

# DAN & DAVE

LYRICS BY  
BENJAMIN LERNER  
& JOSHUA SHERMAN

TELL YOU A STORY ABOUT DAN & DAVE A COUPLE KIDS WHO KNEW EACH OTHER AND THE SIMILAR PATHS THEY TAKE

ONLY MINOR DISTINCT DIFFERENCES SEPARATE TWO PEOPLE WHO FROM OUTSIDE WOULD SEEM THE SAME IN EVERY WAY

DAN WAS A REBEL, RAISED IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE PEOPLE HAD SO MUCH MONEY AIN'T WORRY 'BOUT RETIREMENT

PALATIAL MANSIONS, CARS OUTSIDE WERE FANCY HIS FAMILY ADOPTED HIM, HE WAS REALLY THE PLAN B

HE GREW UP IN A SUBURB WITH SOME OTHER KIDS AND NEVER KNEW 'TIL HE WAS OLDER WHAT HIS REAL FATHER AND MOTHER DID

HE PLAYED SOCCER, AND HIS SKILLS WERE WAY PROPER BUT HAD A CHIP ON HIS SHOULDER STARTED TO BLAZE GANJA

DIDNT NEED THE MONEY BUT HE STARTED SELLING IT 'CAUSE DRUGS WILL GIVE YOU POWER AND RESPECT AND SO HE RELISHED IT

CHARISMATIC, MAGNETISM TO SPARE HE HAD IT BUT ALWAYS HAD A GRIM AURA AS IF AWARE A TRAGIC

CIRCUMSTANCE AWAITED HIM, REAL CAUTIOUS AND PESSIMISTIC HE ALWAYS MOVED AS IF KNOWING HE HAD HIS CHANCE AND MISSED IT

AND THAT'S WHERE DAVE ENTERS THE PICTURE SKINNY AND INSECURE, AN INTROVERT WHO'S THROWN INTO THE MIXTURE

HIS CLOTHES WERE FUNNY, THE OLDER KIDS LAUGHED AT HIM WANTED ACCEPTANCE AND STARTED BLOWING CASH RAPID

STEALING MONEY FROM HIS FAMILY, ACTING OUT USING DRUGS AND DRINKING IT STARTED OUT WITH GRAMS OF WEED

AND AT THE PARTIES WHERE HIM AND DAN WOULD BE DAN SAW DAVE AND REALIZED HE COULD HUSTLE HIM HANDILY

HE MADE IT COME OFF LIKE A FRIENDSHIP, AND DAVE WAS CULLIBLE, SOON HE FOUND HIMSELF FADED AND GONE ENTRENCHED IN

A WAY OF LIFE HE DIDNT REALLY UNDERSTAND BUT HE WANTED APPROVAL FROM THE OLDER KIDS BEING A YOUNGER MAN

SO GOT SOME OUNCES AS A FRONT FROM DAN BUT DIDNT HUSTLE WITH THE SAME TENACITY AND THEN MESSED UP THE BANDS

DAN WOULD BRAG ABOUT RIPPING HIM OFF WITH ALL HIS FRIENDS, THEY WOULD ALL LAUGH, SNICKER, AND SCOFF

LIKE "YOU REALLY FRONTED DAVE ANOTHER ZIP OF THAT BOMB? THEN HE TOOK TWO WEEKS TO FLIP IT? MUSTA DID SOMETHING WRONG..."

AND THEY WERE RIGHT, DAVE WOULD SIT ALONE AND BLAZE EVERY NIGHT BECAUSE THE DEMONS IN HIS HEAD WERE WAY TOO CRAZY TO FIGHT

AND DAN GRADUATED, MOVED AWAY, LEAVING DAVE A MARIJUANA ADDICT TRAPPED INSIDE A SAD, TRAUMATIC, LOOPY HAZE

BUT IN HIS ABSENCE DAVE IMPROVED HIS GAME AND STARTED HUSTLING AND STOPPED GOING TO CLASSES THINKING SCHOOL WAS LAME

SOMEHOW GRADUATED TOO AND STAYED WITH JUST THE WEED AND LIQUOR FOR A SEC BUT THEN MOVED ONTO BLUES AND YAY AND THEN AT COLLEGE IT GOT CRAZIER STILL WASNT LONG 'TIL DAVE WAS HOOKED ON THE COCAINE AND THE PILLS

DAN STARTED SELLING PERCS, SO DAVE COPPED 'EM FROM DAN, WHO MOVED BACK HOME, SUPPLYING DAVE WITH HIS DILAUDIDS AND XANS

OXYCONTIN CAUSED DAVE PROBLEMS, BUT DAN DIDNT MIND 'CAUSE WHILE DAVE WAS GETTING WORSE, DAN WAS MANAGING FINE

BUT WHEN DAVE LEFT FOR REHAB, IT WASNT HIS TIME WASNT READY TO GIVE UP WHAT HE DISCOVERED HIS MIND

NEEDED TO QUIET DOWN...HE WASNT SOBER TOO LONG STEPPED IT UP TO HEROIN, THEN A HOPELESSLY STRONG

CRAVING CAME ON... THATS WHEN DAN CAME BACK IN HIS LIFE AS A PRIVATE SCHOOL JUNKIE SLANGIN SMACK AND THE WHITE

AND DAVE WOULD STEAL HIS MOMS CAR AND MONEY OUT OF HER PURSE TO GO TO DAVS HOUSE, BUY SOME DOPE AND POWDER AND PERCS

USED TO SNEAK IT THROUGH THE WINDOW ON THOSE DARK COLD NIGHTS IN A SUBURBAN MANSION BASEMENT IN SOME DARK LOW LIGHT

THEY USED TEXT MESSAGE CODES 'CASE COPS FOUND THE PHONES, WHEN DAN WENT TO REHAB, DAVE WAS ALONE

AND THEN WHEN DAN GOT SOBER FOR A MINUTE FOR REAL DAVE WAS DOPESICK, STRUGGLED FOR A FIX AND A PILL

STARTED GOING UP TO BALTIMORE UP ON HIS OWN COPPIN SCRAMBLE FROM THE BLOCK, FAR AWAY FROM HIS HOME

BUT THEN ONE DAY A ROLLED UP DOLLAR JUST AINT DO THE TRICK AND ONE OF DAVES HOMIES TOLD HIM IT WAS BETTER TO STICK

A NEEDLE UP INSIDE HIS ARM, DAVE THOUGHT "WHAT'S THE HARM?" WHEN HE PUSHED THE PLUNGER DOWN, FELL IN LOVE WITH THE CHARM

ILLUSTRATED BY LEONARD KENYON

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