

(Dreams)

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OPENING

Camera slowly zooms in to a burger bar as the titles scroll past. Narration over titles.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING

Dreams... When I was a child,  
dreams were what I lived for.  
Well dreams along with the usual  
high points of a child's life,  
Christmas and birthdays and the  
occasional day out, But dreams  
where what I truly lived for.  
Dreams filled with wondrous  
voyages through fantastic lands  
where brave young heros, normally  
in the guise of myself, rescued  
beautiful princesses from tall  
sky-scraping towers of rock and  
ice; Dreams where interstellar  
battles were fought by swarms of  
tiny space craft against a  
backdrop speckled blackness;  
Dreams where cavemen lived  
alongside dinosaurs and every  
town had a labyrinth beneath it,  
populated by hideous creatures;  
Dreams filled with the  
imagination only possessed by a  
child. You can't believe how  
grateful I am that those days are  
long gone.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING

Going back to my childhood is too  
far though. A better place to  
start would have been about a  
week ago. I think that this was  
the first time I noticed  
something wrong.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING

I remember my life before the  
night of the 7th pretty well, or  
at least I think that I do. I  
remember my job at least.

The camera enters the burger bar to find the staff closing shop. Peter Lawton the manager is walking back from locking the door behind the camera.

PETER LAWTON

Yall did good t'day folks. Keep  
this up yall go along way in this  
business. All ya got ta do is  
seize the day. Seize the day and  
the prospects of promotion are  
endless.

The staff look at each other as if they have heard this hundreds of times before as they finish their tidying. Jake comes out from the back shrugging on his coat looking tired and a little miffed.

PETER LAWTON

You hear what I'm sayin Danny?

DANNY 22

I hear yer, seize the day.

Danny looks across to Alison and looks away as soon as he sees her make eye contact. She smiles shyly back, blushing a little.

DANNY 22

see ya tomorrow

Danny leaves the burger bar by the side door and gets into his battered old car. As he gets in a group of kids hanging in the parking lot erupt into laughter. He starts the engine and starts to drive hitting the steering wheel.

DANNY 22

They're laughing at you, you know Danny boy. Laughing at you 'cause your too chicken-shit to speak to her. Why don't you just ask her out. What you scared at? They were right you know, your nothing but a no good, worthless maggot. That's what they all say behind your back. 22 and what life have you got. Burger boy. Frigging burger boy. Just look at yourself. Waste of time and space and to top it all off you can't even talk to a girl. What kind of man are you. Definitely a fuckin mouse.

Danny's car pulls up at the block of council flats, gets out and walks up the stairs still slagging himself off. He gets to the graffiti covered staircase jogs up them cursing at the smell of urine. Gets to his flat, opens the door, grabs a beer from the fridge and slumps dejectedly into the chair before the flickering TV screen and slowly falls to sleep.

BLACKPOOL - DREAM

Danny age 17 sits on a beach slowly scrunching sand through his toes and wearing cut-off jeans. He sits in a vertical fetal position, elbows around his knees.

The camera watches the grains reflect in the summer sun as if exploding as they cascade over his toes. Camera zooms slowly out from close-up of tumbling sand.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING

In the dream I was seventeen again, sitting on the beach at Blackpool. I remembered the day as if it was yesterday. I remember the distant smell of candy floss and the warmth of the sun.

A gull cries somewhere above and Danny looks up and sees Jane stepping onto the beach a few yards away.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING

I remember her. To say any more than "to my teenage eyes she was pure beauty" wouldn't do what that moment held in my mind. Even five years after I still remember how seeing her made me feel. I remember thinking to myself that I was so glad I was in my cut-offs and not my speedo's. I can remember how when she smiled at me, my whole body filled with some weird energy that just froze my mind.

Jane catches eye with Danny and smiles. Danny looks self-conscious, moves one arm in an attempt at a nervous wave. Jane lingers a moment.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING

Something was wrong though, in my memory she'd turned and walked off into the sunshine. Instead she stood there a moment caught in my gaze.

A football thuds into the side of Danny's head, causing him to fall sideways. He sees Jane's horrified look. The camera now shows Danny's head hit the sand from the rear in show motion, allowing us to see what he sees. Jane rushing towards him in a 'harmony hair-spray slow motion way.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING

My memory Jane didn't see my humiliation. She'd gone by then.

JANE 17

Are you all right?

Danny stammers out:

DANNY 17  
Urm.. I'm Ok.. Thanks

JANE 17  
I'm so glad your not hurt. Oh.  
I'm Jane.

Nervously Danny replies

DANNY 17  
Hi.. Danny

HOME 8TH

Danny aged 22 slowly opens his eyes. The camera looks at the ceiling, slowly opening as your eyes would. And then swings round to capture Danny in bed looking confused. He Raised himself up and swung around to sit on the edge of the bed.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING  
I awoke on the 8th confused. The last thing I remembered was sitting watching TV. This wasn't my flat. It wasn't even any place I recognized.

Danny grabs at the clothes on the chair, conscious about is nakedness, and gets the jeans on before

JANE 22  
Morning babe

Danny was startled by the voice coming from the doorway behind him.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING  
I looked into her eyes. It was her. The girl from the beach. Babe?

JANE 22  
Are we going on holiday or are you just going to sit there gawping?

Danny shrugged. Confusion ruling his mind.

JANE 22  
Danny... Sometimes your...  
Weird!.. But I suppose that's why I love you.

Jane grabs Danny's arm. Thrusts a T-shirt into his hands and man handles him downstairs as he dons the T-shirt.

JANE 22

I've loaded the car already,  
sleepy head, so are you going to  
do the chivalrous thing and  
monopolize the driving, or is it  
equal opportunity time again?

Danny shrugged.

JANE 22

Get your shoes on, I'll drive. <  
< Under her breath > Bloody men

BLACKPOOL 8TH

Jane and Danny aged 22. Camera shows Danny gradually getting more relaxed with shots through the day from arriving at Blackpool, to walking along the promenade, playing on the shore front rip off games, laughing at Danny's failed attempts to win Jane a teddy bear. Eating chips whilst walking arm in arm as dusk falls. The whole day filled with laughter. Then finally in bed together as the following narration closes.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING

That day started out weird. I hadn't a clue what was happening. But it seemed that I had spent the past five years with Jane as my girlfriend and this was our 5th anniversary holiday and by the time we got to blackpool I had made up my mind that I preferred this life.. I'd checked the date tough and it was definitely the 8th. There was one thing that I didn't need to be told though, that I loved Jane with every fibre of my body. Most of the last five years I picked up from Jane's reminiscing. After the best day of my life I lay in bed contemplating on what was happening. My mind couldn't explain anything and was content to relax into sleep.

The digital clock clicks from 01:33 to 01:34

CRASH - DREAM

A car slowly pulls out of a driveway. The camera sweeps down into the car to Danny and Jane sitting in it driving up the M6 Motorway. Danny turns and looks at Jane. She is talking but there is no sound.

The camera is now looking where Danny is looking. The camera focuses on a sign. "Stoke On Trent North". Underneath it scrawled in red is "Look out".

The camera now looks at Jane again. Her eyes are closed. She is asleep.

The car in the next lane seems to be moving into Jane's lane but it isn't the other car that is changing lanes. It's Jane.

Danny tries to scream NO but no sound comes out. He grabs at the wheel, pulling Jane's car away from the car in the next lane. Jane's car swerves to the left into a lorry on the other side of her. The world spins in a cacophony of sound. Flashing lights. Blue. Hospital kind of trolley shot. Echoing voice saying "Your going to be OK"

#### HOSPITAL 9TH

Camera fades in to a hospital bed containing a bandaged cut up looking Danny. A nurse looks across, her attention caught by his movement and groan.

NURSE

Ahr your awake. How do you feel?

DANNY 22

Urgh

NURSE

Don't worry, your going to be fine, your a little bruised around the edges but apart from that your OK.

The nurse puffed Danny's pillow as she talked to him.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING

I wanted to tell her that my whole body was exploding through my mind, but the bruising in my face wouldn't let me talk.

NURSE

Do you feel well enough for a visitor? Your wife's outside.

DANNY 22

Uss.

The nurse opens the door says something and is virtually knocked down by Jane's rush to get in. She leans over Danny, tears running down her cheeks, kissing his forehead. Danny flinches as the touch of her lips feel like knives pressing into his bruised forehead.

JANE 22  
I'm sorry babe... I'm so sorry.

The camera fades to white.

FOUR - DREAM

The camera shows an elevated view of a snow covered lawn from an upstairs window. A bulky man in his late thirties starts to plod down the snow covered path, pulling up his collar to shield against the cold.

The camera pulls back a little to see a four year old boy standing by the window in his pyjamas. He leans forward pushing his legs against the radiator and head against the window.

DANNY 4  
Hot and cold.

Danny announces to himself, a smile growing across his face

DANNY 4  
HOT AND COLD

Danny now shouts giggling to himself. The figure on the path pauses and looks up at the five year old in the window.

DANNY 4  
HOT AND COLD DADDY

The figure on the path waves up at the child. Causing him to laugh whole heartedly. The figure turns back towards the gate waving and as he does he loses his footing and falls to the floor. The child laughs so hard that he bangs his head on the glass causing him to stop laughing. His attention is at the glass which he gives a don't do that again look and then he looks down at the figure still lying still on the path.

DANNY 4  
Get up daddy.

The child announces, the traces of laughter still in his voice.

DANNY 4  
Get up daddy!

The child announces as if he has had enough of this game.

DANNY 4  
GET UP DADDY



He demanded. But the figure lay in the snow still not moving. Camera fades to black

JULY 10TH

DANNYS MUM

Wake up shug

The camera switches to a scene of Danny in bed.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING

I recognized the room even though it was four years since I was last in it. This was my parents house. Well it was until they died in a plane crash four years ago.

DANNYS MUM

Get up! Its 7:30. You don't want to be late do you? Not only that there's a fried breakfast waiting for you down stairs so don't put your suit on yet. We don't want you getting married with egg dribbled down your front do we?

DANNY 22

Married?

DANNYS MUM

Don't tell me your having second thoughts. Poor Jane's been waiting for this day for years. Its only natural to have some last minute jitters. Don't worry.

Danny mumbles to himself.

DANNY 22

At least its still Jane!

DANNYS MUM

Come on then. Chop! Chop!

The camera now speeds up showing a wedding day.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING

Wedding days. I don't know about anybody else's but mine seemed to jump from one moment to the next. From lying in bed, to mum straightening my bow tie. Then we were in the church saying "I do". By now I'd become adept at 'winging' it.

(MORE)

DANNY OLD - NARRATING (cont'd)

I gathered that my mother had brought me up single handled, but my father would have been proud. Being around my mother made me realize how much I'd missed her in the past 3 years. And Jane. Until four days ago would have said it would be impossible for someone to love someone so much after only 3 days, but I loved her more than life itself.

The camera pans to Jane and Danny on the dance floor.

DANNY 22

I love you Mrs. Travis

JANE 22

I know you do and I love you too  
Mr. Travis

CHURCH - DREAM

The camera opens to Danny standing in the church looking expectantly at his watch and the door. The congregation fidgeted, mildly annoyed by the delay. Time drifts by.

During the narration Jane's father arrives at the church, distraught. The congregation is horrified. Danny Cant grasp the world.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING

The dream of the 11th as the first time realized the link between my dreams and reality. In the dream I stood in the church, waiting for Jane to arrive but she didn't. After over an hour Jane's father arrived, distraught. Jane had died the previous night on her hen night. It seems she had overdosed on something. She'd died in the early hours of the morning.

JULY 11TH

The radio kicks into John Cougar Mellencamps "Jack and Dianne" and the camera focusses on Danny curled up crying in bed. He reaches for a bottle of pills on the side. Downs two and curls back up. Still crying.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING

It's the dreams, I remember thinking.

(MORE)

DANNY OLD - NARRATING (cont'd)  
Maybe if I go back o sleep I can  
dream Jane alive again?

## CLOSING

The camera shows a guy sitting at a table in a comfortable house, writing.

DANNY OLD - NARRATING  
That as three days ago. Jade is  
here and, God, I love her so  
much. I also have a son and a  
daughter. Garry is 3 and Carla is  
1. They are both the most  
wonderful children I've met. They  
would be though, They are mine  
and I love them all. I love them  
all too much to sleep. Too much  
too loose... I'm never going to  
sleep again...I don't trust  
sleep...Never sleep...Never  
dream... ...

DANNY 22  
Jeez I'm tired.