hand on the man's shoulder and the woman starts to breakdown. Dan stands outside with his mouth open in shock. Stamp looks towards a nearby man who is the hospitals grief councillor, who then walks over to them. Stamp exits the room and walks over to Dan when he sees him.

DR. STAMP

They were-

DAN

Her parents?

DR. STAMP

Yes, the grief councilor is dealing with them.

DAN

I did everything right...didn't I?

DR. STAMP

I already told you that. Is my word not good enough?

DAN

I'm sorry...I felt I wasn't prepared.

DR. STAMP

No one ever is in these situations...you just have to do your best.

Dan looks to the floor.

DR. STAMP (CONT'D)

Go home. Get some rest.

Stamp walks off screen leaving Dan staring at the grieving parents.

INT. DAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dan enters his bedroom and lethargically gets into bed. He closes his eyes but several seconds later begins to toss and turn and lay on his back with his eyes open.



He closes them but then starts to hear the sound of the heart monitor slowly speeding up and then flat-line. The scene fades out.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

There is a montage of Dan going about his hospital duties.

MONTAGE:

1. Dan stood around his colleagues during rounds, Sarah stands next to him.

2. Dan talking to a patient, he puts his hand on their arm.

3. Dan in surgery with Dr. Stamp

4. Dan talking to the same patient and checking their stitching

5. Dan filling in some paper work and putting it in a tray, he then looks at his watch which reads five o'clock. He finds Stamp to inform him that his shift is over.

INT. HOSPITAL - EVENING

DAN

Dr. Stamp, my shift's over...I'm going to head home.

DR. STAMP

Fine.

Dan begins to walk off but is stopped by Stamp.

DR. STAMP (CONT'D)

You OK Sadler?

DAN

(looking over his shoulder)

I'm fine Dr. Stamp

DR. STAMP

See you tomorrow then.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - EVENING

Dan is walking down a hallway when he stops in front of a door that reads 'CHAPEL OF REST'. He enters.

## INT. CHAPEL OF REST - EVENING

There are numerous bodies in the chapel but there is only one without its face covered. Dan walks over to the girl that died on his operating table.

He looks in a small tray beside her bed which holds a few possessions and picks up a necklace with a crucifix on it. He studies it for a few seconds until he hears the door open, at which point he stuffs the necklace into his pocket. He turns around to see that it is the girl's father. The father walks over to the corpse.

JOHN

She was planning on going to university after the summer. She was going to go all the way to London...she was going to become an artist.

He smiles and looks at Dan who awkwardly smiles back.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Teenagers ey? You tell them not to do something and they run off in the opposite direction.

(pause)

She said she was off with some of her church friends...celebrating...she left a message...I still have it on my phone...I guess I'm afraid if I get rid of it I'd lose a part of her. Stupid...

DAN

No it's not.

(pause)

What's her name?

John brushes her hair.

JOHN

Claire.

(pause)

She looks just like she's sleeping.

Dan puts a hand on the man's shoulder.

DAN

I'm sorry for your loss...I know it won't mean much.

JOHN

It's OK...I keep telling myself  
it's all part of his plan...it  
must be.

DAN

You think God *planned* this?

JOHN

They always told us he works in  
mysterious ways...

Dan has a defeated look on his face.

DAN

But surely you can't-

John looks at Dan mournfully.

DAN (CONT'D)

Nothing...I'm sorry, I should go.

John stares at his daughter, Dan looks at him and then  
starts to walk out of the room. Just as he is about to open  
the door he stops and turns around.

DAN (CONT'D)

John?

John looks round to Dan.

DAN (CONT'D)

I was an intern who was working  
with Dr. Stamp on your daughter.  
I was there when she died.

JOHN

What?

DAN

Dr. Stamp was with me for the  
majority of the procedure...but  
he had to leave...because of  
another emergency.

JOHN

So what does that mean?

DAN

It meant I had to take over the  
surgery...even though I'm only an  
intern I was told I did all that  
was humanly possible. I-

JOHN

(interrupting)

What do you mean 'only an intern', you mean you're not a surgeon?

DAN

I am...I'm learning but, your daughter, she was bleeding internally, we thought it'd been stopped, but it hadn't. After Dr. Stamp left she started bleeding again. I tried my best to save her.

JOHN

Your best? If you'd done your best I wouldn't be standing here while my daughter is stuck on a slab!

DAN

(sharply)

So you were happier when you thought God took your daughters life?

JOHN

No-there was nothing you could have done. A better-actual doctor wouldn't have messed up like that.

DAN

So now you found that there's someone you can blame, that you can *actually* see, how can you say-

JOHN

Get out.

Dan stares at him.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Get out!

Dan sighs but then leaves the room.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

As Dan exits the room he sees Dr. Stamp waiting by the door.

DAN

I-

DR. STAMP

Told the father, I could hear.

DAN

I tried to explain to him, but he wouldn't listen to me.

DR. STAMP

It always helps when you decided to trample on his beliefs while telling him what happened.

DAN

But he thinks it's my fault.

DR. STAMP

You did confess to him that you think it was your fault. You gave him all the ammo he needed.

DAN

Are you saying I shouldn't of?

DR. STAMP

You already know the answer to that. Don't let you emotions get the better of you..but be prepared to be the punching bag sometimes.

DAN

I'll try.

DR. STAMP

You're damn right you will. No doctor-no one, wants to deal with that everyday.

DAN

No sir...

DR. STAMP

(raising his eyebrows)

I thought you said your shift had finished?

Dan begins to walk away.

DR. STAMP (CONT'D)

In time it'll get better, so just grin and bear for now.

Dan turns round and nods at him.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dan is walking down the hallway when the Sarah sidles up to him. Dan looks to her.

SARAH

A few of us are heading to the bar, you coming?

DAN

Yeh...I could use a drink.

SARAH

(comforting smile)

I don't think even if you used a whole barrel of holy water it could bring her back...

DAN

(awkwardly smiling)

It only works if you dance and chant while doing it remember?

SARAH

Oh very funny...I think the only cure for this morbid humour is a beer, cmon.

She links his arm and pulls him away smiling.

INT. BAR - EVENING

Dan is in a crowded bar sat at a table with people from the hospital sipping a beer and smiling.

INT. BAR - EVENING - LATER

The people around Dan are laughing and talking with each other while Dan stares off into the distance. He looks at his watch and then stands up.

DAN

Hey, I have to head off.

SARAH

What? It's only early, cmon stay.

DAN

Nah, I'm knackered, I have to be in early tomorrow.

SARAH

You sure you're OK?

DAN  
(smiling)  
Yeh don't worry. I'll see you all  
tomorrow.

The people at the table wave to him. He begins to walk to the door when Sarah catches up with him.

SARAH  
Dan wait.

He turns round to face her.

DAN  
What?

SARAH  
If you don't fancy this place  
then maybe you and me could get a  
drink somewhere else.

DAN  
(smiling)  
Thanks but I'm O.K. I just want  
to get home...

SARAH  
(disheartened)  
Oh...

DAN  
But I'll see you tomorrow right?  
Maybe we can sort something out  
then?

Sarah smiles at him, nods and then walks back to the table. Dan smiles but as he turns to the door it fades and he walks out of the bar

INT. SHOP - EVENING

Dan walks into the shop and picks up a can of beer and goes to the counter.

SHOP KEEPER  
Three pounds.

Dan rifles through his pockets and takes out some change and gives it to the man. He takes the can and walks out of the store.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Dan cracks open the beer and begins walking.

EXT. CANAL - EVENING

Dan is drinking his beer as he walks next to the canal. He takes the small crucifix out of his pocket, stops and gazes at it. He takes a final swig of his beer and then throws the crucifix into the canal. He walks a few paces forwards and throws the can in a bin. He continues walking.

INT. DAN'S ROOM - EVENING

Dan gets into bed. He closes his eyes and the scene fades out.

FADE TO BLACK.