

Cado

By

Emily Horton

CADO

FADE IN:

EXT. GAVIN HOUSE, FRONT LAWN - DAY

The sun glares through the trees and the birds chirp. Red and orange leaves fall from the trees and spot the front lawn.

The camera zooms down on **DANIEL GAVIN**, who sports short blonde hair, blue eyes, a 5'10 build, and a muscular figure. He is playfully tossing a worn chew toy that his middle-aged Rottweiler, **CADO**, is fetching.

Daniel's two-year-old son, **JAKE** shares his father's blonde hair, but wears his in a bowl cut, and possesses his mother's hazel eyes. He waddles in front of Cado's path as he trots to bring the chew toy back to Daniel. The dog stops to let Jake throw his arms around him in an awkward, enthusiastic hug. Cado plops onto the ground with his belly up, making Jake laugh.

Daniel jogs over to rub Cado's belly and laugh alongside Jake.

Eyes glistening and cheeks softly lifted, Daniel watches his Rottweiler rolling on the ground. Cado's tongue is out and his tail is wagging. Jake rolls and laughs next to Cado.

EXT. GAVIN HOUSE, FRONT LAWN - DAY

The garage door opens as **MIA**, Daniel's wife and Jake's mother, walks out the garage door wearing a flowing sundress and a soft smile. She has hazel eyes and dark brown hair that flows just past her shoulders. Her skin is bronzed and her 5'4 figure slim.

Daniel gives a somber nod as he picks himself up from the ground and walks toward the welcome mat at the front door where a red leash lays. Daniel stares at the leash and sighs before hesitantly picking it up from the ground.

Mia picks Jake up and places him in his carseat in the backseat of the white mid-sized car.

Daniel calls to Cado as he walks toward the car. The Rottweiler perks up from the ground and runs to meet his owner. Daniel fastens the leash around the matching red collar as Cado jumps into the backseat of the car on the seat next to Jake.

Daniel closes the back door and walks around the car to the driver's seat, where he opens the door and gets inside.

He looks at Mia in the passenger seat with teary eyes. He turns his head toward the backseat where the camera focuses on Cado and Jake. Cado is sitting on the floor of the car, panting, and Jake's head is resting half-asleep on Cado's back.

Daniel turns back around to face the steering wheel as we see a tear roll down his face. His face is somber and he is fighting to hold back more tears. He starts the engine and drives out of the driveway. Mia turns on the radio.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD PARK, SANDBOX - DAY

Jake plays in the sand with a plastic yellow shovel and a toy truck. Daniel sits in the sand with Jake and plays with him. Cado groggily lies in the sand on the other side of Jake. Daniel's phone begins ringing.

Screen reads: Incoming call, Mia Gavin

Daniel pulls himself out of the sandbox and sits on a wooden bench next to the sandbox as he brings his phone to his ear.

Jake continues playing and laughing in the sandbox with Cado laying next to him.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD PARK - DAY

The camera cuts to an **adolescent boy** with dark brown hair, brown eyes, and a slender build painted with mischievous scrapes barreling through the park on a bike. He is desperately grabbing the hand brakes but the bike is not slowing down. The adolescent gains speed and heads straight toward the small sandbox.

The camera shows Jake and Cado in the sandbox. Jake begins crying and screaming while Cado gets up and sprints toward the adolescent boy, protectively and aggressively barking. Cado knocks the boy off his bike and bites him on the leg in a fit of rage.

The camera then shows Daniel hanging up his call and running toward the action. His face and body are frantic. He grabs Cado's collar and drags him away from the boy.

The boy rolls on the ground screaming like the star of a

horror movie and holding his punctured calf, which is blood-speckled in the shape of Cado's jaw. Tears gush down his face as scrapes and dirt cover his body.

The camera cuts back to Jake, still in the sandbox, bawling and covered in sand. We see Daniel drag Cado to the sandbox where he attempts to control Cado as well as comfort Jake.

We see court papers flash in front of the screen.

We see Daniel and Mia in court along with the adolescent boy and his parents. The boy has a scar on his leg in the shape of a jaw-line.

We see the judge's gavel pound the sound block.

We see Daniel and Mia sitting down with Jake. Mia softly cries as she pushes Jake's hair back. As Daniel's mouth moves, Jake begins to cry. Daniel and Mia hold Jake. Mia is fighting to hold back tears while Daniel holds a somber, serious expression.

We see Mia, Daniel, and Jake all smiling with teary eyes as they gather around Cado and pet him.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. GAVIN CAR - DAY

Daniel stares out the front window still fighting back tears.

Mia puts her hand on Daniel's arm as she continues to stare out the front window.

We see the car gently pull into a parking space marked by yellow lines.

Sign reads: Angel Veterinary Clinic

Daniel turns off the engine and sighs deeply. His hands shake as he opens the car door and steps outside.

EXT. VETERINARY CLINIC, PARKING LOT - DAY

Mia opens the back door, unbuckles Jake, and holds him in her arms. Daniel grabs Cado's leash. Cado jumps out of the car and Daniel shuts the car door.

They walk to the front door of the clinic.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC, WAITING ROOM - DAY

Daniel opens the door and Cado sprints inside. He holds the door open for Mia, still holding Jake.

Cado jumps up to put his front paws on the front desk while Daniel scribbles on the sign-in sheet.

They walk to a corner of the waiting room and sit down in black and grass-colored chairs.

Jake giggles as he pets Cado, and Cado sits on the ground licking Jake's other hand.

A **doctor** with graying brown hair and a well-fed 5'8 build comes out of a door and gives Daniel a soft, sad smile along with a head nod. Mia squeezes Daniel's arm. Daniel chokes back tears as he tugs on Cado's leash. Daniel and Cado follow the doctor through the door.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC, DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Cado sits, wagging his tail, and staring up at Daniel. The doctor prepares a needle.

We see Cado's face, panting and staring at Daniel. Then we see Daniel's face, stained with tears, staring back at Cado.

Cado plops on the ground and rolls over on his back. Daniel rubs his stomach with tears beginning to stream down his face. He grabs Cado's paw with his other hand.

Daniel looks at the doctor, standing over them holding the needle in his hand. We see Daniel's face twist as he holds Cado and the needle makes it's way inside the arm of the paw that Daniel is not holding.

The camera cuts to Cado's face. He is shown happily panting, which slowly transitions into stillness and closed eyes. We then see Daniel's twisted, grimacing face, streaked with tears.

The camera shows the entire doctor's office with the three characters on the floor. Daniel is visibly heart-broken, Cado is still, and the doctor is somber and serious.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC, WAITING ROOM - DAY

Daniel walks out of the door into the waiting room, without Cado. Jake begins crying as Mia rocks him in her arms.

EXT. GAVIN HOUSE, FRONT YARD- NIGHT

The familiar white car pulls into the driveway and stops, waiting for the garage door to open.

Mia gets out of the car and takes Jake inside through the front door while Daniel stays in the driver's seat waiting to pull the car into the garage.

INT. GAVIN HOUSE, GARAGE - NIGHT

He pulls the car into the garage and wipes his face with his palms in exhaustion--fighting back tears. He opens the door and gets out of the car.

EXT. GAVIN HOUSE, FRONT LAWN- NIGHT

Daniel walks out of the garage onto the front lawn.

The camera shows the worn chew toy in the corner of the grass. Daniel spots it and walks over to it. He picks up the toy and stares at it. The camera shows the toy rolling over in his hands.

Daniel looks toward his home--lit up inside and out. He sees Mia through the window trying to make Jake laugh with funny faces.

Daniel smiles softly with gathering tears in his eyes. He takes a deep breath and squeezes the toy gently in his hands. He turns around and begins walking toward the front door of his home with the toy clutched against his chest. The camera pans out.

FADE OUT.

THE END.