

Racing Cars

By

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1.EXT. STREET. - DAY

A street of rundown Edwardian housing. Out into the early morning steps DANNY BUCKLEY, early 20's, dressed in a baggy white t-shirt, surfing shorts and strap-over training shoes. He looks at his garish SPORTS WATCH. It shows 7am.

Danny takes a deep breath and starts to vigorously limber up. A MAN passes and smiles at Danny.

MAN 1
Knees up son! You were slow
yesterday.

Danny ignores him and continues to limber up.

DANNY (V.O)
I'm not your son. I'm Danny.

Danny takes up a sprinter's starting position at the side of the road.

The sound of an ENGINE.

Danny waits.

The sounds gets closer.

DANNY (V.O)
And I'm definitely not slow. I'm
probably one of the ten fastest men
in the world.

As the CAR draws level he's off!

His arms and legs pump frantically as he strains to keep pace with the car.

After fifty yards of manic running the car has gone.

Danny turns back and walks slowly towards his starting position.

2.INT. HOUSE. LIVING/DINING ROOM - DAY

The living room is covered in FRAMED PHOTOGRAPHS. Nothing unusual...until we look closer:

SANTA CLAUS with an empty knee and a BLURRED FIGURE leaving the frame.

MOIRA in a swimsuit next to a swimming pool, a SPLASH behind her.

A SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH with nineteen smiling children, all watching a BLUR at the end of front row.

A SOFT FOCUS PORTRAIT, Moira with Danny. An uncomfortable gap between the two. Moira wears a forced smile, Danny has his head down.

There are ATHLETIC MAGAZINES/BOOKS in evidence in the room.

MOIRA, 36, enters the room. She wears a STOPWATCH around her neck, and places a KNIFE AND FORK, one empty large PLATE and three separate SIDE PLATES onto a table. Each side plate has one element of a FRIED BREAKFAST on it. SCRAMBLED EGGS, BACON, two SAUSAGES and two slices of WHITE TOAST. A CARTON OF ORANGE JUICE and two GLASSES are also on the table. There is a bowl of MUESLI at one setting on the table.

MOIRA looks at a CLOCK on the wall. 7.29am.

Moira looks through the window as a BLURRED FIGURE rushes past. She reaches for her STOPWATCH. Danny rushes into the room. Moira clicks the stopwatch. Danny makes a beeline to the breakfast table.

DANNY sits. He gives the cutlery a vigorous wipe on his running vest. He begins to transfer food from the side plates onto the larger plate. There is a sense of order and ritual to his actions as he places the food in specific spots on his plate.

Moira sits down at the table. She begins playing a GAME on her TABLET whilst she eats her muesli.

DANNY

Am I getting better?

MOIRA

Same as yesterday.

DANNY

Twenty two minutes?

MOIRA

Yes, exactly the same.

Danny looks to the clock.

Moira and Danny, both distracted, reach for the orange juice at the same time. Their hands touch accidentally.

DANNY

No.

Moira holds her hands up away from him.

MOIRA
OK. OK. Sorry.

Danny instantly goes back to arranging the food on his plate. He begins to eat. Danny looks up at the CLOCK on the wall. He watches the second hand move around the clock face.

TICK TOCK.

DANNY
Why does time..does time go that way Moira?

MOIRA
It just the way it is.

TICK TOCK.

Moira stands to clear up the mess.

DANNY
Can it go the other way?

Moira looks up at the clock.

TICK TOCK.

MOIRA
No, no it can't.

DANNY
Why not?

MOIRA
Because that's the way it goes.

TICK TOCK.

Danny watches the clock.

MONTAGE

3.INT. HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. MONTAGE - DAY

A PRINTER churns out copies of a TRAINING SCHEDULE. The floor is covered with RUNNING MAGAZINES and RUNNING BOOKS.

4.EXT. STREET - DAY

Moira watches as Danny runs ahead of her.

She stands staring at a stopwatch as Danny disappears out of sight.

5.EXT. PARK - DAY

Moira trying to get Danny to perform some stretching exercises. She balances on one leg and tries to get Danny to do the same.

He looks at her, turns and runs away.

Moira on her back performing more stretches. Danny stands over her - bewildered.

Danny hears a car and quickly adopts a sprinters starting position. The car draws level. He's off. A slow smile spreads across Danny's face as he races the car.

5.INT. HOUSE. LIVING ROOM DAY

A LAPTOP SCREEN

Moira searches for a 'PERSONAL ATHLETICS COACH'

END OF MONTAGE

6.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. TRACK - DAY

Danny smiles to himself as his stride lengthens and he flies around the track.

He meets A GROUP OF RUNNERS coming the other way.

Danny's stride shortens. He slows to a walk. He waits until the runners have passed him then runs again. One runner, RUNNER 1, is angered that Danny is the way.

Moira and STEVE, 40s, fit and dressed in expensive sports wear, watch as Danny continues to run around the track. Steve is perplexed as DANNY continues to run against the flow of athletes.

7.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. CAR PARK - DAY

Moira and Danny follow Steve to his car.

MOIRA
Tell him Daniel. Seven am
sharp. Every morning.

DANNY
Seven am sharp. Every morning.

MOIRA
He's dedicated. He's got
dedication.

Steve turns around.

STEVE
I can see that. It's just...nice
to meet you... but I'm really not
sure...

He reaches out to shake Danny's hand.

Danny stares at him.

Steve extends his reach... Danny doesn't take his hand.

After a moment, Moira takes Steves hand

MOIRA
We'll look forward to hearing from
you soon then.

Danny steps back.

Steve watches and chooses his words carefully.

STEVE
This club may not be the right fit
for somebody with...

MOIRA
A form. That's all he wants.

Steve opens his car door, keeping his clipboard and forms
close to his chest.

STEVE
It was very nice of you to think of
us, but...

Steve slams the car door. Danny and Moira step back as
Steve REVS the engine and pulls away.

Danny looks at Moira.

She rolls her eyes, shakes her head.

Dannys's off!

Danny chases the car out of the car park.

8.INT/EXT. CAR - DAY

Steve fiddles with his stereo as the car pulls out onto the main road. He looks in his rear view mirror.

The distant figure of Danny is getting closer.

Steve looks at his speedometer. 17mph He does a double take in the mirror.

Danny is getting closer and closer.

Steve looks back at his speedo 20mph. Danny has gone from the rear view mirror.

He appears alongside him at the driver's side of the car.

Steve does a double take. He looks at the speedo, then back at Danny.

He slams the brakes on.

Steve is not sure whether to be terrified or impressed.

The car door opens.

DANNY

I only want a form.

Steve hands Danny a form.

He looks Danny up and down, unsure what to make of him.

STEVE

Saturday. Seven am sharp. I'll be in touch.

Ecstatic. Danny springs back along the road to the car park.

Moira watches as Danny runs towards her.

He waves the form in her face.

She smiles.

9.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. TRACK - DAY

Early morning. The track is deserted, except for Steve. He sips his SPORTS DRINK and checks his watch.

6.59am

As he looks up, Danny comes sprinting into the stadium.

DANNY runs anti clockwise around the track. Steve beckons him over, but Danny isn't stopping. He's too focused on running to notice him. Steve tries to turn him around on his next pass to no avail. Steve picks up a drink bottle, follows Danny and runs alongside him.

STEVE

Great. You've got talent, but it doesn't count if you go the wrong way.

Steve lightly taps Danny on the shoulder. Danny stops dead. Steve continues a few paces before noticing. Steve walks back to a 'still' Danny and hands him a DRINKS BOTTLE.

STEVE

You'll never win if you do that.

Steve moves towards a group of runners who are moving onto the track. Danny gives the bottle opening a good wipe with his running vest. Danny takes a sip of the sports drink. Alone, Danny watches as Steve boisteriously greets other runners. Danny is ignored by all except RUNNER 1, who throws him a scowl.

10.INT. HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

A downcast Danny stares at a POTATO revolving in the MICROWAVE. He looks to the kitchen clock and watches the second hand move.

The microwave PINGS.

The time on the kitchen clock says 5.45am.

Danny burns his fingers as he pulls out the potato. Danny puts the potato onto a plate, next to it is bowl of rice.

11.INT. HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Danny enters carrying his breakfast and sits at the table. Moira enters, still in her DRESSING GOWN. She watches as Danny arranges the food onto one plate. Danny pokes the food with his fork.

MOIRA
How's it going?

DANNY
Carbs. Steve said I need carbs.

MOIRA
Well if that's what Steve says.

He looks up at the clock.

TICK TOCK.

DANNY
He makes me run the wrong way.

Moira stands behind him, she wants to reassure her brother, she holds a hand out to stroke his head. She pauses, she traces the outline of the back of his head with her palm.

DANNY
Moira...what if...the
others...I...don't want...

MOIRA
Forget the others. Just be Danny

MOIRA
You're not enjoying that are you?

Moira picks Danny's meal.

Moira moves towards the kitchen carrying the meal.

12.INT. HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

Moira scrapes the potato and rice into the bin. She puts two slices of white bread into the toaster.

13.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. OFF TRACK. - DAY

The track is busy with a number of RUNNERS warming up.

Steve is struggling to get Danny to make eye-contact with him. He puts his face in front of Danny's. Danny turns away. Steve tries again.

STEVE

It's important. You need to follow
the rules.

Danny turns away from him. Moira, watches anxiously from a short distance.

STEVE

If you're not going to focus, then
can you at least warm up?

Danny frowns.

DANNY

I'm hot. I ran all the way here.

Steve has no choice but to smile.

STEVE

Follow me.

Steve goes to pin a paper race number onto Danny's chest.

Danny recoils.

STEVE

You need one.

Steve offers out the number to Danny.

Danny reaches out carefully, then snatches the number.

Steve watches as Danny fumbles awkwardly with the pin.

Moira moves towards them. Steve raises his eyebrows as she approaches Danny.

Danny smiles triumphantly as he proudly shows off the number pinned to his chest.

With trepidation, Steve hands Moira another number.

STEVE

You need one for your back too.

Danny stands still. He puts his hands in the air and closes his eyes. Moira gently pinches the back of his shirt and carefully pins the number to it.

Danny approaches the starting line. Other RUNNERS nod in his direction. RUNNER 1, regards him with hostility. Danny blanks them all.

As the runners mill around the starting line Steve tries to get Danny's attention again.

Danny is too distracted to listen.

STEVE

You go around the track just once. Ok? But you have to go the right way.

Danny nods. He steps forward to the line.

14.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. ON TRACK. - DAY

Danny freezes.

His breathing quickens. He is panicking.

Danny hears the sound of a ticking clock.

Within moments Danny becomes calm.

15.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. OFF TRACK. - DAY

Steve and Moira look on with trepidation.

STEVE

(sotto)

Come on, come on

16.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. ON TRACK. - DAY

BANG. The starters pistol fires. Immediately Danny finds his rhythm and soon takes the lead.

As they exit the first bend, the other runners begin to bunch around him.

Danny is boxed in.

The pack runs on.

RUNNER 1, digs his elbow into Danny.

Danny remains calm.

RUNNER 2, digs Danny with his elbows. Danny tries control his natural instincts.

Danny falls back into the middle of the pack and becomes increasingly agitated as they run.

17.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. OFF TRACK. - DAY

Moira and Steve watch on. Moira is worried for her brother.

18.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. ON TRACK. - DAY

RUNNER 1, drops back with into the middle of the pack with Danny and continues to harass him.

In his head, Danny hears the rising crescendo of a ticking clock. It then stops dead. Silence.

Danny stops running.

The other runners continue, leaving Danny, alone, halfway down the back straight.

RUNNER 1, throws a sneer at Danny as he disappears down the track.

19.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. OFF TRACK. - DAY

Moira and Steve are aghast. Moira can hardly bear to watch.

20.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. ON TRACK. - DAY

Danny takes a moment. He turns and runs clockwise around the track.

21.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. OFF TRACK. - DAY

Moira and Steve are in shock. They watch as Danny races the wrong way around the track. A slow smile spreads across Moira's face.

MOIRA
Come on Danny.

22.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. ON TRACK. - DAY

Danny is now approaching the 'first' bend. The pack are on the home straight. RUNNER 1 is in the lead. Danny rounds the bend. He locks eyes with RUNNER 1. Danny increases his efforts.

Danny and RUNNER 1 race to the line from opposing directions.

Danny digs in. He crosses the line just pipping RUNNER 1.

23.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. OFF TRACK. - DAY

Moira explodes with joy and disbelief. Steve shakes his head as he smiles.

24.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. ON TRACK. - DAY

Danny bounces with joy. RUNNER 1 and other runners protest to a steward.

25.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. OFF TRACK. - DAY

Moira stands watching Danny's delight, enjoying the moment. A confused but admiring, Steve lightly applauds Danny's 'win'. Moira grabs Steve, and kisses him with joy.

STEVE

(flustered)

There's no way he should've got over the line first.

MOIRA

They've been saying that about Danny for ever.

Moira moves towards Danny. Steve follows.

26.EXT. ATHLETICS STADIUM. ON/OFF TRACK. - DAY

Moira approaches an overwhelmed Danny.

MOIRA

Danny!

They come together. They stop short of each other. Danny leans in closing his eyes to touch foreheads. Moira looks at him disbelieving then closes her eyes to accept and enjoy the physical touch.

MOIRA

You did really good Danny...

Danny steps back and the two walk towards the stadium exit side by side.

Steve joins them.

STEVE

That was... different.
Magnificently different. Fancy
coming along to training. Tues
night? You can meet the others...

Steve indicates the disgruntled group of runners, who are berating officials. RUNNER 1, throws a look of venom towards Danny. Steve sees this.

STEVE

(CONT'D)

... Err, I think I'll just go and
see what the race officials have
decided.

Steve moves away.

STEVE

Call me.

Danny and Moira continue to head for the exit. Moira looks across at Danny, she gently rubs his shoulder.

Danny lets her. They walk a few paces.

Moira raises her hand to touch Danny again, but lowers it without touching him. They leave the track.

27.EXT. STREET. THE NEXT DAY - DAY

Danny is in the sprinters starting position. The sound of a car approaching increases. BANG. A happy Danny pelts down the road, racing the car.

DANNY (V.O)

I'm Danny. And I'm definitely not
slow. I'm probably one of the ten
fastest men in the world.

THE END