

## DANNY DANDRUFF

Who is that one person in school you will always remember? Everyone has one. Is it the school athlete, head cheerleader or that funny, weird person that everyone knew but no one talked to? I remember my person. His name was Daniel Randolph. Everyone knew Daniel as Danny – Danny “Dandruff” Randolph.

Danny was a pretty normal kid; indeed, he wanted to fit in like everyone else.<sup>1</sup> But Danny had one small problem – dandruff.<sup>2</sup> He tried everything: Head & Shoulders, medication, and a priest.<sup>3</sup> Nothing Danny tried worked. Looking back, I sometimes feel bad: making fun of him, when it was clear he couldn’t help his problem.<sup>4</sup> I even remember our high school prom, and how we ruined it for him.

Danny was a scrawny, weak, little boy.<sup>5</sup> He didn’t have many friends, although he was very friendly to everyone.<sup>6</sup> We didn’t care how nice he was. All we cared about was the fact that he had dandruff. And I don’t mean a little bit of dandruff. It was out of control and it was everywhere: in his hair, on his eyebrows, and on his clothes.<sup>7</sup> Sometimes, I would sit in class and just stare at it.<sup>8</sup> It truly amazed me, for it was not possible to have so much dandruff.<sup>9</sup> One time I actually thought I saw more appearing.<sup>10</sup> Right there in class; right before my eyes.<sup>11</sup>

Danny tried to do something about the dandruff, but it didn’t matter to us.<sup>12</sup> We saw him with the big, white bottle of Head & Shoulders in the shower room, after gym class.<sup>13</sup> We saw the pamphlets, explaining the use and side effects, from the medication issued to him by doctors.<sup>14</sup> We even knew that he went to the town priest, praying that it would just go away.<sup>15</sup> But it did not go away, instead it lingered on, seeming to grow bigger and stronger, thicker and whiter every day.<sup>16</sup>

Everyone was sure Danny had outgrown the problem by high school, or that is what we all hoped.<sup>17</sup> The first day of school promptly ended that rumor. The next four years went on without change. Before we knew it, senior prom was just around the corner.<sup>18</sup> It was the talk of the school. Everyone was going crazy, trying to figure out what to wear,

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<sup>1</sup> PP semicolon indeed

<sup>2</sup> PP dash ES

<sup>3</sup> PP dash ES list; Series A, B, and C

<sup>4</sup> PP colon explanation

<sup>5</sup> Series A,B,C

<sup>6</sup> AC although

<sup>7</sup> PP colon list

<sup>8</sup> BS word

<sup>9</sup> CC for

<sup>10</sup> RN omitted that

<sup>11</sup> R word

<sup>12</sup> CC but

<sup>13</sup> S-A,B; ES prep phr

<sup>14</sup> MS verbal phrase

<sup>15</sup> ES verbal phrase

<sup>16</sup> ADD BC; S-a&b,c&d; ES verbal phr

<sup>17</sup> CC or

<sup>18</sup> AC before

who to take, and how to get there.<sup>19</sup> No one stopped to wonder if Danny was even going, until the prom nominations came out.<sup>20</sup> I almost fainted: Danny Randolph nominated as prom king.<sup>21</sup> It was absurd. Who would do such a crazy thing? Inevitably, prom night came.<sup>22</sup> When the votes were counted, no one could believe their ears – “Dandruff Randolph”, prom king.<sup>23</sup> He was more surprised than anyone. Randolph walked to the stage with a look of awe on his face. He had finally been accepted, after all these years. We clapped and cheered, as they placed the crown upon his head.<sup>24</sup> I wasn’t sure if I was clapping at how comical the whole ordeal was, or if I was genuinely happy for him. I don’t think anyone was sure.

But before we knew it, the joke was played.<sup>25</sup> Instead of glitter and confetti, a bucket of white powdery flakes had been poured all over Daniel Randolph.<sup>26</sup> We were in shock; the whole gymnasium went silent – and then immediately erupted into laughter.

Looking back, I am ashamed of how cruel we once were as kids. “Daniel Randolph – King of Dandruff” we chanted, the rest of our high school days.<sup>27</sup> I sometimes wanted to stand up for him, although there were other times I wanted to join in.<sup>28</sup> I don’t know if I would change anything about the past, but I do feel guilty every time I think about that night at our senior prom.<sup>29</sup> What was I to do? “Danny Dandruff” looked hilarious up there covered in those powdered flakes. I don’t think they knew how much it would hurt him. We all thought he was used to being teased by then. After all, he was a symbol at our school; we gave him a motto: *Randolph and dandruff – you can’t have one without the other*. The bucket and prom nomination was like the closing to a chapter in our lives that we would always remember. It was our way of saying goodbye, and wishing a nice life to a friend we would never forget.

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<sup>19</sup> S A, B, and C

<sup>20</sup> AC until

<sup>21</sup> PP colon expl

<sup>22</sup> BS word

<sup>23</sup> AC when; PP dash E; ES ns app

<sup>24</sup> AC as (same as while)

<sup>25</sup> ADD BC

<sup>26</sup> S Aand B; BS prep phr

<sup>27</sup> BS verbal phr

<sup>28</sup> AC although

<sup>29</sup> CC but