

Dano Jensen's Closure

by

Oney Mendoza

FADE IN:

INT. FUNERAL HOME - BASEMENT - DAY

Music plays nearby from an iPod docking station.

TESSA, a pretty woman of 24 with wild hair, leans over a body on a steel table. She applies red lipstick to the corpse beneath her.

Tessa examines the dead body, smiles - satisfied. She tosses the red lipstick aside and dances in place to the beat of the music, sings along.

TESSA

Dano! Come here...

FOOTSTEPS travel down the stairs...

DANO JENSEN, 28, slips on plastic gloves as he steps off the last step. He is a good looking guy with deep, caring eyes. There is a serious demeanor about his presence.

He reaches Tessa.

Dano looks down at the body on her table. His eyes bulge - not happy.

DANO

What did you do to Mrs. Garrett?

TESSA

Doesn't she look great?

The body, a very, very old woman, has masses of makeup on.

DANO

Tessa, she looks like a prostitute
for God's sake.

TESSA

You should've seen what she looked
like when she came in!

Tessa spins in place, grooves to the music. Dano shakes his head, livid.

DANO

No...Tessa, this is completely
unacceptable. Her family will
literally have our heads if they
see her like this.

TESSA

I like it!
(beat)
Geeze Dano, have a sense of humor.
I'm only kidding.

Dano eyes her. Tessa smiles.

TESSA

Oh, come on. Don't give me that.
Sorry that I like to have fun once
in a while.

DANO

Ha-ha? This is funny to you? Your
humor is just as stiff as some of
these bodies.

Tessa's mouth drops.

TESSA

Seriously? Was that supposed to be
even remotely funny?

Dano smiles.

TESSA

Ew. Keep that humor up and I might
just kill myself -

Tessa catches herself. She looks down at Mrs. Garrett.

TESSA

No disrespect Mrs. G.

Dano covers up Mrs. Garrett with a sheet. Tessa suddenly
jolts with excitement.

TESSA

Did you see that we're housing a
celebrity?

Dano shakes his head. Clueless.

INT. PREP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tessa leads Dano towards the back of the room. Dano swipes
up a clipboard from the wall and scans the paperwork, glances
over the name at the top of the form.

They reach a body, on a table and covered by a sheet.

TESSA

Male. Twenty-seven-years-old. He was shot downtown last week outside Bucky's Bar...ring any bell?

DANO

The name sounds familiar.

TESSA

A-duh. Local guy. Been all over the news. Where have you been?

Tessa pulls the sheet down just enough to expose the dead person's face.

TESSA

We don't have to focus much on making him pretty, most of the damage was done to the stomach region.

Dano stares down at the body long and hard, in deep thought. Tessa takes notice.

TESSA

You know him or something?

DANO

I did...yeah.

TESSA

Sorry?

DANO

Do they know who did it?

TESSA

They found the gun with one of the crackheads in that really bad neighborhood downtown. But, who's to say.

Dano zones off, stares at the body. Tessa waves her hand in front of him.

TESSA

Hello, Dano? Mr. Boss-Man, you okay?

She LAUGHS.

Dano turns to Tessa.

DANO
He was ah...this guy used to bully
me growing up.

TESSA
I'm sorry, Dano.

Dano turns back to the body on the table.

DANO
I don't know why I was always the
easiest target for him. Ever since
the sixth grade he tormented me
almost everyday...beatings and even
robbed me.

Dano turns back to Tessa, locks eyes with her. Tessa looks
on, concerned.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - SIDEWALK - DAY

Large homes and manicured lawns line the street on this
especially gorgeous day.

DANO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
When I told my parents what he was
doing they confronted his
parents...but that only made it
worse...

Dano, now 14, travels down the empty sidewalk, looking over
his shoulder every few steps. He is a very "nervous" looking
freshman who could see to lose a few pounds.

DANO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I got him suspended a few times and
eventually, expelled. But, that
didn't help me much...he was my
neighbor.

Dano picks up the pace, tugs at his backpack. The strap
loosens, ready to tear -

BOY (O.S.)
Nerd alert! Nerd alert! Nerd
alert!

Dano jumps with terror. Eyes wide. Dano breaks out into a
sprint - as fast as his little chubby legs will allow him.

KEITH DAVIES, 14, wavy blonde hair and athletic - and taller than Dano too, whips past Dano with his bicycle, blocks Dano's path.

Dano cringes, stops in place.

KEITH

Hey fag -

DANO

Please, not today. I don't feel good.

KEITH

I don't give a fuck, Double-F. Do you like that name, fat fag?

Dano looks at the ground. Keith grins all too widely.

KEITH

Some of the guys from the football team want to get at you.

(beat)

You don't like to play sports, do you queer?

DANO

I don't particularly care for running.

Keith LAUGHS.

KEITH

Only when you're being chased, right?

Keith pushes off the concrete from his bike. Keith continuously slaps Dano as he circles him.

Dano's breathing deepens.

DANO

What do the football players want with me?

KEITH

They want to kick your ass. I told them you were a queer and you have these queery thoughts about them.

DANO

Why do you tell lies about me?

KEITH
Why do you tell lies about me to
your parents?

DANO
They're not lies. I don't lie.

KEITH
My name shouldn't come out of your
mouth ever, Double-F. Understand?

DANO
You're right. Absolutely right.

Keith continues to slap at Dano as he circles him.

DANO
Please stop...

Keith doesn't. Anger grows in Dano's face.

KEITH
So, keep your fucking mouth shut
and stop telling your parents -

DANO
Stop fucking hitting me!

Oddly, Keith complies. He looks over at Dano, GRUNTS.

DANO
Keith, I'm tired of you messing
with me. I'm tired of you always
beating me. I'm tired of being
scared of you all the time -

Keith elbows Dano right in the nose. Dano covers his nose as
it bleeds out almost immediately. Dano falls down to the
sidewalk, tears form in his eyes.

Keith breaks out into a hysterical laughter.

KEITH
Oh my! Is fat fag going to cry!?
Everyone! Look at this little baby!

Keith leans down to Dano.

KEITH
And I fucking swear if you tell a
soul, you will die Double-F.

Rage bursts in Dano's eyes as he pushes himself off the
ground. Dano swings his backpack, knocks Keith off his bike.

Dano YELLS like a madman and dives for Keith, both of them land on the ground, swinging at each other.

Keith slams Dano's head against the concrete, hard. Dano looks up at Keith, winded. Keith takes advantage, hurls punches into Dano's face.

Dano's eyes roll back. Blood smears his face.

KEITH

Freak!

Keith jumps back onto his bike and peddles away from the scene in a hurry.

DANO (V.O.)

Keith was put in juvenile hall, but that wasn't enough for him in my opinion. Or long enough. As soon as he was out, my life was hell again. He tormented me all the way until the end of my junior year...I moved away...to a different neighborhood.

END FLASHBACK.

On the table before Dano is Keith. He is much older with bags under his eyes and a much thinning hairline.

A tear rolls down Dano's cheek. Tessa moves in, puts a hand on Dano's shoulder. Dano is quick to move away. He wipes his cheek free of the tear.

Tessa remains where she is, looks over at Dano.

TESSA

I'm sorry you had to go through that.

DANO

It's okay, just tough memories.

(beat)

I actually missed my ten year reunion this past summer...to avoid him.

Awkward silence follows.

DANO

Can I tell you something?

RING-RING. A cell phone rings O.S. Disappointment spreads across Dano's face.

TESSA

Hey! That's my brother. Would it be okay I take him home?
Apparently he has a -

Tessa hesitates. She looks over at Dano.

TESSA (CONT'D)

A bully that likes to harass him on the school bus home.

DANO

That's unfortunate. I feel for your brother.

Tessa nods.

TESSA

Kids.

DANO

Sure.

TESSA

Best boss ever. Cheer up, okay?
Don't dwell in the past. Be back soon.

Tessa leaves the room.

Dano doesn't break eye contact with Keith's body. He breathes in deeply and lets out a SIGH.

DANO

You got what you deserved.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. DOWNTOWN - BAR - NIGHT

Keith, 28, alive and well, stumbles out the entrance, LAUGHING to himself, and very inebriated.

He grips onto his beer bottle, making his way towards the empty parking lot.

DANO (V.O.)

When I was younger I often thought that revenge should be left for God to handle. But, the closure of my childhood needed to come...and I don't believe in God anymore so I took matters into my own hands.

PARKING LOT

Keith weaves in between parked vehicles. All is quiet. No one is around.

He walks near a parked truck. As Keith gets closer, the driver's window rolls down. Keith stops, looks over at the person inside the truck.

Dano sits in the driver's seat.

Keith wobbles, eyes Dano questionably.

KEITH
(slurring)
Hey...hey...don't I know you, man?

He moves closer to the truck.

Dano suddenly points a handgun right at Keith. BAM! BAM! BAM!

Keith's beer bottle falls to the ground, shatters.

END FLASHBACK.

Dano still looks down at Keith's body as he reaches over -

DANO (V.O.)
An eye for an eye...
(beat)
My closure finally came.

Dano pulls the sheet back over Keith's aged face.

DANO
Goodnight, you ass.

FADE OUT.