

In Dreams  
By  
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EXT.HARBOR SIDE.DAY

MICHAEL, an attractive man in his late thirties with stylish black hair, is sat on a bench by the harbor side wearing a blue three piece suit, the bright winter sun beating down on him as it hangs high in the crisp blue sky.

The sound of seagulls and lapping water permeate the airwaves as people bustle all around.

ANNA, an attractive blond woman in her late thirties, appears in the distance, as if from nowhere, and saunters toward MICHAEL in an angelic white gown which gracefully highlights the contours of her body. MICHAEL notices her as she gets closer and looks happily surprised.

MICHAEL

What are you doing here? It's a bit early

ANNA

I wanted to see you, and I just couldn't wait.

ANNA smiles lovingly. MICHAEL gets up from the bench, the two embrace and exchange a kiss. Michael takes ANNA's hand in his and the two begin to walk along the harbor side.

ANNA looks around, taking in her surroundings

ANNA

This is really nice. I remember the first time we ever came here.

MICHAEL

Yeah. I was broke and could only afford a coupe of drinks at the pub and not much else. I brought you here because I thought women liked that kind of thing.

ANNA

We do. It was low key and intimate. It felt romantic.

MICHAEL

In reality I was embarrassed about being poor and didn't want you to know I was poor

ANNA

It didn't matter to me. I liked you for you, not because I thought you were wealthy

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

I always was a bit too prideful.  
Always wanting to be "the man".  
That was some of the problem I  
guess.

ANNA

Amongst other things

A brief look of knowing recognition shows in the pairs  
expression

MICHAEL

And to think, you didn't even like  
me when we first met. You thought I  
was creepy

ANNA

That's not entirely true. I thought  
you were very handsome, you were  
just a bit full on. Kept hounding  
me like some kind of horny  
teenager.

MICHAEL

What can I say, you clearly have  
that effect on men.

ANNA

I was at a stage in my life where I  
wanted something meaningful, You  
just wanted to fuck.

MICHAEL

That's not true.....well, maybe.  
Yeah okay I did want to fuck you  
but that doesn't mean I didn't also  
want to get to know you.

ANNA

I think you liked the chase. I'm  
not sure we would have made it as  
far as we did had I slept with you  
straight away.

MICHAEL

That's not a fair statement.  
Generally speaking, men work from  
the bottom up. We start with sex  
and build a relationship from  
there, women want a relationship  
first and then reward you with sex.

ANNA

It's not a "reward" like giving your dog a treat. It was more meaningful to me knowing that we actually had a connection beyond the physical.

ANNA and MICHAEL come to a stop. They lean on the harbor side barrier taking in the view.

MICHAEL

You certainly made me work for it though. Six months of dating was it? Not so much as a handshake.

ANNA

I liked the fact that you were persistent. You put effort into the pursuit and that made me feel desirable. I was hesitant to get physical because in the back of my mind I still felt that's all you wanted so I held off.

MICHAEL

And I respected that. I didn't push it because by that point I wanted to be with you.

ANNA

Can you honestly say you would have felt that way if I had given in as soon as we'd met?

MICHAEL takes a moment to let that statement sink in

MICHAEL

You may have a point

ANNA

It wasn't easy for me either. You're very attractive and you were too damn smooth for your own good. You made me feel really wanted in a way I'd not felt before. I had to resist my own urges, I wanted to see if we could have something "real"

MICHAEL

I genuinely don't think I've ever masturbated as much as I did in that six month period (beat) You

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL (cont'd)  
were always really chilled out  
though, I didn't ever get the sense  
that you were trying to force me  
into a relationship or that you  
were being fake. I think that's why  
I started to fall in love with you.

ANNA  
I started to fall for you once you  
were comfortable enough to be  
yourself and I saw the person under  
the bravado (beat) Things were good  
back then

MICHAEL  
I don't think things got bad  
between us? Why? Do you think  
things got bad?

ANNA  
No, no, not bad just different.  
Things definitely started to change  
when we became more established.  
Especially when we moved in  
together.

MICHAEL  
When we decided to get a place of  
our own I was still working that  
shitty underpaid retail job. Things  
were hard because I was poor and we  
were always arguing about money. I  
knew I had to elevate myself if we  
wanted a decent life. I took those  
evening I.T. classes and got that  
web design gig because I wanted to  
take care of you.

ANNA  
And I did feel taken care of and  
looked after, for a time. But you  
seemed to overlook the fact that I  
had my own career and my own  
autonomy. I wanted you to want me  
to have my own life.

MICHAEL  
I was insecure. That's not an  
excuse it's just the truth. I could  
see you had a career and one that  
would take you places. You were  
also making more money than me and

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL (cont'd)

I felt threatened and emasculated by that. I think that's why I behaved the way I did once I'd finally made something of myself. But it didn't come from a bad place, I genuinely wanted to take care of you. But I should've appreciated that you were your own person.

ANNA

We got there in the end. No relationship is without it's issues, but god those first few years were hard. I don't think either of us realized how difficult cohabitation was going to be. No more personal space, or at least, not in the same way. Having to put up with all the little irritating things I'd never noticed before.

MICHAEL

I don't think I really appreciated how difficult the little day to day things would be.

ANNA

I think that's when you started to waver

MICHAEL

You had your doubts as well. For me, because it was such a big change I started to question if this was really what I wanted. Single life seemed so much easier

ANNA nods in agreement. MICHAEL gestures to ANNA

MICHAEL(CONT)

Lets go over here, you'll like this

EXT. PARK. DAY

MICHAEL and ANNA are sat on a blanket in the park, Picnic basket between them. They lay food items out in front of them and begin to eat.

ANNA

Do you remember when you proposed?

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

Of course I do. If I could do it again I'd definitely do it differently

ANNA

why do you say that?

MICHAEL

Well, in retrospect it wasn't particularly inspired. I mean, proposing in a restaurant, it's not very original is it?

ANNA

I loved it. It was genuine and heartfelt. I was excited and embarrassed at the same time. All those strangers looking at me, I felt more exposed than the time the window cleaner saw me naked.

MICHAEL

I know. There was a moment I thought you were actually going to turn me down.

ANNA

I didn't really know what to say. You were so nervous it made me nervous. And you spilt your wine, which didn't help things.

MICHAEL

But you did say yes and I want to thank you for that. You truly did make me the happiest man in the world that day. I loved you so much I didn't want to spend my life with anyone else

Michael runs his hands through ANNA's hair and gently strokes her face. ANNA places her hand on top of MICHAEL's and holds it against her cheek. MICHAEL smiles. ANNA smiles back. Tears of joy begin to collect in her eyes.

ANNA (CHUCKLING)

Oh god! do you remember the honeymoon? Talk about a comedy of errors

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL (CHUCKLING)

Your telling me. Missed the flight, were given the wrong seats, I lost my travel case. Not the greatest start.

ANNA

And that god awful hotel, which closely resembled a crack den. And it was right next to that alley that the locals used as a toilet.

MICHAEL

All the brochures made Marrakesh look lovely.....

ANNA

Don't blame the brochures because you were too lazy to do your due diligence. You booked it without bothering to do an ounce of research.

MICHAEL

Uuuuh. And then you got your handbag stolen and there was that whole nightmare of cancelling cards and trying to sort out cash

ANNA

I loved that handbag.

MICHAEL (JOKINGLY)

More than me?

ANNA (JOKINGLY)

Maybe

MICHAEL

At least we can laugh about it now  
(beat) Do you fancy an ice cream?

ANNA

Yeah, why not.

EXT. GREEN. DAY

ANNA and MICHAEL are walking side by side through a wooded area, ice cream in hand. Slivers of sunlight fight through the space between the leaves illuminating their way.

(CONTINUED)



MICHAEL

This has been nice

ANNA

Hopefully we can do this forever

MICHAEL

Do you have any regrets?

ANNA

In life? or with us?

MICHAEL

Either

ANNA

Children would have been nice.

A sad look comes across both their faces

MICHAEL

I remember sitting in the doctors with you when you got the news. I just wanted to hug you and make it all better but I knew there was nothing I could do to take that pain away

ANNA

I was devastated. I was angry and upset and confused. I felt like a failure. Why couldn't I do what other women could do? What is it that's so wrong with me that I couldn't create life?

MICHAEL

That was a difficult year. I could see your pain and I just wanted to take it away. I tried to be as supportive and understanding as I could.

ANNA

And you were, you really were. You were my rock. But you could never truly understand how something like that feels for a woman. I didn't feel whole anymore, less of a woman, as if a part of me was missing.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

I know (beat) We could have still  
had a family, not in the  
traditional way, but we could have.

ANNA

Maybe. But then you got ill and  
things kind of.....

MICHAEL stops and pulls ANNA close to him. He hugs her tight  
and gives her a gentle kiss on the forehead.

MICHAEL

I don't want you to think about  
that. Lets just enjoy being here  
with each other.

ANNA

Mmmmmmmmmmm, I'd like that

MICHAEL and ANNA stand in an embrace, both holding each  
other tight as if nothing else in the world matters. ANNA  
rests her head on MICHAEL's chest.

Moments later, a loud deafening noise is heard. The noise is  
unrecognizable and of unknown origins. It literally shakes  
the landscape. ANNA breaks away from MICHAEL looking at him  
frightened and confused.

ANNA

What the hell is that! what is  
that!?

MICHAEL looks at ANNA with a knowing but calm expression. He  
gives her a gentle smile

MICHAEL

It's time for you to go

ANNA

I DON'T WANT TO GO! I WANT TO STAY  
HERE WITH YOU!

The noise becomes louder, shaking the landscape harder. ANNA  
is fighting back tears

MICHAEL

You're not supposed to be here

ANNA

YOU'RE WRONG! I BELONG WITH YOU!

Tears are streaming down ANNA's face as she desperately  
fights against the noise.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL  
It's not time yet

Michael holds out both his hands and gently takes hold of ANNA's. Once again, he gives her a gentle loving smile

MICHAEL (CONT)  
I love you, very much. I always  
have and I always will.

ANNA  
I LOVE YOU!!!!

ANNA's hands begin to slip away from MICHAEL's. They exchange one final look.

MICHAEL  
I'll be waiting

INT.LIVING ROOM.DAY

ANNA's lifeless body lies on a dirty living room floor surrounded by empty vodka and pill bottles. Paramedics are huddled over her administering CPR. An older blond woman stands nearby, shaking and crying.

The room is covered in condolence cards, many of which read "sorry for your loss". In among the cards is a framed picture of MICHAEL and ANNA, arms around one another, smiling at the camera. Bouquets of dead flowers are settled haphazardly on the coffee table.

PARAMEDIC  
One, Two, Three, breath. One, Two,  
Three, breath. Come on Anna! Don't  
give up on me! One, Two, Three,  
breath.

The paramedic places his ear to ANNA's chest

PARAMEDIC  
I've got a heartbeat. Quick! Grab  
me the breathing mask.

The paramedic places the breathing mask over ANNA's face and slowly begins to squeeze. ANNA's eyes slowly open.

PARAMEDIC  
Welcome back. You gave us all a bit  
of a fright.