

Dani
by
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FADE IN:

EXT. EXPANSIVE FIELD - LATE AFTERNOON

DANI runs past the camera and all we see are her legs passing by.

As she's running, we hear her heavy breathing, gasping for air like she needs the oxygen to push her legs further, and faster.

The longer we watch her running, the more apparent it is that she is running away from something, something dangerous.

At this point, an ominous droning sound is audible and we see the look of fear on her sweaty, dirty face as she's running towards safety.

CUT TO:

INT. MODERN KITCHEN

Dani is blending her lunch smoothie from Daily Harvest while adjusting the messy bun of hair atop her head. As she makes her way around the kitchen we hear the soft undertones of modern pop music in the background. As the blender comes to a stop we see her pouring a thick green smoothie that she seems less than thrilled about drinking.

She plops a straw down into the smoothie, takes a single sip and places the glass by her closed laptop as she walks by, headed to the next room.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM

With the radio still audible in the background, Dani is humming in harmony with the song while she tosses a load of clothes in the washer. We hear the wash cycle start up as she heads back to her smoothie.

INT. KITCHEN TABLE

Dani peels up her laptop to an already loaded instagram feed. As she's scrolling through endless rows of #interiordesign we hear a deep sigh, what you would expect from someone as they prepare to get back to work, boring, meaningless work.

Her cell phone vibrates on the table.

DANI

Hello?

She wedges the phone between her ear and her shoulder as she reaches for another sip of her deep green smoothie, never once slowing down on her instagram scroll.

FEMALE CALLER (V.O)

Dani, have you finished the look for the bar on Broadway?

DANI

Almost. I just need a few more hours to put everything together. We'll be able to show them by-

FEMALE CALLER (V.O)

We told them they would have our presentation this afternoon so they could start picking wall colors.

DANI

I know, I know. I came across a few new ideas I wanted to use. I'm putting it all together now.

FEMALE CALLER (V.O)
Just send it over as soon as you
can. I'll tell them the wifi at
Starbucks is out.

Something catches DANI'S attention outside the window.

DANI
Hey, I... I need to call you back.

FEMALE CALLER (V.O)
Hey, don't-

We see Dani staring out the window towards her back yard.
More like a field than a yard, but it's still all hers.

The music has stopped. All we hear is the hum of the washing
machine.

Dani takes a harder look out the window, confused and almost
in disbelief.

INT. MODERN KITCHEN

Dani makes her way to the back door, unlocking the deadbolt, then the handle. As she swings the door open, Dani takes a cautious step out.

EXT. BACK PORCH

We look out over the back yard, Dani's field of dreams, and see nothing out of the ordinary. Dani yells out into the emptiness of her property.

DANI

I don't know what kind of game
you're playing, but get outta here.

Dani takes a wide look across her kingdom. It hasn't been mowed in months and probably couldn't be mowed now if she wanted to.

DANI (CONT'D)

I'm too busy for this shit.

INT. MODERN KITCHEN

Dani walks back inside, purposeful with locking the door as she moves back towards her laptop. As she passes by the window, she sees it again.

DANI

What the fuck?

For the first time, we see what Dani sees. A small figure with long hair, hair that covers most of it's face. Clothes are very nondescript but whoever this is, they clearly don't belong.

Dani blinks, squints and takes a harder look out the window. The small figure is gone again.

Dani reaches for her phone.

[Text messages are in italics.]

DANI (TEXT)

Can you come over?

KARA (TEXT)

...

Dani looks back outside and the small figure is back, and closer to the house. Dani runs to the door, unlocks it again, and swings it open with a hard pull. The figure is gone.

EXT. BACK PORCH

Dani, still standing in the doorway to the back porch, looks around cautiously.

DANI
My girlfriend is on her way.
Whatever game you're playing...
it's not cool. Us grown ups have
grown up shit to do.

Dani looks down at her phone.

KARA (TEXT)
*I can later. I picked up an extra
shift.*

KARA (TEXT) (CONT'D)
Dinner?

KARA (TEXT) (CONT'D)
Netflix?

KARA (TEXT) (CONT'D)
*I wanna see that new one about the
robots that don't know they're
robots.*

DANI
Ugh.

Dani is visibly frustrated. She puts her phone down on the table as she steps out onto the back porch.

EXT. BACK PORCH

Dani moves towards the yard as she looks to her left and right. We see her car parked carelessly off to the side of the house. Everything appears to be fine.

EXT. BACK YARD

As she walks out into the yard, still looking for her creepy visitor, her eyes are panning back and forth, cautious, but curious, but mostly cautious.

EXT. BACK YARD

As Dani gets closer to the weed line of her jungle we hear the back door slam shut. Dani runs back quickly to find the door locked.

EXT. BACK PORCH

Dani looks down through the glass of the door and sees her phone ringing. It's Kara.

DANI'S PHONE
One Missed Call

We hear a faint giggle as Dani quickly turns her attention back to the yard. She sees the small figure disappear, running off through the tall grass.

DANI
Come back here!

Dani leaps from the back porch and sprints after this kid, this stranger.

Not sure what she'll do when she catches them, but she knows they're up to no good, and probably with whoever just locked her out of her own house.

EXT. EXPANSIVE FIELD - LATE AFTERNOON

Dani is now running in the opposite direction of when we're first introduced to her, running away from safety.

We hear quick, short breaths from Dani mixed with the sound of a fleeing child.

Dani continues to chase the small figure for a moment.

Dani can see the small figure just ahead of her, almost within arms reach. As she reaches out, Dani grabs a handful of shirt and suddenly everything stops.

She runs into the small figure, but it's like running into a brick wall, and she's stunned.

Dani falls to the ground.

As Dani comes to, she's laying flat on her back with the small figure standing over her.

Dani blinks as her vision clears up. Standing over her is this small figure. Motionless, not quite a child, not quite an adult, something in between but also something different.

It breaks the creepiest slow smile Dani has ever seen. The smile continues to widen across it's face. It's at this moment Dani realizes something is very wrong.

We hear the ominous droning sound start to build again as Dani scurries backwards in an attempt to free herself from the small figures reach.

CUT TO:

EXT. EXPANSIVE FIELD - LATE AFTERNOON

Dani is running, stumbling, frantically towards safety.

We see Dani running past the camera.

We see the small figure running past the camera.

We then see Dani running through the field from above, nothing chasing her, but she continues to run.

Dani makes it to the weed line, and busts through with the energy of a marathon runner, the first to cross the finish line of the Boston Marathon.

EXT. BACK PORCH

Dani freezes for a brief moment as she reaches the back porch.

The back door is open. No longer locked out of her house, Dani ignores the possibility of who may be inside and rushes towards the door, remembering her phone is just inside.

The fear of what's outside is much greater than what might be waiting for her inside.

INT. MODERN KITCHEN

As Dani busts through the doorway, she reaches for where she knows her phone is. Nothing.

DANI

Shit!

She reaches for her car keys that are in the dish by the door. Luckily they're there. Dani lets out a sign of temporary relief.

As Dani turns to run back outside, we're met face to face with the small figure, smiling that eerie smile that's just a few inches too wide.

Dani's phone vibrates.

She looks down to see her phone right where she left it. She looks back up to see the small figure gone again.

Dani answers the phone, frantic.

DANI (CONT'D)

Hello?

FEMALE CALLER (V.O)
You can't hide from this.

DANI
What did you say?

FEMALE CALLER (V.O)
Dani, I need that presentation if
we're gonna close this client. You
can't keep hiding from your
responsibilities at work.

DANI
I can't...

FEMALE CALLER (V.O)
No, I can't! I can't keep covering
for you. Making excuses for you.
Get your shit together.

The call ends. Dani slowly turns to push the door closed. She turns the deadbolt. She turns the handle lock. She turns and leans back against the door with a deep look of confusion.

We hear the washing machine sound signaling the load is done. Suddenly the music starts playing again as Dani cuts a quick glance towards the Amazon Echo in the kitchen.

This time the music is much less cheerful, it's darker, more sad. We hear the under tone of the ominous droning sound starting to build as the music fades away into the distance and the droning grows.