

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

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DANNY COLLINS

INT. TOUR BUS - NIGHT

Danny, an aging rock star, has met Tom, the son he never knew, for the first time. They sit in Danny's tour bus.

TOM

You are ridiculous, man. You know I spent my entire life trying to become the man you aren't. I am exhausted. You have no idea how exhausting that has been.

DANNY

You know when I met your mom, I was so strung out on God knows what. And when I found out, you know, I tried to help. Send money. She wouldn't have any of it. Refused it. But you know, my life was so extreme, it was so full of drugs and women and traveling and all that rock star shit. I always thought that whoever you were, you would be better off with a more normal life, more normal people. I don't know how I allowed it to go on this long.

TOM

What you did today, your slate's clean with me. But that's as far as this goes, okay?

DANNY

I want to be part of your life.

TOM

It's not a good time right now. This not the right time, okay?

DANNY

Why is this not the right time?

TOM

It's not the right time.

DANNY

What's the matter?

TOM

I'm sick.

DANNY

You're sick? What do you mean?

TOM

It's what Mom died from. It's in the blood. It's pretty bad.

DANNY

Fuck. Fuck, you're kidding me. I just met you. You gotta be fucking kidding me. Oh man, I'm sorry. Obviously that wasn't a great thing, a great reaction. I'm sorry.

TOM

No, that's okay.

DANNY

I'm sorry.

TOM

It's okay, man. Look, I'm the one who should be sorry. After all, you're Danny Collins right? Who the fuck am I to get in the way of your happy ending.

DANNY

No. No.

TOM

Let me ask you something. How did you think this was gonna end, that little movie you got going on in your head? What, you thought you'd just show up out of the blue, out of nowhere really, and fix my little girl, and then what? You and me hold hands and cry as the music swells? Is that it?

Danny tries to touch Tom's arm.

TOM (CONT'D)

Don't you fucking touch me. Don't fucking touch me.

DANNY

Okay.

TOM

Hey you want a little bit of the real world? You want normal?

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

How's this for normal, superstar?
I got a \$200,000 mortgage. I got
a pregnant wife. And oh yeah, I
got this rare form of leukemia
that's probably going to kill me.
Welcome home Dad. See what you
missed?

DANNY

I don't know what to say.

TOM

I don't need you to say anything,
man. I just need you to leave.
Now let me go back inside and talk
to my wife before she asks me what
we're talking about.

DANNY

Hold it. She doesn't know? Are
you crazy? That's no good, man.

TOM

Look, I got a great doctor in New
York. He's talking about three
weeks of this target therapy.
Shit, I'm not going to lose my
hair. Within a month they know if
it's taken. If it's taken, then
maybe I stand a chance. And if it
doesn't, then it happens quick.
Sam is six months into a rough
pregnancy, so I'll tell her after
the baby. I'm going to Delaware on
a job. That's what she knows.

DANNY

Man, you're gonna need help. You
have a friend?

TOM

She's my friend.

DANNY

Then, whatever, I'll be there. I
mean what else is there.

TOM

Be where?

DANNY

Wherever. I mean, you need me.
I'll be there.

TOM
No no no no. I don't need you.

DANNY
No, you do.

TOM
That's not what this is about.

DANNY
This is not open for discussion.

TOM
But --

DANNY
This is not open for discussion.
You're going to have deal with it.
Because I'm here. To fucking stay.