

The Adventures of Danny and Zach

(working title)

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FADE IN:

EXT. WOOD RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

The school bell echoes through the halls. The doors to classrooms fly open. In the midst of the hallways, the children stampede their way to the playground.

Among the chaos, DANNY (8), waddles his way through the sea of children. He makes his way to the playground where he longingly looks at the other kids playing.

BAM!

DANNY is slammed to the ground by a basketball, thrown by BRETT (8). BRETT and his group of friends laugh.

BRETT:

Oh, man I got you good!

DANNY slowly brings himself to his feet.

BRETT:

(mockingly)

I'm sorry, Danny. Really. Hey, I've got an idea, do you want to play with us? You can get our basketball when it goes out of bounds.

DANNY stands silently.

BRETT

C'mon, it's not like we're just going to throw the ball away on purpose, like this.

BRETT throws the ball away.

BRETT

Go get it.

DANNY stands still.

FRIEND 1:

C'mon, Brett, he's no fun anymore since his mom was sent away, last year.

FRIEND 2:

Yeah, he just stands around talking to himself.

BRETT:

Talking to himself? That sounds crazy, just like your mother. My dad told me that she would put toast in the DVD player and that she drowned your cat because she thought it was going to kill her.

DANNY is becoming visibly more agitated.

BRETT:

She was nuts! Don't worry though, your mom went crazy, it's only a matter of time before you join her in the nut house!

DANNY tackles BRETT. Immediately, BRETT rolls on top of DANNY and starts throwing punches. A window of opportunity opens, DANNY escapes and makes a run for it.

BRETT and his friends chase him through the playground. Through the jungle gym, through the slide, through the other kids.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

DANNY loses them and runs towards the trees that line across the outskirts of the school yard. He finds a tree, surrounded by some bushes and starts to climb. Struggling, he makes it to the first branch. In the distance, he can hear the echoing screams of BRETT and his friends. He grabs another branch and . . .
SNAP!

DANNY shuts his eyes as he plummets towards the ground, then, nothing. He opens his eyes. He is levitating mere inches from the ground.

He looks around, as if he knows someone is there. A few feet away, a young man, ZACH (18), is standing there with his arm up, levitating DANNY.

DANNY:

Zach! What took you so long?

ZACH:

Hey, get off my back, I mean it's not like I have super speed. Don't get me wrong, levitation is cool, but after you use it a thousand times to eat doughnut without your

hands, you have to admit, the good times are behind ya!

ZACH brings DANNY to his feet and walks over to him.

ZACH:

I think the real question is. What are you doing up in a tree? Were you trying to fly? Because if you were, you should probably grow some wings first.

DANNY:

No, I wasn't trying to fly! I was trying to . . .

BRETT and his friends are off in the distance.

DANNY:

Shh! Get down!

He pulls ZACH down behind a bush.

ZACH:

What? What are we - Brett, again? What happened this time?

DANNY:

Well - I, I sort of tackled him.

ZACH:

You tackled Brett?!

DANNY:

He was making fun of me, and mom. And now he's after me.

ZACH:

Well, what did you think was going to happen?

DANNY:

Look, we have got to get out of here. I need your help.

ZACH:

Danny, I would love to help, but I can't keep bailing you out like this, we have to -

BRETT:

(o.s)

Hey, look! There he is!

DANNY:

Please, Zach, there coming, I need your help. Please. Please!

ZACH:

Well, why don't you go over there and just apologize and face him?

DANNY gives him a "Dude, really?" look.

ZACH:

You're right, bad idea. Ok, c'mon!

BRETT and his friends are closing in fast. ZACH picks DANNY up and wraps his arms around him.

ZACH:

Hold on!

DANNY:

What are we doing?

ZACH:

Remember what I said about flying? You should probably grow some wings first!

Out of ZACH's back, two large eagle wings snake out.

ZACH:

Here we go!

BRETT and his friends are feet away when . . . WHUSH! ZACH flaps his wings and the two rocket up into the sky with a force so powerful, it knocks down BRETT and his friends.

EXT. UP IN THE SKY - DAY

DANNY has his eyes shut tightly.

ZACH:

Hey, Danny! Take a look!

DANNY opens eyes. They are miles high above the city, dodging in and out between buildings and skyscrapers.

DANNY:

Whoa! I can't believe it!

ZACH:

You ain't seen nothing yet.

They fly higher up, through the clouds and gaze upon a sea of open sky, with the sun glowing in the far distance. DANNY looks down at the clouds and puts his hand down to skim through the clouds. They pop down through the clouds and begin their descent.

EXT. DANNY'S BACKYARD - DUSK

The two land in the backyard. DANNY tumbles on to the ground.

DANNY:

Oh, my god, that was awesome! Can we do it again?

ZACH:

Danny.

DANNY:

But this time, let's go even higher! All the way to the stars.

ZACH:

Danny, listen -

DANNY:

We could fly to the sea, the mountains, the-

ZACH:

Danny! Listen, we can fly all we want, but what happened today?

DANNY sits down on the picnic table.

DANNY:

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to get into trouble.

ZACH:

Look, I can't keep bailing you out. I'm not going to be around forever. You're going to grow up eventually.

DANNY:

But he was making fun of me!

ZACH:

I know, but that's not the point. You can't just expect to run away and have me save the day all the time. If you think I'm always going to be around when you're grown up, you're crazy.

DANNY:

Just like my mom?

ZACH:

What? No, I didn't mean it like that.

DANNY:

No, you're right, I don't need you now.

ZACH:

Danny.

DANNY closes his eyes, tightly. He opens them and looks around. ZACH is gone. Unhappy with himself, DANNY walks into the house.

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

DANNY is lying in his bed, reading a comic book. The door swings open.

CUT TO:

Over the shoulder of a young man in DANNY's door.

BROTHER:
Alright, Danny, it's time for bed.

DANNY:
Ok.

The door begins to shut.

DANNY:
Wait.

BROTHER:
What?

DANNY:
It's Saturday tomorrow.

BROTHER:
And?

DANNY:
I was wondering if maybe you'd like to play
a game tomorrow.

BROTHER sighs

DANNY:
I mean, we haven't played in a while and . .
. thought, maybe

BROTHER
Look, Danny, I don't think I'll have time, I
have to work on homework, I got to work on
my short stories, I just got off work and a
long week of school, I have a date with
Allison tomorrow night, I think I just want
to rest.

DANNY:
Ok, maybe some other time.

BROTHER leaves and shuts the door.

DANNY:

Goodnight.

DANNY tucks himself in and looks over to his mantle. A picture of him and his mom sits there.

ZACH appears out of nowhere, hanging upside down from the ceiling.

ZACH:

Man! How big of a stick is up your brother's butt?

ZACH levitates down to the floor.

ZACH:

Seriously, when he walks, it's like . . .

ZACH waddles around the room. DANNY gives a small laugh.

ZACH:

Can't even play with you?

DANNY:

Its okay, I understand.

ZACH:

What's to understand? He doesn't want to play with you.

ZACH sits down,

DANNY:

He wants to, he just can't.

ZACH:

Oh, come one!

DANNY:

Really! Since our mom was taken away, he's had to get two jobs to help make money. On top of that, he has school and a girlfriend. He does it all! He can shave! He has a car. He buys his own food. I can't do that.

ZACH:

But he still can't play with you?

DANNY:

Well, he's trying really hard to become a writer. He says once he becomes a successful writer, we'll hang out more.

ZACH:

Really?

DANNY:

Well, maybe. I hope so. He's cool, just not the same. He used to always play with me and show me new things. He also promised to take me camping. All the way, for real, in the woods. I just hope he does.

ZACH looks up at DANNY

ZACH:

Your brother's still there.

DANNY:

You think so?

ZACH:

Of, course! And when he comes back, you guys are going to go camping.

DANNY:

Yeah.

ZACH:

I'm sorry for making fun of him. So tell me more about this camping trip.

DANNY:

We're going to go all the way into the woods. Where the redwoods are. We're going to camp next to a river and look up at the stars and eat marshmallows and tell scary stories about the shadow men of the woods.

ZACH:

The shadow men of the woods?

DANNY:

Yeah! They are these big shadow monsters that wait until your fire is out so they can sneak up on you and steal you away in the night. My brother is writing a story about them.

ZACH:

That sounds terrifying.

DANNY:

(excited)

Yeah!

ZACH:

You still want to go camping, after hearing that?!

DANNY:

I've never been.

ZACH gives a sympathetic look.

ZACH:

Follow me.

DANNY:

What?

ZACH:

Follow me!

The two walk out of the room.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

ZACH is rummaging through the garage. He pulls out a giant duffle bag.

ZACH:

Perfect!

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

ZACH begins to empty the bag. He pulls out poles and pieces of fabric. DANNY just stares.

ZACH:

You going to stand there, or are you going to help me set up this tent.

DANNY runs over to help.

DANNY:

Zach, what are we doing?

ZACH:

You said, your brother is going to take you camping when he becomes famous, who knows when that is going to be. So, why don't we go camping tonight?

DANNY:

Out here? In my backyard?

ZACH:

Don't worry, I'll take care of it in a minute. First, want to hand me that piece over there?

DANNY hands him a pole.

DANNY:

Do you even know how to set up a tent?

ZACH:

I sure do . . . know how to read an instruction booklet.

ZACH looks around, but can't find the manual.

ZACH:

Where is it? Hmm. Well it's ok, we'll just do it ourselves. I mean how hard could it be, right? We just put this thing, into that thing and . . . or maybe this thing.

CUT TO:

DANNY and ZACH stand looking at the finished tent and a small fire pit next to it.

ZACH:

Alright! So, we have the tent and the fire. Now, tell me about this place we're camping at.

DANNY:

Um, there are giant redwoods!

ZACH:

Gotcha.

ZACH makes giant gestures with his arms. DANNY starts to back up when out from behind him . . . BAM! A giant redwood rockets from the ground into the sky. DANNY looks around and sees more redwoods popping up surrounding them, closing them off from the world outside.

ZACH:

What next?

DANNY:

A river, running right through, there!

ZACH motions towards the ground. It begins to shake, then . . . SPFT! A squirt of water smacks ZACH in the face. DANNY laughs.

ZACH:

We'll try again.

ZACH motions towards the ground, crumbling it on top of itself as water flows down the snaking river.

ZACH:

Anything else?

DANNY:

A million stars!

ZACH:

Coming up.

ZACH walks to the river and picks up a handful of pebbles from the water. He squeezes the rocks in his hand and slowly opens them, revealing a bright light shining through.

ZACH:

Hey, Danny, look.

DANNY walks over and peers into the light. He looks and ZACH and smiles. ZACH then tosses the handful of rocks into the sky where they stick and shine, creating the stars.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

DANNY and ZACH are sitting around the campfire, roasting marshmallows.

DANNY:

This is great! Thanks for bringing me out here.

ZACH:

Hey, it's no problem. I thought you should get some practice in, before you and your brother do it for real.

DANNY:

If we ever.

ZACH:

C'mon, Danny, you guys will. In the meantime, you've got me.

DANNY:

For how long?

ZACH:

I don't know. As long as you need me, I guess.

DANNY:

How will I know?

ZACH:

Let's not worry about that. Let's talk about something else. What's going on with Brett?

DANNY:

Nothing, he just never leaves me alone. He always talks about my mom. I just couldn't take it anymore.

ZACH:

It's been a year.

DANNY:

But it doesn't make it any easier. She used to tell me, I could do anything. She always believed in me, but I don't know if it was real, or if she was just . . .

ZACH:

What was the last thing your mother said to you?

DANNY:

They were taking her away. They dragged her to the car. I ran over and hugged her. She said, "I love you".

ZACH:

You'll always have that. No matter where you go.

DANNY:

But now, I have no one. My dad is never home, my mom is gone, my brother never talks to me, and you'll be gone.

ZACH:

Danny, when I'm gone, it's because you found the power inside you.

DANNY:

What are you talking about?

ZACH:

You think I was born, able to fly right away? No, I had to discover that I had it first. It was never a question of if I had it, it was if I used it. And now, I can fly to the other side of the world.

DANNY:

You think I have powers too?

ZACH:

Everyone does, we just have to use them.

DANNY:

What are they?

ZACH:

Well, what do you think?

DANNY:

Well, I've never been the fastest, or the strongest.

ZACH:

Now we know what, it's just a matter of if.

They smile at each other.

ZACH:

Oh, better open another bag of mallows'.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

The fire is slowly dying. The orange brightness is slowly being taken over by a pale blue contrast.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

DANNY is sleeping in his sleeping bag.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Close up on the last dying flame of the fire. SSSS. It's out.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

DANNY sleeps soundly when . . . SNAP. A tree snapping jolts him up. He slowly gets out of his sleepy trance and looks around the tent. No sign of ZACH.

DANNY:

Zach?

He makes his way to look outside. He opens the zipper and pokes his head outside. He scans the area but doesn't notice anything strange.

After scoping the scene, he slowly rolls himself back up in a sleeping bag, eyes wide with worry. He is just about to shut his eyes when . . . WUSH. He is grabbed by the leg and dragged outside.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

DANNY looks up and sees the identity of his kidnapper. All that is there is a giant black mass in the shape of a man, floating right above him. The no face ethereal creature sends shivers down DANNY's spine.

ZACH:

Danny! Danny, help!

DANNY looks over to see two other shadowy figures holding ZACH hostage.

DANNY tries to escape and rushes to save ZACH.

The shadowy figure throws a ball of darkness at DANNY, tripping him. The shadowy figure flies over to DANNY, right over him.

BLACK OUT.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

FADE IN on an unconscious DANNY sitting up against a tree. He tries to stand but is tied down to the tree. Sitting next to him is ZACH.

ZACH:

(whispered)

Danny? Danny?

DANNY:

Hmm? Hmm?

ZACH:

Danny? Are you ok?

DANNY:

I guess. What's going on?

ZACH:

I don't know, but those guys look like bad news.

A few feet a head of the boys, 3 shadowy figures stand guard.

ZACH:

What are those things?

DANNY examines the creatures.

DANNY:

No, it couldn't be.

ZACH:

What?

DANNY:

It's the shadow men of the woods.

ZACH:

What? Are you kidding me?! I thought they were made up! Imagined! Nonexistent! Of no matter! FAKE!

DANNY:

Just calm down. We can get out of here. You can do it.

ZACH:

What am I going to do?

DANNY:

Can't you use your levitation to grab a knife or something, or to even untie these ropes?

ZACH:

I can't, they tied up my hands in a bag. I can't do anything.

DANNY:

Oh, man! What are we going to do?

ZACH:

What are *you* going to do?

DANNY:

What?

ZACH:

Look, Danny, I wish I had time to teach you, but there is no better time than now to learn. You have the power inside you. You just need to use it. You have strength, you have speed, it's not a matter of if you have it, it's if you use it.

The shadow creatures converse with each other. They make animalistic grunts and motion towards the boys. One slowly makes it way over to them.

DANNY:

I can't do it!

ZACH:

Yes you can! Just let everything in your mind go. Think about everything that hurts you, and set it free!

DANNY shuts his eyes tight.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

BRETT throws a basketball at DANNY, knocking him down. Him and his friends laugh.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Camera stands over BROTHER'S shoulder looking at DANNY.

BROTHER:

I'm sorry, Danny. I can't hang out with you.

CUT TO:

EXT. DANNY'S HOUSE - DAY

1 year ago.

Two men are struggling to escort a middle age woman to a car. She is constantly fighting against them. The door to the house swings open, little DANNY runs out.

DANNY:

Mom!

DANNY runs to his mom and hugs her tight.

MOTHER:

(whispers)

I'll always love you.

The two men separate the two and take her to the car.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

DANNY opens his eyes and in builds up a scream. He flexes his arms and rips through the ropes. He tears them up and runs towards the shadow figure and throws a massive punch sending the creature flying into a surrounding tree.

DANNY looks over to ZACH who is sitting in shock and awe.

ZACH:

Nice one!

DANNY smiles.

The two other shadow creatures run towards the escape prisoner. DANNY looks over, but before he can do anything, a giant rock flies through the air, knocking the two creatures out before they reach DANNY.

ZACH walks up towards DANNY

ZACH:

You didn't think I was going to let you have all the fun.

The three creatures stand back up and are prepared to fight.

They make a run for the boys. DANNY takes ZACH's hands and spins him around, hitting the creatures.

They get back up. ZACH levitates DANNY into the air and flings him down as DANNY smack the three into the ground.

After they take a hit, the creatures continue to get back up. DANNY fights hand to hand combat with one of them and the other two creatures chase ZACH through the trees as he flies. DANNY sets the one creature in a position. ZACH then takes the two creatures following him and tricks them into flying into their comrade. They are knocked out.

Even after they're beating, they still get up.

ZACH:

This is fun and all, but I can only do this for so long, and they keep getting back up, what do we do?

DANNY:

Wait! They wait for your fire to go out because, oh, my brother told me, because they- They don't like light.

ZACH:

Well, unless you've got some sort of light power, then we're going to be fighting forever.

DANNY:

I don't, but I do have this!

DANNY sprints to the tent, narrowly avoiding the creatures. They slowly encroach upon ZACH when . . .ZAP! A piece of one of the creatures is cut off and evaporates into thin air.

ZACH looks to see DANNY has a flashlight.

DANNY:

Here!

DANNY throws ZACH a flashlight and they sword fight the creatures, cutting them up piece by piece. As they cut down the last few, ZACH is making lightsaber noises.

ZACH:

Whush! Woo! Zing!

DANNY looks over at ZACH

ZACH:

What? Don't tell me you weren't thinking that.

They look around, they have won. The sun is just starting to come up in the distance.

ZACH:

Hey, good job, buddy.

DANNY:

I didn't know I could do that. But I did, thanks to you.

ZACH:

You always could.

DANNY:

Now, that I found the power inside me, does that mean . . . I don't need you anymore?

ZACH:

You may not need me, but I'll always be there for you. I promise.

They hug.

ZACH:

Some trip, huh?

DANNY:

Yeah!

A low rumbling is heard.

ZACH:

Do you hear that?

DANNY:

Yeah, what is that?

They look over, in the distance, a giant army of shadow creatures are running towards the two boys.

DANNY:

There's more of them! What do we do?

ZACH:

Look the sun is coming up. If we can lure them into the light.

DANNY:

How?

ZACH:

If you have super strength, I'm sure you have super speed. All you got to do is run that way, there is an open field, once they are out there in the sunlight, they won't stand a chance. Can you do it?

DANNY ponders for second.

DANNY:

Yes!

ZACH:

Alright! Go for it, I'll be right behind you!

DANNY begins to run at a moderate pace. The creatures are close behind him.

He runs through the woods. He closes his eyes and thinks hard. He opens them again and he is running as fast as he ever did, whizzing past the trees. He laughs and sees the creatures closing in.

Up ahead is the field, the sun is just about to rise.

DANNY runs into the field and the creatures follow. They all head into the sunlight and the creatures begin to scream and evaporate into the air.

DANNY laughs and is feeling confident, so much so, he doesn't notice the giant cliff he is heading towards. He has gained so much speed, he can't stop. He begins to panic and stumbles off the cliff.

He plummets to the tree line when all of a sudden . . . WHUSH!
Out of the trees, ZACH flies up, catching DANNY.

ZACH:

I'll never let you fall.

DANNY looks up at ZACH and smiles as the two fly into the sun rise.

ZACH:

(v.o)

"They realized they could learn from each other, they could fight with each other, they could love each other. Their future seemed bright as they flew into new adventures and excitement, as they kissed the worries of what laid behind them, goodbye." I wish that's how it was.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH - DAY

ZACH is standing up by a podium. He is dressed in black, speaking to an entire congregation of family and friends all attending a funeral.

ZACH:

(cont'd)

It's funny, Danny was the inspiration for this story. He was always my inspiration, and I didn't realize it until, until he was gone. I wish I could let him know how much he meant to me. When our mom went away, I had to grow up, fast. I thought that, once I figured out my life, then I could help him with his. She always told me, he saw me as this superhero. I wish I was.

The following lines are cut together with a clip.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

DANNY is being chased by BRETT and his friends

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH - DAY

ZACH:

(cont'd)

He was always picked on, and I should have been there for him, I should have been there to take him camping, to do the things older brothers are supposed to do.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

DANNY climbs up the tree. He grabs a branch that snaps and begins to fall. Hits his head on the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH - DAY

ZACH:

(cont'd)

I wasn't.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

DANNY lies on the ground motionless.

ZACH:

(cont'd)

(tearful)

I'm sorry, god, I am so sorry.

ZACH tears up.

ZACH:

But never again. Never again.

CUT TO:

EXT. FLYING THROUGH THE SKY - SUNRISE

ZACH is flying through the sky carrying DANNY.

DANNY looks up.

DANNY:

You promise?

ZACH:

I promise.

The two smile at each other and fly into the sunrise.

FADE OUT:

BLACKOUT

THE END.

