

I AM MY FATHER

by

Jak Ivings

jaki8x@hotmail.com
+44 7784 114701

1 INT. BREAKFAST TABLE - MORNING

FADE IN.

OWEN is sat at the breakfast table, somewhere between being sleepy and in his own world and not quite paying attention to his Mother.

The radio is on faintly in the background.

MARIA (O.S.)

Owen? Owen? Owen? Are you listening to me?

OWEN

Huh...yeah sorry?

MARIA

I said your Nana is popping by at some point next week, probably on Wednesday or Thursday, so please please make sure you're both going to free for then. I mean, I myself barely even see enough of you two. Plus you know how Nana gets, she won't stop going on until she's seen you, so just do me a favour alright?

OWEN

Yeah... only issue is that Dad and I already have plans next week so I don't think that -

MARIA

Oh no no no. Not this time, you're not doing any plans with your father and you're keeping these days free. I never ask for anything so can you please just do this one favour for me?

OWEN

I'm speaking to dad when he comes down.

Just as OWEN has finished his sentence, footsteps are heard coming down the stairs and his Father walks in and sits at the table.

TOMMY

Speak to me about what bud?

OWEN

Just mum being mum as always, Nana's coming round and she wants us to cancel our plans.

TOMMY

Yeah.. not gonna happen hun, we've had these plans for a while and this is such short notice, so I'm with Owen on this one. Can't you ask her to reschedule?

There's a very long and uncomfortable silence, TOMMY has a look in his eye where he knows a storm is about to hit him.

MARIA

So, let me get this straight, you want my old, fragile, kind mother to change her plans just because you two are too stubborn to change yours? And you know she will too, genuinely just don't worry about it. Go off and do your plans just like always!

TOMMY

Okay love, if you feel that strongly about this, then we'll cancel our plans. Isn't that right Owen?

OWEN doesn't respond. He has an angst and anger about him. But he's staring directly into his Mothers' eyes even though TOMMY was the one speaking to him.

MARIA

Thank you boys, your nana's going to be so happy.

OWEN

Well at least somebody will be.

TOMMY

Owen c'mon, we'll rearrange our plans for next week. Settle down, it's not the end of the world.

OWEN
You're right, sorry dad.

MARIA
And...?

OWEN
What?

MARIA
Forget it. Right you're going to be
late so head on off for school okay
sweetie.

MARIA leans in and kisses OWEN on the forehead, he moves his head away and instead walks over to TOMMY and gives him a hug. OWEN then puts on his backpack and heads towards the door. once the door is closed behind him, OWEN overhears muffles are arguing, but pays it no mind and walks off to school.

2 INT. BREAKFAST TABLE - EVENING

Dinner has already been placed on the table and everyone is just about to eat dinner. The clock is ticking so loudly as there's barely any conversation to cover it up.

MARIA
So, how was school today? what did you
get up to sweetie?

OWEN
Yeah it was fine thanks.

TOMMY
And what did you get up to today then
bud?

OWEN
Oh you know, the usual really Dad.

MARIA
(Whispers)
Right then...

OWEN
Dad do you fancy doing something
tonight? I was thinking that maybe we
could go bowling?

MARIA

Oh that sounds fun.

TOMMY

Yeah that sounds good, shall we all
leave within the hour then?

OWEN

I was thinking actually it could just
be us two if I'm honest Dad.

TOMMY

I mean, why can't your Mother come
with -

MARIA

No it's fine, I've got errands to run
anyway so you both just go ahead.

TOMMY

You sure hun?

OWEN

Yeah dad she's sure, why else would
she have said it?

An awkward silence occurs, some time passes and then it's
time for OWEN & TOMMY to leave. They approach the door and
open it. Once they close it behind them, the Mother bursts
into tears.

They walk over to the car and get in, TOMMY takes a deep
breath in, waits a moment and turns to OWEN.

TOMMY

Right, what's going on?

OWEN

With what?

TOMMY

Why are you being off with your
Mother?

OWEN

I'm not, I just wish she'd give me a
break every now and then, especially
when I clearly just want to spend some
time with you.

TOMMY

I'm not saying that you can't spend time with me, and you know I want the same too. Why can't your mum come too?

OWEN

Cause I know if she comes with us then it will be five minutes of fun, followed by an hour of arguing and then a silent car journey home. Which then will have two results, you'll go out and won't come back until late, if at all. Sneak in and pretend you were here the whole time anyway. Or you and Mum will argue and then that'll lead to her crying all night too.

TOMMY

Oh, right. Well look, your mums going through a tough time right now, cut her some slack.

OWEN

What do you mean by that?

TOMMY

Nothing, nothing...look lets get going alright?

OWEN

Sure.

TOMMY turns on the radio, adjusts the rear view mirror and takes a breath in. He then starts the engine and drives away.

3 INT. BREAKFAST TABLE - MORNING

OWEN is at the table and MARIA is cooking breakfast, but TOMMY is nowhere in sight.

MARIA (O.S.)

How many eggs honey? Owen? Owen!

OWEN

Jesus Christ, why are you shouting?
I'm right here!

MARIA

Honey you weren't listening to me again. How many eggs?

OWEN
Where's Dad?

MARIA
Oh, I think he left for work early.

OWEN
Strange, I was awake early and I
didn't hear him leave, did you?

Maria flips the pan of food all over the hob and becomes increasingly angry.

MARIA
Oh fucking hell Owen I don't know
alright! I just thought he'd left
early for work. He's got a lot going
on right now for all I know, just go
to school!

Maria leaves the room flustered and upset. Owen cleans up the mess she left. Tries ringing his Dad but gets no answer and only voicemail. So he heads out the door and leaves for school.

4 INT. BREAKFAST TABLE - MORNING

MARIA is at the breakfast table on her own for a while, looking distressed. OWEN walks into the room.

MARIA
Morning hun, want anything for
breakfast?

OWEN
Where's Dad?

MARIA
I'm not too sure, he wasn't here this
morning again. I don't know what to
tell you Owen. are you hungry 'cause I
can -

without listening to what MARIA is saying, OWEN leaves the room and slams the front door behind him.

5 INT. OWENS BEDROOM - EVENING

OWENS sat reading a book on his bed, and he can hear muffles of sound coming from his parents room. Curious to hear what's being discussed, he brings his ear to the wall.

MARIA

You're never even home anymore. We don't see you, we don't hear from you for hours on end. where the fuck are you?

TOMMY

for christ sake Maria! How many times have we been over this? I'm out there busting my fucking ass to keep us afloat, so can you get off my back, huh? Would that really so hard for you to do?

MARIA

You're right...I'm sorry.

TOMMY

You better be! This discussion is over and won't be brought up again, isn't that right?

MARIA

Right.

OWEN backs away from the wall, takes a deep breath in goes into bed and falls asleep.

6 INT. BREAKFAST TABLE - EVENING

The whole family are sat at the table mid-way through dinner, in an awkward silence.

TOMMY

So i'm probably going to be working late again tonight so I won't be back until later on.

MARIA

okay sweetie.

OWEN

Pfft.

TOMMY

Something on your mind bud?

OWEN slides his chair back and walks out of the room, goes directly to his Dads phone and turns on his location settings. Then returns back to the table.

OWEN

Mum is it alright with you if I go out tonight and see some friends?

MARIA

Ummm I don't know sweetie ask your Father.

OWEN

I'm asking you, it's not like he'll be home anyway.

TOMMY

regardless, I'm fine with it bud.

MARIA

What time do you think you'll be back?

OWEN

I won't be too late.

TOMMY

Right, I've got to go, so I'll see you both in the morning yeah?

TOMMY leaves and gets in his car and drives off.

OWEN

Right mum, I'm gonna get a shift on too, I'll be back soon though okay?

MARIA

No don't rush back, just have a good time.

OWEN

You sure? you gonna to be okay alone?

MARIA

Yeah sweetie, go on off you go, see ya later.

OWEN leaves, gets on his bike and starts tracking his Fathers location, then sets off to follow him.

7 EXT. BLOCK OF FLATS - EVENING

OWEN comes to an area he knows his dad is in, looking at his phone and slightly confused with which way he needs to go.

After a little while, OWEN walks past a street and recognises

his dad's car. So he scouts the street and finally spots his dad through a flat window. He cautiously approaches and peaks through a gap into the front room and overhears a heated conversation.

8 INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

TOMMY is sat down, a woman walks in and stares at him.

TOMMY

I said I'm gonna do it Leah!

LEAH

When? 'Cause I keep hearing you say that and you never do it, it's all talk!

TOMMY

I just need some more time to get everything in order, I'm walking away from my life here. What are you giving up huh?

LEAH

Oh here we go again with this, you know what Tommy, I love you, don't you love me?

TOMMY

Yeah...yeah of course I do baby.

LEAH

Then prove it, leave your wife and be with me. This is what we've been talking about for months now.

TOMMY

Leah I just need some more time to figure things out and then-

LEAH

Oh, Tommy you're so full of it. I'm can't do this anymore, you keep me waiting all the time. You say you care but you act like I'm nothing to you.

TOMMY

What're you getting at fuck!?

LEAH

I'm saying it's over.

TOMMY

Over? Oh, I see, you think you can leave me? You fucking bitch!

TOMMY slowly approaches her and stands nose to nose.

LEAH

Tommy please stop, you're scaring me.

TOMMY

You think you can do this to me? After everything I've fucking done for you!

TOMMY begins to get so angry, with a cold look in his eye, he grips LEAH'S neck and starts squeezing.

LEAH

Tommy I can't brea..

TOMMY

Shut the fuck up! How dare you treat me this way! You don't get to come into my life, fuck everything up and walk away from me! you ungrateful fucking cunt. Nobody leaves me!

TOMMY lets go, stands up and stares for a moment, But remains calm.

OWEN steps back from the window and slides down the wall to a sitting position, he's in total shock of what he's just witnessed.

9 INT. BREAKFAST TABLE - MORNING

OWEN is sat at the table, completely silent and still. His Mum and Dad are talking but it can't be made out. Every morning OWEN sits in the same place, almost like a ghost.

MARIA (O.S.)

You've been awfully quiet the last week Owen, is anything on your mind?

OWEN

No...no Mum everything's fine, I'm probably just not sleeping enough that's all...

MARIA

Alright well if you say so, probably just missing Dad aren't you?

TOMMY comes down the stairs and into the room. OWEN abruptly stands up, knocking the table and spilling his cereal on the table.

TOMMY

Woah, you alright there bud? Look like ya just saw a ghost.

Without hesitation, OWEN rushes out and leaves the house to go to school.

MARIA

Did you do something to upset him? You haven't yelled at him again have you?

TOMMY

Jesus Christ Maria, why do you always presume it's my fucking fault?! It's not my fault he's being a little freak lately!

MARIA

What the fuck Tommy? Seriously what's going on with you? First you're nowhere to be seen, spending no time with us and now you're bad mouthing your own son?

TOMMY

I'm just under a lot of stress. I'm going to work.

MARIA

No surprise there.

TOMMY

Fuck you!

MARIA ignores him, which throws TOMMY off balance. He leaves the house and goes to work.

10 INT. BREAKFAST TABLE - EVENING

OWEN comes home late from school, heads into the kitchen and it's a mess. He hears screaming coming from upstairs so rushes in desperation to what he fears has happened.

11 INT. BREAKFAST TABLE - EVENING

Half hour before OWEN gets home. TOMMY comes through the door and heads to the kitchen. MARIA is sitting at the table

smoking a cigarette.

TOMMY

Oh so you're smoking now?

MARIA

How long has it been going on?

TOMMY

What the fuck are you going on about now Maria?

MARIA

Just...answer the question.

TOMMY

How did you find out?

MARIA

I didn't until right now, I mean of course I had my suspicions but it was never anything concrete. Why Tom?

TOMMY

Oh you just think you're so fucking smart don't you?! You have no idea what I'm capable of Maria.

MARIA

Is that supposed to scare me? Your threats, screaming, anger, it really doesn't work on me Tommy!

TOMMY flips the table, smashing everything on it. he grabs MARIA, shoves her to the countertop and slaps her in the face. MARIA swings right back cutting TOMMY'S lip open. TOMMY becomes so angry that he drags her by the hair upstairs to the bedroom.

Back in the present, OWEN runs up the stairs and bursts open his parents bedroom door. TOMMY is on top of MARIA with his hands clenched around her throat and rage behind his eyes. His intent on harm is clear to OWEN and so OWEN takes action.

Without a solid plan, OWEN stands there for a brief moment. But TOMMY is so caught up in himself that he fails to even notice the door opening anyway. OWEN looks to his left and spots a lamp, rips it out from the socket and smacks TOMMY over the head with it.

MARIA

Owen! Owen are you alright?

MARIA scuttles off the bed and rushes over to him, holding his cheeks between her hands.

MARIA

We need to call an ambulance!

OWEN

Everything's going to be alright,
You're safe now. You're safe now.
You're safe now.

FADE OUT.