

DAHLIAS ARE NEVER BLUE

Written by

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**1 INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT.****1**

NOAH, 20s, enters the elevator straining with a weighted bin bag. His clothes emulate an attempt of a young Marlon Brando.

His jacket sleeves look too short for his arms.

He clicks "-1" on the control panel. Peeking out from under his cuff are deep crescent-shaped wounds: red-raw and sore.

The elevator makes a CLANGING noise as it starts.

**2 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING ALLEYWAY - NIGHT.****2**

Noah exits the elevator into the dim light of outside.

Approaching a large bin, he swings the bag over but struggles with the weight.

The bag catches his wrist as it lifts over. He winces and drops the bag in the bin with a loud, heavy THUD!

He walks away, examining his wrist.

**3 INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT.****3**

Rummaging through cupboards, he finds anything to wrap his wrist with... cling-film.

Grabbing a new bin bag, he loudly WHACKS it open.

He slides yellow rubber gloves on, fingertips turned orange by fresh blood.

On his hands and knees, with his face hidden by a dust mask, he cleans blood from the floor.

He slots a few floorboards back into their place.

A DISTINCTIVE BRACELET catches his eye.

He rolls it between his fingers before chucking it into the bin bag filled with other disinfectant wipes and bleach bottles, along with the rubber gloves.

**4 INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT****4**

EVIE, 20s, is revealed standing alone, dressed in all black, when Noah enters back onto the elevator.

Her focus is on her phone until she looks up--

--With subtle wide eyes, she freezes.  
She remains poised, but her eyes flicker in a side-eye.  
Noah stands beside her and gives her a smile.  
Evie reluctantly smiles back.  
His stare still lingers after she turns away.  
Noah reaches for the control panel then stops--

NOAH  
(querying)  
You pressed eight?

Evie stares at him, silent and waiting for an elaboration.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
This... is floor eight...

She brings herself back to reality, shaking her head.

EVIE  
I--I must've pressed the wrong  
number.

NOAH  
Which were you wanting?

EVIE  
Ground floor... sorry my head's all  
over the place.

NOAH  
No big. Zero it is, then.

Noah presses the the button.

Evie eyes the elevator numbers descending, as if willing them  
to quicken.

7--

Noah twists the bag playfully and the plastic rustles.

6--

He clicks his tongue to fill the silence.

5--

He makes an exaggerated sigh through his nose.

4--

CREEEAAAK!

As the elevator jolts to a halt, a quiet alarm blares in unison with the lights flickering red before returning to normal.

Evie looks up to the ceiling.

EVIE  
(muttering)  
What the hell...

Beat.

NOAH  
These things get stuck all the time, you're good. It'll start up again soon.

Evie nods. Goes back to ignoring him.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry, have we met before? You just look dead familiar.

Beat.

EVIE  
Maybe in passing.

NOAH  
You from around here, then?

Evie shakes her head.

Noah eyes her up with intrigue but then lets it go...

NOAH (CONT'D)  
You look nice, y'know. Special occasion?

EVIE  
(dismissing)  
A vigil...

NOAH  
Oh shiiit, sorry, my bad...  
(sourly)  
Feels like there's loads of those lately.

Evie mumbles into her chest.

EVIE  
For good reason.

NOAH  
I'm not saying it's not?

She snaps her head up.

EVIE  
It just sounds like you think it's  
unusual or a nuisance, or  
something. That's all.

NOAH  
Nahhh, don't twist my words like  
that.

EVIE  
(sincerely)  
I wasn't trying to.

Noah calms down his defence.

NOAH  
I get it. They're always getting  
shut down by police, it's easy to  
think the majority oppose too.

EVIE  
You oppose the police?

NOAH  
Yeah, well, ACAB, am I right? They  
get shit wrong all the time.

EVIE  
Never heard that one before.

NOAH  
Here's a laugh for you... You ever  
been arrested in front of a date  
before for something you didn't do?

EVIE  
Can't say I have, to be honest.

NOAH  
It's embarrassing, lemme tell you.  
All that just to walk out hours  
later. Pointless.

EVIE  
What were you copped for?  
(beat)

Supposedly.

Noah sucks his teeth, unsure if he should say...

NOAH

I'll tell you, only because you know now it isn't true.

Evie nods.

NOAH (CONT'D)

They wanted me for this one girl's kidnapping... and maybe a li'l more graphic than that. The crazy friend's always gun for me, that's all it is.

Evie straightens her posture, she's really listening now.

EVIE

Every single one?

Evie gains an air of confidence from the intrigue.

NOAH

Yep. There's nothing more annoying than the ugly friend who won't leave a girl alone with a guy for two seconds.

EVIE

(exaggerated interest)

Really?

NOAH

Yeah, man. They're busy bodies; jealous types.

EVIE

(fake requited conversation)

You don't think they're just looking out for their friend and her safety?

NOAH

No way. I had this one girl's friend saying not to drop her home 'cause I'll remember where she lived.

EVIE

And did you?

Noah laughs.

NOAH  
She had a red door, I couldn't help  
it!

Evie shrugs.

EVIE  
(fake agreeing)  
I mean--

NOAH  
Right! Another said not to feel  
pressured to put out on the first  
date, which now I half agree with  
'cause you don't really want a  
keyhole that's tried out loads of  
keys, right?

Evie can't hide the twist her face makes out of cringing.

EVIE  
Hmm...

Noah notices but shrugs it off.

NOAH  
Anyway, the recent time was  
apparently this one girl's mate  
said not to come back to my flat,  
said she had a bad feeling about  
me. Never met the girl, but she  
just decided I was dodge.

EVIE  
Was she right though?

NOAH  
You tell me. You feel safe on here  
with me? Confined space and all.

EVIE  
(banter, fake flirty)  
You've been alright.

NOAH  
Well, if you want to bump me off,  
cameras have been broken for months  
on here, you'd be golden, feel  
free.

Evie doesn't laugh. She looks at Noah with knitted brows and  
a cringing smile...

This makes him feel insecure: he shifts his weight and averts eye contact.

EVIE  
Right... Did the girl ever go back  
to your flat, then?

NOAH  
Wouldn't you like to know...

He tries to gain the control back of the conversation.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
So, go on, tell me about this  
vigil.

EVIE  
It was for someone I knew.

NOAH  
Close someone or?

Evie's reluctant to reply, quiet.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Least we could do is get to know  
each other so it isn't an awkward  
silence. Not sure if you've noticed  
but it's a veeeeery small space...

Evie gives in with a deep breath.

EVIE  
She was my friend, yeah.

NOAH  
And she's missing?

Evie looks at Noah intensely.

EVIE  
Personally, I think she was killed.

Beat.

Noah lets out a guffaw-laugh then realises Evie is serious.  
He shifts nervously under Evie's stare.

EVIE (CONT'D)  
But that's just one person's  
speculation, isn't it...

NOAH  
That's an extreme theory, no?



EVIE

Gut instinct. Her mum's not really an optimist with it all... Guess it hurts less to accept it now than go on for days hoping she'll knock on the door.

NOAH

That must be really hard for her.

EVIE

Harder when there's no justice for it.

NOAH

So no convictions?

EVIE

Nearly but no, none... I just keep thinking how she must have felt, who the last face was that she saw.

NOAH

Are you sure we've never met?

EVIE

Positive. I'd definitely remember someone like you.

Noah takes this as a compliment even though it wasn't one.

NOAH

So, then what brings you to this fine building? Boyfriend?

EVIE

I don't have one.

NOAH

Lucky day for me, then.

EVIE

You seem sure of that.

NOAH

Well, I think we're hitting it off pretty well, don't you?

Evie looks at him with a small smile.

EVIE

It's been a while... should we call someone?

NOAH  
Signal's shoddy if you're not  
connected to Wi-Fi.

EVIE  
Can't we piggy back off yours?

NOAH  
I'm too high. Floor eigh--

Noah laughs lightly to himself, then he looks at Evie.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
You know I live here?

EVIE  
Would you prefer I didn't?

NOAH  
Well, that depends what the next  
thing to come out your mouth is.

Evie's demeanour changes: she's got bite in her words, Noah  
tries to create space between them.

EVIE  
I didn't intend to meet you on  
here, honestly. The opportunity  
just fell into my lap.

NOAH  
You were coming to see me up there?

Evie nods.

NOAH  
Why?

EVIE  
We have a mutual friend. Or  
according to you...

Evie pulls her sleeve down to reveal a bracelet.

This bracelet is identical to the one Noah had in the  
beginning.

EVIE (CONT'D)  
You and Dahlia have an *ugly* mutual  
friend.

NOAH

Yeah, the police said the friend had it out for me. But you got to know me, you've seen I'm not this villain you've convinced yourself I am. I'm actually a really nice guy.

EVIE

No actual nice guy says he's a nice guy.

Noah almost becomes taller when he realises his nice guy attempt failed. His voice becomes harsher.

NOAH

Why are you so sure it was me? I mean, the girl was run through.

EVIE

You're disgusting!

NOAH

Here we go--

EVIE

--Excuse me?

NOAH

You lot love to make things bigger than they are.

Evie sees red. Her breathing becomes louder with the heaviness. She scrunches her hands into fists but then releases them...

EVIE

Bigger than they are? She should've been on a flight yesterday to Chicago. She had an apartment and a new job waiting for her, a whole life unlived... Do you understand that? She was her own person outside of what little you knew of her--

NOAH

--Wow, hold on, now--

EVIE

--I'm not done. You didn't know her. You didn't deserve to, and the universe knew you weren't deserving but you couldn't even put your ego aside for one second. You thought you knew better than fate, better than her decision.

When Evie finally takes in Noah's face, there's no feeling behind his eyes... he doesn't care.

NOAH

Do you often go around mouthing off about men?

EVIE

No, just you.

NOAH

Way to make a man feel special.

Evie has a look of sincerity and she lowers her voice.

EVIE

If they hadn't arrested you... would you have done the same thing to the next girl?

NOAH

Would it even matter if I said no?

Evie reaches into her boot. Slowly, she pulls out a knife.

NOAH (CONT'D)

What are you gonna do with that, then?

Noah's eyes widen slightly. But when he looks at Evie, he's cocky and unbothered.

EVIE

I'm not a violent person... but you're making one out of me.

NOAH

Would she really want you to do that in her name?

Evie has a white-knuckled grip on the knife.

He's struck a nerve.

EVIE

We'll never know.

He sighs and he's nonchalant. He doesn't believe she'll do it.

NOAH  
This shit won't solve anything, you know?

EVIE  
You're not a fucking crossword, Noah. You're a cold-blooded killer.

NOAH  
Do it then.

Evie goes to slash at his hand to drop the bag.

He grabs at his hand. The bag falls and the contents fall out of it.

The bracelet lays there.

Neither of them have noticed it yet.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
You know she chatted shit about you, right? On the date, she said you were suffocating.

EVIE  
She doesn't need to earn sympathy for her death. Girls bitch about each other to gaslighters all the time, it's not new.

Noah gets frustrated by nothing working or fazing Evie...

NOAH  
It won't bring her back but it will stick with you.

EVIE  
I want it to.

NOAH  
No you don't.

Still gripping the knife close to her, she tries to will herself, until...

Something by the bag catches her eye.

The floor by the bag is scattered with multiple brightly coloured bottles. A lot of them. Antiseptic wipes darkened with something Evie is sure isn't dirt or dust...

Noah follows her gaze.

The matching bracelet.

She bends to pick it up with her free hand, holds it delicately in between her fingers. As if it was Dahlia herself, she encloses it in her palm and protects it.

While Evie is distracted, Noah lunges for the knife--

--Evie manages to swipe it from his direction in time.

With a new found determination and solidified decision, Evie looks up at Noah--

--BEEP!

TANOY MAN

Sorry, folks, for any  
inconvenience. Elevators up and  
running again.

The lights go red before turning back to normal.

The two of them slowly look to the speaker on the wall.

When the lack-of-camera-realisation settles in, Evie snaps her focus onto Noah, who is already looking at her.

Evie rushes to Noah, stabs the knife into his chest.

Noah struggles, trying to push it back but his hands are clammy...

EVIE

You stole her from everyone who did  
know her, all because she didn't  
want to know you. Now you get to  
know how she felt?

She lets it squelch straight through to the handle and Noah gurgles on blood.

CUT TO BLACK.

**5 ELEVATOR - CREDITS ROLL**

**5**

Credits roll over the image of a white Dahlia flower resting on the floor of the elevator.

THE END.