

Supernova

Written by

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1 INT. NEWS STUDIO**1**

A news broadcast begins with a host sat at a table.

NEWS PRESENTER

Good afternoon, my name is Graham
Cook and you are watching CBN News.
Popular television star Dexter
Manning has come under fire
recently with reports of abusing
staff. The popular star of iconic
sitcom "Roomie Rascals"

2 INT. TV STUDIO**2**

Assistant director bursts through the door to discover Dexter
throwing up over the sink.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

2 minutes until... Sorry, Mr
Manning are you okay?

DEXTER

(cutting them off, and
smiling unnaturally)
I'm fucking fine, thank you.

Dexter barges past the AD and begins walking down the
corridor. He walks into the studio, sits down and starts
talking to the producer who is behind the glass in the
control room.

DEXTER

Good morning arseholes!

PRODUCER

Hello there, Dexter. Please read
the autocue we start in 2 minutes.

Dexter starts to read the autocue.

DEXTER

Wow, this is really fucking boring.

PRODUCER

It doesn't matter if it's really
fucking boring, it's your job.

DEXTER

Alright then, when can I quit.

PRODUCER

(Trying to get ready to
go live)
Dexter come on I'm really busy.

DEXTER
No seriously, when can I quit.

PRODUCER
(Flicks through papers on
desk)
November.

DEXTER
(Cutting him off and
shouting)
November? Are you having me on?

PRODUCER
2026. November 2026.

DEXTER
Do you know who I am? I am Dexter
fucking manning. This show is
beneath me. I am a star, you can't
keep me here.

PRODUCER
You are also burnt out. Sure,
everyone loved Dexter Manning when
he was a cute kid on a silly little
sitcom. But now you are 30 years
old and this show that is "beneath
you" is the only work you're going
to get.

Dexter is visibly hurt.

DEXTER
OK, sir.

PRODUCER
(patronizing)
Will you continue with the show
now, Dexter?

Dexter pauses.

DEXTER
Yes, sir.

PRODUCER
Ok, brilliant. Right people, we go
on in one minute can I get a check
on camera 2.

The camera is focused on Dexter as the sounds of the busy studio fade out. Dexter still looks hurt by the comments.

PRODUCER

Ok, Dexter. You're on in 3,2.

The producer shows one finger and the title sequence to the show begins to play.

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DEXTER

"Get the fuck off my foot" are the words everyone is talking about as last night at coachella Kanye West stood on the foot of headliner Sabrina Jackson. Sabrina is...

Dexter pauses. He realises that someone as young as her is way more famous than him.

DEXTER

Seventeen. She's Seventeen.

People on set start looking around at each other.

DEXTER

This is the issue with this industry. Look at this poor girl. She's seventeen. Why do we do this? Why do we put people who are so young in the limelight.

The AD runs over to the producer.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Do we cut the feed?

PRODUCER

No. Keep him on. He wanted a way out of this job, He's got it.

3 INT. TV STUDIO

3

Dexter is on air having a breakdown. Dexter giggles to himself.

DEXTER

I used to think I was special. That I was born to make people happy, to entertain. Through the years though, I realised something. The world doesn't give a fuck. Do you know what it's like to have someone look you in the eyes and tell you that you're going to be a star.

Dexter takes a long pause.

DEXTER

(laughs)

You're going to get a kick out of this. I think of myself like Jesus Christ. Not in the way of I'm a god, but in the way everyone told him he was the son of god since he was born. When I was on Roomie Rascals, every single person I met told me I was going to be a star, so of course I believed them. My whole life has been wasted. The years I've missed being "The kid from Roomie Rascals" makes me want to grab that original casting agent and stick my thumbs through his eyes.

The cast look at him in horror.

DEXTER

You all look at me like I'm mental, but imagine your whole existence was meaningless. Your whole life leading up to this peak, like sisyphus pushing his bloody rock to the top of the hill. Just for it all to come crashing down.

Dexter's voice gets more shaky and he starts to tear up.

DEXTER

I still remember the call.

(pause)

For Roomie Rascals. I was sat in front of our TV, watching Lazy Town. My mum from the other room shouts "Dex!". I just remember her running in and being so happy that my future was set. I wish she could watch this now. She isn't dead or anything, no. We just don't talk anymore.

Dexter pulls his phone out his pocket.

DEXTER

I don't know why we don't speak anymore. I think I resent her in a way, like everything that happened, the reason I'm here today is because of her.

Dexter starts typing on his phone and then puts it to his ear. He pauses while the phone rings.

DEXTER

It's gone voicemail.

Dexter looks at the phone in disappointment. He starts to leave a message.

DEXTER

Hi mum. It's me, Dexter. I just want to let you know that you ruined my life. It's not your fault, I know you had good intentions.

There is a long and awkward pause.

DEXTER

Why don't you call anymore? I guess it's a double edged sword. I don't speak to you anymore. I think you are mental, and I hope you know that I blame you for everything. I never had a childhood because of you. All day I would sit on set, doing whatever you or Derek said. And then when we went home, the time when I should've been being a kid, you fucking studied my body. All of the "fun little walks" and having "diets" together makes sense now. You were monitoring me weren't you? Make me think that because we were doing it together we were a team.

(Pause)

Do you know how scared of upsetting you I was? The fear I would have of making you angry or making you feel disappointed.

Dexter looks at the phone and puts it back up to his ear.

DEXTER

I love you, Mum.

He hangs up the phone and puts it back in his pocket. He looks down at his lap and looks back up and the producer in the control room.

DEXTER

Why me, Mick?

The producer looks at him annoyed, he doesn't want to be heard live.

DEXTER

Come on, give the people what they want right?

PRODUCER

What do you mean "why me"?

DEXTER

Why me for this show? I mean I know the answer. Derek was done with me and you needed a star for this stupid fucking celebrity gossip show. But why would you do this to me? Why would you let Derek do this?

PRODUCER

Derek is the reason you got all of this money, fame, awards-

DEXTER

(Cutting him off and shouting)

YOU DON'T KNOW DEREK.

Dexter pauses. He is visibly hurt and breathes in to calm down.

DEXTER

Derek abused me.

The people on set look shocked.

DEXTER

He took my life. He robbed me of everything. He abused a child wanting to make his mother proud and made me a whore to his little game. His game of how far can I take this, how much can I put this kid through before he starts slitting his wrists. You worked on Roomie's, you knew he was doing this to me. Why didn't you stop him?

PRODUCER

I couldn't, Dexter. I didn't have that power.

DEXTER

You couldn't have just said something?

PRODUCER

It would've cost me everything. My job, my wife, my kids, all of it. I wouldn't have any of it. We both wouldn't be here right now.

DEXTER

What makes you think I want to be here? Do you feel selfish at all? Do you have any sympathy in that stupid fucking head?

PRODUCER

Dexter, listen-

DEXTER

No, I'm fed up with your bullshit. You listen to me. Whether you like it or not mick, you are a victim to Derek too. And you know, I have so much sympathy for you. I really do. I feel absolutely awful about everything that's happened. But you did it to yourself, I never asked for this stupid fucking life, I never asked to live my life under a microscope.

The set falls silent. The producer looks off at Dexter in guilt.

PRODUCER

Dexter, I am so sorry about everything.

DEXTER

Are you fucking mental? You don't get that. You don't get this closure. You ruined my fucking life.

The producer is angry that Dexter didn't accept his apology and begins shouting.

PRODUCER

I'm sorry that I did what I was told! I'm sorry that both me and Derek saw talent in you! I'm sorry you're a washed up reject who not even TLC would want now!

DEXTER

I'm going to fucking kill you!

Dexter starts running towards the doors of the control room. The producer panics.

PRODUCER

Shit! get that fucking door!

The AD runs over to the door and tries holding it shut. Dexter swings it open and the AD falls to the floor. Dexter starts beating up the producer. The AD gets up and pulls Dexter off him.

DEXTER

Who the fuck do you think you're grabbing? I am fucking god, I'm god you fucking bitch!

4 EXT/INT. OUTSIDE TO DEXTERS HOUSE

4

Dexter gets rushed by a bunch of paparazzi asking for photos. He looks panicked. Dexter gets into a car. Cuts to inside Dexters house where he goes up to a window and sees flashing outside, and slams the blinds shut. He hears voices.

YOUNG DEXTER

Can we go home yet?

DEREK

Not yet, buddy we have a few more scenes left to shoot. You don't want to upset mummy do you?

TEENAGE DEXTER

Get the fuck off me Derek!

DEREK

Oh you're a man now are you, Dex?
Come here and talk to me like a
fucking man then.

DEXTER

I really need some new work, Derek.
Please I'll take anything.

DEREK

Dexter, I'm busy. Sabrina is a
massive client and I need to give
her all my attention right now.
I'll put you in touch with Mick.

Dexter falls over the sink and spots a tub of pills. He grabs
them and swallows them all.

5 INT. NEWS STUDIO

5

NEWS PRESENTER

Good afternoon, my name is Graham
Cook and you are watching CBN News.
Tonight we come to you with
devastating news, Television star
Dexter Manning has been found dead
at 30 of apparent overdose. He was
found this morning by disgraced
manager and producer Derek Thornton
who refused to comment on the
situation. In other news, teenage
sensation Sabrina Jackson has
claimed that today she has quit her
life as a musician and will
disappear from the public eye
completely.