

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Written by
Jamie Press

Copyright © 2012, Jamie Press

No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, performed, used, quoted, published, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, photocopying or otherwise without the prior written permission of the author.

FADE IN:

INT. CORRIDOR - COLLEGE -- DAY

Along the wide open, long corridor of this college lie piles of scattered belongings from students. Bags, folders, papers everywhere. It's like there was a sudden rush to get out.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - COLLEGE -- DAY

In another corridor of the college is the exact same picture. Except in this one we can see BODIES lying on the floor. They're not moving. It's eerie. It's like a ghost town.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - COLLEGE -- DAY

Inside a classroom desks and chairs have been kicked over and pushed out the way. Behind the desk lies another DEAD BODY. This time of a TEACHER. Bullet holes riddle the chalk board and surrounding walls.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ANOTHER CLASSROOM - COLLEGE -- DAY

Inside another classroom we see a bunch of STUDENTS and their TEACHER. They're hiding underneath their desks. The Teacher's desk has been pushed up against the door to the classroom, blocking entrance. The students look incredibly scared.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - COLLEGE -- DAY

Yet another corridor lies in the same state as the others. In the far background we see a PERSON walk by. It's a quick walk by but it definitely was a human.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIBRARY - COLLEGE -- DAY

Inside the library looks like a tornado just hit.

Books lie on the floor, scattered, chairs and tables been kicked over, papers, folders everywhere, computers smashed. Underneath some of the tables and desks are STUDENTS looking terrified.

Underneath one desk is AARON, 16 years old. He too is terrified. He lies on his stomach with his hands over his head. He doesn't dare move.

Then O.S we HEAR THE SOUND OF A DOOR OPENING. It gives off a CREAK NOISE. Then we HEAR FOOTSTEPS.

From the POV of Aaron we can see a pair of BLACK BOOTS, laced up really tight. They are just standing there. Then they begin walking until they are gone out of Aaron's POV.

We STAY ON Aaron as he tries not to make any noise. From O.S we still HEAR FOOTSTEPS. Then we hear what SOUNDS LIKE A TABLE BEING MOVED. Then we hear a FEMALE'S VOICE.

FEMALE (O.S.)
(pleading, crying)
Oh my god. Please, no, I don't want
to die. Please! No!

Then -- BANG! -- a GUNSHOT ECHOES. The Female voice is no longer present. Aaron jumps at the sound of the gunshot. Silence. FOOTSTEPS being again.

We're BACK TO THE POV of Aaron. The black boots enter again. They're walking towards the entrance of the library. Just as they get there, they come to an abrupt stop. The boots turn around, they now face toward Aaron.

CLOSE ON Aaron who begins BREATHING much quicker. Incredibly terrified.

BACK TO THE POV of Aaron. The boots begin walking towards Aaron. They come right up to the desk and stop. The shadows of the boots cast over Aaron. Then the boots drop to one knee. Then the other. A head appears. This is KEVIN, 16 years old, his face is of so much innocence. He sweats profusely and has drops of blood on his face.

BACK TO THE SCENE as Aaron is now even more terrified, this could be his last moments alive. Kevin sits down, leaning against a wall.

KEVIN
Hey there.

Aaron can't reply. He's too terrified. Kevin waits for a reply. There's an awkward silence.

Aaron looks at Kevin's hand and sees a GUN in Kevin's hand. Kevin sees Aaron looking at the gun.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Not bad, huh? It's my Dads. He always tried to hide it in places that he thought I didn't know about.

(chuckles)

He couldn't even hide himself. Every time we would play hide-n-seek it would be so easy to find him. He would hide in the most obvious places. A cupboard. A wardrobe. Under the bed. Too obvious. Whenever it was my turn to hide I had much better places. One of my favorites was my neighbors house.

(laughs)

Come on, admit it, if you were playing hide-n-seek with your son, would you think of looking in your neighbors house? Jeez, I got caught so many times my neighbor thought that I was spying on her, watching her undress and shit. I wasn't. I was just playing a game of hide-n-seek with my Dad. When she told my parents where I was they would be mad but it didn't matter. My Dad would be talking to me seriously about going over to her house and all I had to say was, "Yeah, but I won", and he would smile and laugh.

(beat)

My Dad was the best.

Awkward silence between them. Aaron doesn't know what to say. Kevin looks at Aaron.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

What's your name?

AARON

(slight pause)

Aaron.

KEVIN

I don't think I've seen you around school before. What classes do you take?

AARON
English, Math, Business, Music, a
few others.

KEVIN
(remembering)
Oh, wait a minute, are you the guy
who fell in the punch bowl at the
prom?

AARON
Yeah.

KEVIN
(laughs)
Oh, man, I'm sorry. I don't mean to
laugh it's just that, well, that
was funny.

Sensing the opportunity to keep the conversation going and to
kill time for the cops to come, Aaron carries on the flow of
conversation.

AARON
It's not what my girlfriend will
remember it for though.

KEVIN
(hooked)
Really? What happened?

AARON
Well, I was really drunk, that's
why I fell into the punch bowl. She
was helping me home, I leaned in to
kiss goodbye and I may have
accidentally threw up over her.

KEVIN
(laughs)
Oh my god. That's hilarious. What'd
she do after?

AARON
We broke up.

KEVIN
You broke up?

AARON
Yeah.

KEVIN

She's over-re-acting a bit, don't you think?

AARON

Well, it's not exactly the first time this has happened.

KEVIN

It's happened twice?

AARON

Three.

KEVIN

(laughs)

Three times? Oh my god. I take it you like your booze then?

AARON

I guess so. I do like to party.

KEVIN

(chuckles)

Yeah. I like to party as well. Actually, just last Friday I went out to this really cool nightclub. It's a new place. "Heat" I think it's called. Real banging place. I went with this girl I've liked since secondary school. She's a really pretty girl, smart and sweet. Megan, her name is. Ever since seeing her for the first time I've been trying to find a way to ask her out.

(chuckles, smiling)

Boy, it took me forever to work up the courage but I finally did it. We went to the club and it was really cool. We were having a great time.

(beat, smile fades to frown)

That was until we were leaving. We were walking out when Megan realized she had forgot her jacket. I went inside and got it, came back out and she was surrounded by a couple of guys. They were talking to her and really getting up close to her. She seemed so uncomfortable and scarred.

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

So, I go over to them and tell them that she's with me and we try to walk away but they won't let us leave. I politely ask them to leave us alone but they wouldn't let us go. Then one of them punches me. Right in the face. They kick the ever loving shit outta' me.

(beat)

Those bastards embarrassed me in front of the girl I love. Then they raped her down an alley whilst they attacked me.

(beat)

Her parents blamed me for the entire thing. They wouldn't let me see her ever again. Numerous times I have gone to her house and they have yelled at me and told me to stay away or they're gonna' call the police. All I want to do is see if she's alright.

Awkward silence. Aaron is kicking himself for bringing up the topic. He's brought back bad memories for Kevin and that's the last thing that he should do when he's facing death.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

How'd you do in your exams?

AARON

(slight pause)

Okay, I guess. How'd you do?

KEVIN

Not good. I got some pretty bad grades. But it wasn't all my fault that my grades were so bad. I would say 30% would be my fault and 70% would be the school's fault.

(beat)

You know, this school is the worst place ever. It's filled with hypocritical, right-winged, egotistical, obnoxious, unorganized assholes for teachers. There's been so many times when this school has screwed me over. One time, we had this IT teacher. He was really cool. He was a good laugh. He would spilt the lesson up equally so we would have fun whilst we worked. But the problem was he was completely unorganized.

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

He lost lots of student's work. Including mine. That effected our grades. Another example would be my Maths class.

(chuckles)

This made me laugh so many times. I had three Maths teachers. On Monday would be Mr. Gray, Wednesday would be Mrs. Hall and Friday would be Mr. Anderson. Now there's nothing wrong with that apart from one thing. They're all teaching something different. So, lets say that on Monday's lesson we would start on Algebra, well on Wednesday we wouldn't continue on that we would do Fractions and on Friday we would do Angles. So, they mean to tell me, that, I have to remember three subjects all at once and continue on with them the following week? Real teachers would get together and discuss one topic that they would cover in all three lessons so then it's easier for us to remember it all and continue on with them each week. But no, they just like to play us all around.

(beat)

This school is so fuckin' hypocritical it's insane. They always used to tell us in our Personal Development lessons that we all have a voice and we should all stand up for ourselves and seeing as we are now in Sixth Form we have a choice of what we want to do. Yet, a couple of weeks later they say we have to begin mentoring the year below us. Despite not one person wanting to do it they force us too. What happened to standing up and having a choice in sixth form? Huh?

(yells, angry)

What happened?!

Aaron jumps at Kevin yelling.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

They did it much more shit to me. Over and over again.

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

But the one thing that really made me pissed was the fact that they knew I was failing my classes.

(beat)

A school's responsibility is to let parents and students know how they're doing. Well, for a hell of a long time they knew that I was working at a much lower level than I should've been. They knew and not once did they tell me or my parents. They let me fail. It's the school's responsibility to teach me so when I leave school I know everything I need to know so I can live a happy and successful life outside of school.

(chuckles)

I came outta' school not knowing anything. I don't know nothing about finance, banking, property, nothing. They. Failed. Me.

Awkward silence. Aaron thinks he's dropped the ball again. He tries something happier.

AARON

Why don't you and your Dad talk with the school? Maybe they can help you. I'm sure your Dad will be willing to help.

KEVIN

(beat)

My Dad passed away.

Aaron is speechless. He's not lucky today is he.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

He had a heart-attack when I was ten. It's just me and my Mom now.

AARON

Why don't you get your Mom to help you then?

KEVIN

(beat)

Because I hate her.

(beat)

We don't like each other. She doesn't like me and I don't like her - period.

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I know that I'm supposed to honor, love and respect my Mother but it's impossible because of the way she has treated me.

Kevin begins to cry. Tears stream down his cheeks.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

That's why I want my Dad back. He never laid a hand on me. He loved me. He let me live my life and even when it came time for me to be told off he would never hurt me.

(beat)

She doesn't love me. She doesn't care anything about me. It's like she was just waiting for Dad to pass away so she can show me who was boss. I know that if Dad was here today he wouldn't let her do anything to me.

Aaron can't help but feel somewhat sympathetic towards Kevin.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

What's my life worth? Huh? Why am I here? What did God put me on this earth for? Everything in my life has just been turned on it's head. People hate me. People screw me. What did I ever do to them?

AARON

You didn't do anything to them. You don't deserve any of that happening to you. Nobody does. I know this might now help you but trust me when I say "it does get better".

KEVIN

(chuckles)

Yeah, right, okay then.

AARON

It really does. There's times in life when we go through some really terrible shit. But eventually all the terrible shit is put aside and you move forward in life. We're still young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us. That's what we need to keep remembering.

KEVIN

You ever heard of the saying
"actions speak louder than words"?

AARON

Yes. Of course.

KEVIN

It's never been more true. For years and years I've told people about my life. For years, I've told people about everything but yet, nothing happens. It's like in school. When a kid is getting bullied he goes and tells a teacher. That teacher would then tell the bully to stop, even though he says he will, he never does. He just comes back and does it even more. But if that kid who was getting bullied never told the teacher and instead turned around and decked the bully with a right hand then the bullying would stop straight away.

(beat)

Actions....speak louder....than words.

AARON

(beat)

Is that why you're doing this?

Kevin doesn't answer. He looks at Aaron. Awkward silence.

KEVIN

Go.

Aaron doesn't quite believe he just heard them words.

AARON

What?

KEVIN

Get outta' here.

Aaron hesitates. This could be a trap.

AARON

You're letting me go?

KEVIN

Yes. Go on. Get outta' here.

Aaron slowly gets up. Kevin remains seated on the floor. Still a little skeptical, Aaron never turns his back on Kevin. He walks slowly to the door. Just before he's about to leave.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Hey, Aaron, do me a favour?

AARON
Sure.

KEVIN
Leave me a video game so people think I did it because of the game.

Aaron doesn't know what to say. Is he serious?

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Kidding.

Aaron nods and cracks a nervous laugh. He turns to leave but this time he stops himself. He turns back to Kevin.

AARON
What about you? What are you gonna' do?

Kevin turns to look at Aaron. Smiles.

KEVIN
(beat)
Go.

Aaron hesitates, for some reason he doesn't want to leave Kevin behind. But he has too. Aaron turns and heads out the library.

Kevin places his gun to his chin. We CLOSE IN ON Kevin as he has some final words.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
I love you, Dad.

EXT. COLLEGE -- DAY

Aaron comes running out of the school building. Then we HEAR -- BANG! -- A GUNSHOT ECHOES. Aaron stops in his tracks. He looks back to the building. He knows what happened. He takes a minute to think then continues running. Multiple police cars enter the college grounds. SIRENS FLASH AND BLARE as we CRANE UP to the beautiful clear sky. THE END CREDITS ROLL.

THE END.