

HOPES AND DREAMS

By

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MOMENT: EVOLUTION OF A DREAM

(An actor onstage. A gesture. The six actors-statues come down from both sides of the amphitheater. Another gesture urges them to sit down. From here on, the sculptor takes action by transforming their body postures. Each one of them is the sequence of the previous. Initially, there is an actor with a lowered head, removed and disappointed, followed by another actor-statue who is dreaming (shoulders up, head turned left looking high). Then, there is the statue of a person willing to do anything to make her/his dreams come true (sits on a chair, looking up and to the left). Man succeeds and becomes the dream (the actor is standing up on a chair with the hands pointing upwards). What comes after, is the actor who is still attached to the dream (sits on a chair, the head is turned right looking up towards the “dream” statue). Last but not least, after the realization that the dream has been fulfilled, restlessness for what will happen from now on, takes the roll (the actor sits down looking towards the audience). Now there is fade out and the actor- sculptor lights with a torch each statue individually. The moment is accompanied with the music ‘Dream of flying’ by Brian Crain.)

MOMENT: ONE’S DREAM

(Rania enters the stage and sits on a chair. She opens a light torch and starts reading.)

RANIA

It’s 11.53. Hopes and dreams. Dreams about hopes or hopes about dreams? So many questions wandering in my head. So many thoughts... they are driving me crazy. Thoughts that you can talk about, thoughts that you write about, and those thoughts that you keep locked in your head and make you dizzy. I can’t stand it.

I stopped dreaming about the distant future. It’s hard and painful. I stopped making plans about my lovely future house... my lovely future job... my lovely future family... It’s hard! I belong to the generation of the broken dreams.

I’m not a pessimist but I used to be an optimist. I hope that things will get better in the future, right? I just gave up dreaming. Once, somebody told me that when you let the darkness in, it never comes out.

(Gerasimina enters. She walks around Rania as if the latter was trapped in a four-wall square. Gerasimina sits on a chair and opens a light torch. A bigger light torch is directed to her face and her shadow is projected on the wall. She starts reading. While she is reading, Rania stands up and tries to enter her world, but she can’t because of the walls.)

GERASIMINA

I’m a dreamer. I am a romantic person. I always hope for better days to come. My life is an air balloon. There are rainbows all over, unicorns as well. Things will get better in time. I have trust and faith. I want to help people improve their lives. I want to inspire children lead happy lives. Love is life. Love and peace. Hope is the only savior. The only possible one. Whoever stops hoping, quits life. Each one has the power.

Each one is unique. Life is the answer, hope and belief. I know I can make it. I'm so young. Life has meaning for me. I feel grateful for every chance that is given to me. I feel lucky to be surrounded by people that really love me. Ok, my dreams are sweet, they are like candies.

(Rania realizes she cannot reach Gerasimina and gives up. Frustrated and disappointed as she is, she sits on the floor. Lights go off.)

MOMENT: DREAMS WITHOUT TOMORROW

(Marianna, Magdalena and Christina are sitting handcuffed and chained to three chairs. Ria enters and stands next to Marianna. A bright light is pointed at the latter, and their shadows are projected to the wall. Ria touches Marianna's head in a gentle way.)

RIA

Tell me...

MARIANNA

What?

RIA

Your last dream....

MARIANNA

I would ask for forgiveness. I could not go just like this. I've done terrible things to people. Oh yes, I have done really terrible things to people. I would need them to forgive me. I would definitely need more time....

(Ria puts her hand in front of Marianna's face and moves it downwards slowly. Marianna lowers her gaze to her hands and closes her eyes. Ria snaps her fingers and the light goes off. Ria moves next to Magdalena. Now the light is directed towards Magdalena and their shadows are projected on the wall. Ria touches her gently.)

RIA

I'm here....

MAGDALENA

Who are you?

RIA

I'm your last wish....

MAGDALENA

Oh, no, no, no. I wouldn't die. I wouldn't have let this happen. No way. I wouldn't even... I have so much unfinished business that I would need to take care of. I would make him suffer. He destroyed me, he threw me in this pile of dirt, I couldn't escape. Revenge. I want revenge. If I had one more day, I would kill him, I would fucking kill him, for making me feel like shit about myself. I find myself disgusting, repulsive, horrible. Yes, he would deserve that. I curse him... (Ria touches her head.) Don't touch me!

(Ria disrupts Magdalena and lowers her gaze. She closes her eyes. Ria snaps her fingers and the light goes off. She moves next to Christina. The light is pointed at Christina and their shadows are projected on the wall. Ria's shadow is bigger than Christina's. Ria touches her head gently.)

RIA

It's your turn now. Tell me your last day.

CHRISTINA

My last day.... I would spend with my friends and my family, of course. We would talk and sing and dance and have so much fun! Oh, and we would eat candies! All sorts of candies! Muffins, brownies, cup cakes... and chocolate! Dark chocolate, white chocolate and, my favorite, milk chocolate! So... yeah... friends, family and candies....

(Christina giggles happily and Ria pats her on the head gently. She lowers her gaze and closes her eyes. Ria snaps her fingers and the light goes off.)

MOMENT: DREAMING CONSCIOUSNESS

(Gerasimina walks slowly towards the bed, lies on it and covers herself with a sheet. 'Creepy Music Box' plays on the background. Rania enters. After a few seconds, Stevi enters.)

RANIA

Shh....

We don't have to be moral. If we want to steal, we can steal, and if we want to kill, we can kill.... We can do whatever we want! That's a happy life!

STEVI

Stevi: Oh no! What about the consequences? What about the guilt? Do not let our heart grow bitter! Do not blacken our soul! Be gentle and compassionate...be kind.

(Rania and Stevi move two steps back. Ria enters. In a few seconds, Christina enters too.)

RIA

It's all about the money, girl. You know I'm right. We can have everything. You know you want to.... Money... money...money....

CHRISTINA

Oh, no! Money is not important! You don't need things to be happy! All you need is to be healthy and be with your friends and family who love you so much.... Yeah, love is what will make you happy!

(Ria and Christina move two steps back. Magdalena enters and, in a few seconds, Marianna enters as well.)

MAGDALENA

You must use people for your own sake. People are mean and cruel to you, so you shall take advantage of them. All you have to do is use them.

MARIANNA

No. Don't listen to her. People are good. You are not alone in this world. You have friends and family that love you. Don't listen to her....

(Rania, Stevi, Ria, Christina, Magdalena and Marianna move closer to Gerasimina and all begin to speak at the same time. Suddenly, Gerasimina wakes up terrified, as if she was having a nightmare, and everybody ducks out of sight.)

MOMENT: AUCTION OF DREAMS

(Stevi sits at a large desk center stage. Magdalena, Christina and Ria are sitting throughout the space, while Rania is standing downstage left of the desk. Marianna enters dragging Mina, a trafficking victim, onstage, forcing her to sit on a chair placed center stage.)

MARIANNA

Come on. Come on. Don't cry. Sit right here. You are going to be sold anyway, so don't be a trouble to me. Shut the fuck up.

(On the phone trying to strike a deal) Yes. I've got a fourteen-year-old virgin here. She is going to be sold for 2.000. Not a penny less. It is tested that she is pure.

(Marianna walks offstage to the left.)

GERASIMINA

I am always afraid. Maybe, maybe this is how it goes. I'm jealous of the children that eat ice cream and play with their toys. What are they going to do with me now? People are cruel. I wish I had a family and a normal life, like all the other children my age.

(Marianna enters.)

MARIANNA

Come on. It's time.

(She grabs Gerasimina by force and drags her offstage. Gerasimina is screaming and crying desperately. Rania walks to the center of the stage.)

RANIA

I'm a workaholic and I like it. I've always wanted a wealthy life. I know, "That is the key to happiness," my mother told me.

I want to be rich, wear expensive clothes, go to glamorous parties.

I'm not a family-type person. I don't have time to spend on that. In fact, I'm already late.

(She walks back to her initial position. Christina, who sits on a chair from the beginning of the moment, starts talking.)

CHRISTINA

Is it sunny today? I think it is.... I can feel the rays of the sun touching my skin. I can hear the sound of the leaves rustling. They must have a vivid green color this time of the year.

Tomorrow I'm meeting my new doctor. I hope this one will find a solution. I'm so sick of this! I want to see the world! The real world!

(Marianna, supposed to be a drug seller, enters from stage left, looks around to make sure that nobody is watching, moves to center stage, gives some drugs to Ria, takes the money and exits from stage left again. Ria sits on a chair, takes a puff and talks.)

RIA

Mmm, that's life. I'm telling you...a drag of this and a sip of that takes all your problems away.

(She stands up and takes the chair with her. Magdalena stands up and walks up and down the stage.)

MAGDALENA

7, 12, 28, 21, 42, 38, 44, 58, 72, 68, 84, 91, 81, 98, 100.

What? You want me? Don't say that. I'm not stupid. I'm not ill. I'm fine. Fine. I'm normal. Stop it, please. No, no, no. Stop....

(She sits back to her chair.)

STEVI

How greedy and cruel you have become!

(Stevi writes “LOVE” a piece of paper and throws it on the floor. Gerasimina and Magdalena run to grab it. Gerasimina is faster and takes it.)

Love. Gerasimina...she had a tough life but a happy ending; she was sold but managed to escape! Years later, she was adopted and got what she always wanted, a family. She spent the rest of her life fighting for children’s rights.

(Stevi writes “SUCCESS” on a piece of paper and throws it on the floor. Rania walks snobbishly and takes the paper.)

Success. Rania...a typical workaholic! So eager to serve the system! She realized what she’d missed, only when it was too late: She ended up with no friends, no family, but lots of money!

(Stevi writes “ATTENTION” on a piece of paper. Magdalena and Ria run to grab it. Magdalena is faster and manages to take it.)

Attention. Magdalena...the world was cruel to her. Her aberration turned her into an outcast and, eventually it cost her a lobotomy; she is still alive, in a coma!

(Stevi writes “HEALTH” and “MONEY” on two pieces of paper and throws them on the floor. Ria walks to pick them. She gives “HEALTH” to Christina and keeps ‘MONEY’ for herself.)

Health. Christina...She realized she does not need her vision to see the true colors of the mortal world. She is now married and has two beautiful children.

Money. Ria... she tried to create a world of her own and she gave in to her deepest regrets: She delved deeper into the drug world and died from a heroin overdose.

Alas! The fateful standards of your hopes. What remains for us to endure and see?

(Lights go off.)

MOMENT: DREAMS ARE LIKE STARS

(The stage is full of lit candles. Magdalena is sitting on center stage. Rania, Stevi and Ria are standing at the right corridor facing the audience. Gerasimina, Marianna and Christina are standing at the left corridor facing the audience as well.)

GERASIMINA

Dreams are...

RANIA

like stars!

MAGDALENA

No!

MARIANNA

Yes. They are both gleaming

STEVI

and glowing,

CHRISTINA

far-removed

RIA

and far-reached,

GERASIMINA

bright,

RANIA

and wildly admired.

MARIANNA

Stars beautify the black,

STEVI

bleak sky,

CHRISTINA

dreams do the same

RIA

with our lives.

GERASIMINA

I dream of catching stars...

RANIA

and I of collecting the shooting ones.

MARIANNA

They both vanish

STEVI

when ripened.

MAGDALENA

A star is a massive, luminous sphere of plasma held together by its own gravity. You shouldn't compare it to a dream!

CHRISTINA

Why speak so literally?

RIA

Imagine!

GERASIMINA

Create connections that

RANIA

do not

MARIANNA

correspond to reality.

STEVI

Whenever I'm dreaming of

CHRISTINA

happiness,

RIA

wealth,

GERASIMINA

truth,

RANIA

of a different life,

MARIANNA

of becoming something I'm not,

STEVI

stars,

CHRISTINA

to my mind,

RIA

multiply,

GERASIMINA

glow,

RANIA

smile.

MARIANNA

Because I believe that

STEVI

stars remind us that we must

CHRISTINA

always

RIA

search for light

GERASIMINA

light is my dream

RANIA

and fight for it

MARIANNA

in the vast darkness.

ALL

The night sky is a quiet hell. Stars are the hopes for a presumed heaven.

MAGDALENA

I've heard that stars are the souls of the dead

STEVI

or the souls of

CHRISTINA

the-yet-to-be-fulfilled dreams

RIA

or even the souls of dead dreams

GERASIMINA

or they are just little candles...

MAGDALENA

Don't be so melodramatic!

RANIA

Oh, look!

(Rania points to a 'star' towards the stage. Everyone looks at the falling star and walks towards the stage.)

MARIANNA

There!

STEVI

A star is falling!
(Now everyone is onstage in scattered positions.)

CHRISTINA

Quick, make a wish.

RIA

I wish to be healthy,

GERASIMINA

happy,

RANIA

lucky for...

MARIANNA

There! Another one.

(Marianna points at another falling star. Everyone looks at the direction she is pointing at.)

STEVI

It's like a shower of stars.

ALL

LOOK!!!

(Everyone points at the starry night sky and, right after that, collapses in a fetal position. As “Geminid Meteor Shower Time Lapse 2012” by Kenneth Brandon plays on the background, they rise up, in pairs of two and three, moving their bodies, and especially their hands, gently and slowly in accordance with the music. As the rhythm changes, they gradually hunker down, reaching the floor, and they freeze in different postures. Lights go off.)

THE END

Works Cited

Brandon, Kenneth. “Geminid Meteor Shower Time Lapse 2012.” *YouTube*. YouTube, 30 December 2012. Web. 12 August 2014.