

I Had a Dream About You

by

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Based on the poem by Richard Siken

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BUOPEN TO:

**EXT. DESERT, DAY**

The NARRATOR, a dark-haired woman, and her LOVER, a blonde woman, are reclining out in the middle of nowhere . We see COWS falling from the sky in the reflection of the LOVER'S SUNGLASSES.

NARRATOR (V.O)

All the cows were falling out of the sky and landing in the mud. You were drinking sangria and I was throwing oranges at you,

Narrator splashes Lover with SANGRIA.

NARRATOR (V.O)

but it didn't matter. I said *my arms are very long and your head's on fire.* I said kiss me here-

Narrator's hands.

and here-

Narrator's neck.

and here

Narrator cocks a GUN.

and you did.

Lover lights a MATCH and smiles. The match falls onto the ground and PLANTS sprout up where it fell.

NARRATOR (V.O)

Then you wanted pasta, so we trampled out into the tomatoes and rolled around to make the sauce.

Narrator and Lover laugh as they fall into SAUCE.

NARRATOR (V.O)

You were very beautiful.

CUT TO:

**EXT. GROCERY STORE PARKING LOT, SUNSET**

Narrator and Lover walk past countless parked vintage cars.

NARRATOR (V.O)

We were in the Safeway parking lot. I couldn't find my cigarettes. You said-

LOVER (IN NARRATOR'S VOICE)

Hurry up!

NARRATOR (V.O)

-but I was worried there would be a holdup, and we would be stuck in a hostage situation, hiding behind the frozen meats, with nothing to smoke for hours. You said-

LOVER (IN NARRATOR'S VOICE)

Don't be silly,

CUT TO:

**INT. GROCERY STORE, DAY**

NARRATOR (V.O)

so I followed you into the store. We were thumping the melons when I heard somebody say *Nobody move!* I leaned over and whispered in your ear *I told you so.*

Narrator and Lover laugh as they duck away from GUNFIRE. Narrator frowns as she notices something through the store doors. She gets up slowly to look.

NARRATOR (V.O)

These are the dreams we should be having. I shouldn't have to clean them up like this.

Lover gets up with Narrator to look through the glass at a SUBURBAN HOME, an ominous and distant figure in the sunset.

CUT TO:

**EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY, MIDDAY**

Narrator is walking down the highway until she notices Lover lying on the road.

NARRATOR (V.O)

You were lying in the middle of the empty highway. The sky was red and the sand was red and you were wearing a brown coat. There were flecks of foam in the corners of your mouth. The birds were watching you. Your eyes were closed-

Lover presses her ear to the ground curiously. Narrator shakes her, trying to get her to sit up.

NARRATOR (V.O)

-and you were listening to the road and I could hear your breathing, I could hear your heart beating.

CUT TO:

**INT. CAR, NIGHT**

Narrator is in the driver's seat, shooting worried glances at Lover, who is laughing.

NARRATOR (V.O)

I carried you to the car and drove you home but you weren't making any sense.

CUT TO:

**INT. MOTEL SHOWER, NIGHT**

NARRATOR (V.O)

I took a shower and tried to catch my breath.

CUT TO:

**INT. MOTEL ROOM, NIGHT**

Lover is watching a flickering TELEVISION. Narrator walks to the bedside and tries to watch it too.

NARRATOR (V.O)

You were lying on top of the bedspread in boxer shorts, watching cartoons and laughing but not making any sound. Your skin looked blue in the television light. Your teeth looked yellow.

Narrator gets onto the bed with Lover.

NARRATOR (V.O)

Still wet, I lay down next to you.  
Your arms, your legs, your naked  
chest, your ribs delineated like a  
junkyard dog's. *There's nowhere to go,*  
I thought. *There's nowhere to go.*

CUT TO:

**INT. BATHROOM, DAY**

Lover is hunched over in a bathtub without any water.

NARRATOR (V.O)

You were sitting in a bathtub at the  
hospital and you were crying. You said  
it hurt.

Lover looks up; her face is covered in wasps.

NARRATOR (V.O)

I mean the buildings that were not the  
hospital.

Narrator is crying.

MATCH CUT TO:

**EXT. PUBLIC POOL, DAY**

Narrator watches her CHILDHOOD-SELF hand LOVER'S CHILDHOOD-  
SELF a POPSICLE.

NARRATOR (V.O)

I shouldn't have mentioned the  
hospital.

Child-Lover looks over and meets her eyes. Her face is  
covered in blood.

NARRATOR (V.O)

I don't think I can take this much  
longer.

CUT TO:

**INT. CAR, DAY**

Narrator is in the driver's seat, peaceful.

NARRATOR (V.O)

In the dream I don't tell anyone, you put your head in my lap. Let's say you're driving down the road with-

CUT TO:

**INT. CAR, NIGHT**

Lover is in the driver's seat.

NARRATOR (V.O)

-your eyes closed but my eyes are also closed.

CUT TO:

**EXT. DESERT ROADSIDE, MIDDAY**

Lover and Narrator stand at the side of a road, a BURNING CAR behind them. Lover is cheerfully talking to a faceless POLICE OFFICER.

NARRATOR (V.O)

You're by the side of the road. You're by the side of the road and you're doing all the talking while I stare at my shoes. They're nice shoes, brown and comfortable, and I like your voice. In the dream I don't tell anyone, I'm afraid to wake you up.

CUT TO:

**EXT. GAS STATION, MIDDAY**

Narrator and Lover are peacefully sitting on the top of a gas station awning.

NARRATOR (V.O)

In these dreams it's always you: the girl in the sweatshirt, the girl on the-

Narrator watches in shock as Lover jumps off the awning.

NARRATOR (V.O)

-bridge, the girl who always keeps me from jumping off the bridge.

Narrator looks over the edge- Lover waves at her, just fine.

NARRATOR (V.O)  
Oh, the things we invent when we are  
scared and want to be rescued.

Narrator jumps down and lands next to Lover. They are happy.

CUT TO:

**INT. DINER, DAY**

The two of them are having lunch at a roadside diner. Plates are put on the table, but instead of food, they hold a tiny version of their car, some teeth, and then a coffee in time with the dialogue.

NARRATOR (V.O)  
(Faster)  
Your jeep. Your teeth. The coffee that  
you bought me. The sandwich cut in  
half on the plate. I woke up and ate  
ice cream in the dark,

Narrator looks out the window. It is raining. She looks around the diner- all the people have turned into shadows.

NARRATOR (V.O)  
hunched over on the wooden chair in  
the kitchen, listening to the rain. I  
borrowed your shoes and didn't put  
them away. You were crying and eating  
rice. The surface of the water was  
still and bright.

Narrator stares into her glass of water. She looks behind her.

MATCH CUT TO:

**INT. MOTEL BATHROOM, NIGHT**

Lover is sitting on the toilet, motionless. Narrator looks at her, then at the shower doors. There is SOMETHING in there-

NARRATOR (V.O)  
Your feet were burning so I put my  
hands on them, but my hands were  
burning too.

Narrator opens the door; nothing. She turns back to look at Lover.

MATCH CUT TO:

**EXT. DESERT ROADSIDE, MIDDAY**

They are suddenly out in the desert. Lover is trying to open a BOTTLE OF PILLS. Narrator tries to take them away from her.

NARRATOR (V.O)

You had a bottle of pills but I wouldn't let you swallow them. You said-

LOVER (IN NARRATOR'S VOICE)

*Will you love me even more when I'm dead?*

NARRATOR (V.O)

and I said *No*, and I threw the pills on the sand.

LOVER (IN NARRATOR'S VOICE)

*Look at them,*

NARRATOR (V.O)

-you said.

The PILLS get swallowed up by the dirt. Lover is laughing.

LOVER (IN NARRATOR'S VOICE)

*They look like emeralds.*

Narrator closes her eyes.

MATCH CUT TO:

**EXT. DESERT, MIDDAY**

Narrator opens her eyes. She is alone and standing in front of a singular SUBURBAN HOME in the middle of the desert. She stares at it unhappily before reluctantly walking towards its FRONT DOOR.

NARRATOR (V.O)

I put you in the cage with the ocelots. I was trying to fatten you up with sausages and bacon. Somehow you escaped and climbed up the branches of a pear tree.

Narrator opens the door. Inside, it is densely packed with lush PLANTS. She hesitantly pushes her way inside.

NARRATOR (V.O)

I chopped it down but there was no one  
in it.

She picks up her pace as she pushes past more and more  
plants.

NARRATOR (V.O)

I went to the riverbed to wait for you  
to show up.

She grins as she runs, and the sound of an unseen river  
starts to roar. She closes her eyes, full of joy, and  
stumbles.

NARRATOR (V.O)

You didn't show up.

Narrator stumbles into a BARREN DESERT as she opens her eyes.  
Behind her there are no plants.

NARRATOR (V.O)

I kept waiting.

She stands in shock for a moment before she slowly sits down  
in the dirt.

END