

TAMBORINE

Written by

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DRAFT #1

EXT. DANNY'S DRIVEWAY - DAY - MONTAGE

A young adult in his late 20's smiles at the camera

DANNY
(NARRATION)
Hi. My name is Danny Barns and i'm
28 years old.

Danny waves at the camera. He is standing in a driveway at the front of a house.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(Narration)
I lived at 13 Cockatoo lane my
whole life.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(Narration)
This is my brother and sister, BOB
& SALLY...

Bob and Sally are in the kitchen. Bob is standing up wearing a salmon suit and Sally is sitting on a kitchen stool chewing gum and on her phone.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(NARRATION)
My brothers one of the local
lawyers. Reckons he's saved heaps
of innocent criminals.

Bob shakes hands with a DODGY GUY in an ally way. He is smoking a joint.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(NARRATION)
My Sister, a professional
photographer...Although she would
never let me see any of her photos

Sally is in her bedroom wearing an old school girl outfit. She slides her phone under her skirt for a moment. The phones flash goes off. She goes back to texting.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(NARRATION)
And this is my Dad, RICKY.

RICKY and DANNY sit on the couch together. Danny is smiling intently at the camera while Ricky is unamused drinking a beer.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(Narration)

My dad's the greatest in the world.
He buy's us gifts.

Danny is at the dining room table opening a Christmas present. He opens the lid and pulls out a "iPAD BOX". He has a big smile on his face as he tears off the lid. His smile quickly turns to a look of confusion as he pulls out a pair of socks. Ricky laughs in the background.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(Narration)

He plays games with us

Danny is at the dining room table scratching a scratchy ticket. There is pile of scratched ones off to the side. Danny finishes scratching and he holds the ticket up high. HE WON. Ricky runs by and grabs the ticket from his hand. Ricky laughs as he walks away. Danny, with an enthusiastic smile, pulls out another card and goes back to scratching.

DANNY (CONT'D)

He even gets me a cake every year
for my birthday.

Danny sits at the dining room table in front of a cake with Ricky next to him. As Danny goes to blow out the candles Ricky pushes his face into the cake.

The family stand proudly together in front of a house. A woman walks across frame with a suitcase. She is muttering to herself.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(Narration)

Dads been looking after all of us
since mum left. Mum said dad was an
arsehole but I never really
understood what she meant. I loved
him

INT. LIVING ROOM

DANNY

(Narration)

So you can imagine how hard it was
when dad finally passed away.

Danny, wearing a black and white suit, is holding a vase in his hand. He is frowning.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(Narration)
However, dad didn't leave us empty handed.

EXT. DRIVEWAY

DANNY
(NARRATION)
He gave my brother the car

Bob stands enthusiastically in front of a flash looking car. He is wearing a oversized blue suit.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(NARRATION)
My sister the house

Sally stands in front of house. She is unimpressed and on her phone.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(Narration)
All his money to the bowels club.

A chalkboard sits next to a bowling green with the words "FREE BEER FOREVER" on it.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DANNY
(NARRATION)
And for me..

Danny is at the dining room table, he opens a present in front of him.

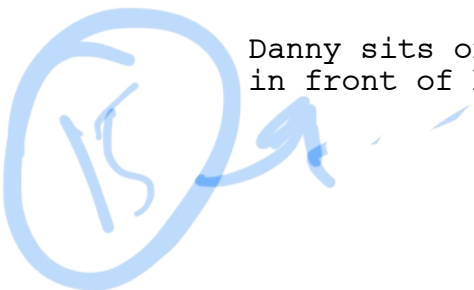
DANNY (CONT'D)
(NARRATION)
Nothing but a tambourine.

Danny pulls out a purple tambourine. A confused expression takes over his face. He stares at the camera.

CUT TO : TITLE CARD "TAMBORINE"

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Danny sits on the couch pondering, pondering the tambourine in front of him.



A young scruffy bloke walks into the room.

DANNY
(NARRATION)
This is my best mate, ELLIOT.

ELLIOT
Did he leave me anything?

Danny looks at him

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
Uh. I mean sorry about your Dad,
mate.

He puts a hand on Danny's back and takes a seat next to him.

DANNY
Yeah Thanks.

ELLIOT
Whats this?

Elliot picks up the tambourine and starts shaking it around
like a baby with car keys.

DANNY
(Stutters)
Hey cut it out it's my dads, I mean
mine, i mean it was dads but its
mine now cause he gave it to me...
In the will. It's all he left me.

Danny takes the tambourine from Elliots hands.

ELLIOT
Your kidding? What about all the
money and shit.

DANNY
Don't need any of that. Besides, he
musta left it to me for a reason
right?

ELLIOT
(Sarcastically)
What? Can you even play the
Tamborine?

Danny looks down at the tambourine and thinks. He slowly
holds it up high in front of him. He takes a deep breath and
then he... SHAKES IT.

Elliot looks over to him with a surprised look on his face.
Danny returns the same look.

DANNY
You thinking what i'm thinking?

Elliot nods intently.

Danny shakes the tambourine again.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Danny passionately shakes the tambourine in the centre of the room. He is trying to find his rhythm. He shouts over all the noise.

DANNY
This is gonna be the best
tambourine band the world has ever
seen.

He slowly turns to Elliot. Elliot is nodding as he swings BAGPIPES around his shoulder and starts playing.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(Narration)
Turns out Elliot wasn't thinking
exactly what I was thinking.

Danny smiles.

Elliot paces around the room playing a bagpipes. Danny watches him from the couch while shaking the tambourine. They try to harmonize with each other.

Danny and Elliot dance around the room playing their respective instruments. Danny hits the tambourine on chairs and furniture.

Danny plays the Tambourine. Elliot responds on the Bagpipes .

They walk toward each other and start playing together before they "crescendo". The two stop, look at each other and smile.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(NARRATION)
From that day on, we knew we had
something special.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Danny flings open a laptop and starts typing. The blue light illuminates Danny's face. Danny stops typing. An advert for an open mic night is on the computer. Danny smiles.

DANNY
(To himself)
This ones for you dad.

DOLLY INTO THE "APPLY NOW" BUTTON ON THE ADVERT

INT. DANNY'S GARAGE - THE NEXT DAY - MONTAGE

ELLIOT
Uh 1, uh 2, uh 1, 2, 3, 4

Danny and Elliot start playing their instruments vigorously.
It's horrible.

DANNY
(Narration)
We practiced night...

Danny and Elliot jam in the garage.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(Narration)
After night...

Danny and Elliot jam in the garage. They are a little less intense.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(Narration)
After night.

Danny and Elliot are basically falling asleep as they play. Elliot plays a low note before falling into Danny and banging his head on the tambourine.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUES

DANNY
(Narration)
Elliot reckons it's the hardest
he's ever worked on anything in his
life.

Elliot's face is red as he blows intensely into the Bagpipes. The noise that comes out is horrible.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(Narration)
Our gig was only one week away but
we new we were already looking like
a pro band.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(Narration)
We laughed.

Danny and Elliot laugh together on the couch as they cheers
each other with a beer.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(Narration)
We cried.

Danny is sobbing in Elliots lap. He is holding his fathers
ashes vase.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(Narration)
We broke up.

Elliot throws the Bagpipes at Danny in frustration.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(Narration)
We got back together.

Danny holds the Bagpipes in front of Elliot. Elliot takes
them from Danny.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(Narration)
After a while we even started
getting fan mail.

Danny and Elliot are on the couch. Danny opens a letter.

The letter reads : "Shut the fuck up - Neighbors".

DANNY (CONT'D)
And before we knew it. It was time
to perform.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Danny is staring at himself in the mirror, nerves running
through his veins. He is wearing PERFORMANCE OUTFIT and the
PAIR OF SOCKS from before. Danny takes a breath. He looks
down at the tambourine resting next to the sink. He looks
back at himself.

He inhales....

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

...and exhales.

HOST

Next up, Danny and Elliot who will
be performing... a tambourine and
Bagpipe solo.

The crowd gives them a lukewarm welcome. Some members of the audience yawn and some are on their phones. Danny and Elliot bounce as they psyche each other up. The duo walks onto stage, inhales and begins playing. They rock their little hearts out on stage. The audience watches in confusion. They jump around banging and blowing their instruments. People lean forward in their seats and look at each other, seeking assurance that they aren't the crazy ones.

Danny looks out into the audience as he plays, sweat dripping off his face. His enthusiasm drops as looks from face to face.

At the end of their set Danny and Elliot bow. Someone in the audience snickers, another giggles and very quickly the entire audience is in fits of laughter.

DANNY

(Narration)

A part of me believed that their
laughing was some kind of approval.
A pat on the back, a punch on the
arm. As if it was an inside joke
that we were all apart of. But we
were not.

Elliot smiles at them and begins laughing as well and nodding. Danny, however, is frozen. He watches as the audience laughs and sound drowns out from the room. An old man sitting in a chair points and laughs at him. Life exits from Danny's face. (Flashback to father laughing at him while he opens his gifts, wins the scratchy and pushes his face into his birthday cake.)

Elliot looks over at the distressed Danny. He takes a step towards him.

INT. House - NIGHT

Danny enters the house followed by Elliot. Danny throws his Tambourine to the floor and it breaks.

ELLIOT

Danny...Danny it's okay.

Danny leans over the dining room table. He deeply inhales and slowly walks over to a piano at the back of the room. Danny sits at piano. He takes a breath. He then plays a melancholic sombre piece. Danny watches him and picks up a guitar, sits beside him and improvises along to the song.

They are amazing!

After a short while of playing, they stop, look at each other, and smile. Life fills both their faces and they suddenly become more animated. They slowly smile, point at each other and start laughing. They continue to laugh together and we dolly out of the room.

DANNY

(NARRATION)

Elliot and I laughed for hours that night. It wasn't until then I realized what real laughter sounded like...

The boys started chatting and playing again. A proper jam session.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(Narration)

...Guess mum was right.

A broken tambourine lies in pieces on the floor.