In Limbo

A Drama in One Scene

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Creative Writing 116

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Cast of Characters

Jack

Spirit

EXT. Vast White Space – Time Unknown

Scene is panned out, revealing a vast empty white space stretching the horizon with a wooden park bench in the middle. Two people are sitting on the park bench. JACK is wearing a business suit, THE OTHER MAN, known as SPIRIT, is wearing a baseball cap, and white T-shirt, and jeans. The scene focuses in on the bench.

JACK

(in shock)

What… What happened? Where am I?

SPIRIT

You’re dead. You were in a car accident.

JACK

The truck… It was skidding.

Spirit

The driver was drunk and ran the red light. There was nothing you could do.

Jack

I’m… dead?

Spirit

Don’t feel bad. Everyone dies.

A Pause

Jack

So, what is this place? Is this the afterlife?

Spirit

More or less. Think of it as your own personal limbo.

Jack

You must be God.

Spirit

No.

Jack

Are you an angel?

Spirit

No.

Jack

Who are you?

Spirit

I am your soul, a perception of your subconscious. I’m everything you wanted to be and everyone you wanted to become.

Jack glances at the spirit’s attire.

Jack

Why do we look so different?

Spirit

You haven’t discovered that yet.

Jack

Oh.

Spirit

Let’s take a walk.

They get up from the bench and start walking. Memories flash up across the horizon against the white backdrop.

Jack

What are those?

Spirit

Those are memories from your childhood.

Flash – Jack’s memory as a child baking in the kitchen with his mother.

Spirit

Ah the old kitchen. I can’t even recall how many hours were spent in there baking with mom.

Jack

I always wanted to become a chef; waking up and just getting to make food all day.

Spirit

But you didn’t become one, did you?

Jack

There was never any money in cooking food.

Spirit

But there was happiness. Money is not the same as satisfaction. That feeling is priceless.

They continue walking. Image of Jack sitting in a cubicle reading a textbook.

Jack

I hated reading those books.

Spirit

But you still read every page.

Jack

I had to; dad was so strict about it.

Spirit

But you weren’t happy. Dad drowned you in the sea of education and you didn’t have the nerve to say no to him. Why bother continuing down that path?

Image of high school sweetheart.

Jack

There she is.

Spirit

You let her slip away.

Jack

That’s one way to look at it.

Spirit

You left her to go to law school in another province.

Jack

It wouldn’t have worked out anyways. I have a wife now; we’ve been married for what, 5 years? How is she anyways? Is she alright?

Spirit

That’s the Jack I once knew - you died and you’re still concerned about your family. She’s fine.

Jack

She must be devastated.

They stop walking.

Jack

What is the point of all this. Those were just childhood memories. Everyone has dreams.

Spirit

To open your eyes. Are you truly happy?

Jack

Well what do you expect me to do? Quit my job? Sell my house?

Spirit

I don’t expect you to do anything. I’m only here to tell you that I’m not happy.

Jack

Why does it matter anyways? I’m rich! I have a dream job! What do you have? A dirty ball cap?

Spirit

You never used to be so arrogant. Your wealth has blinded your reality and hid me deep within yourself. Your job is worth nothing. Doing something that doesn’t make you happy is meaningless. You only derive yourself further from what you truly desire.

Jack

And what’s that.

Spirit

To be like me.

They start walking towards the white horizon. Scene pans out in front them. We see the park bench far off in the distance behind them as they walk towards the camera.

Jack

My dad always wanted me to be a lawyer. My mom never really talked to me about my future.

Spirit

She was afraid.

Jack

Afraid of what?

Spirit

Afraid to contradict your father’s desire and interfere with his plan for you. Afraid to upset the tradition that is the long list of lawyers in his family.

Jack

But she could see I wasn’t happy! Did she even care?

Spirit

Of course she cared! She wanted you to be happy! Your father never recognized what made you happy. Only what made him look more powerful.

Jack stops and looks straight ahead into the horizon.

Spirit

Everything you ever cared about growing up, everything WE every cared about, he wouldn’t let us enjoy it because he feared how it would impact his plan for your future.

Jack

Remember when he took away all those toys? He must have thrown them all out…

Spirit

He didn’t. He only thinks they’re gone.

Jack

Where are they?

Spirit

They’re in a trunk in your old bedroom at your parents’ house. Your mother visits them every now and then.

Jack

Why bother keeping them?

Spirit

Because it makes her happy.

Jack

How?

Spirit

Because they made you happy. She was the only one other than you that truly knew me.

They stop walking again. Jack turns to look at the spirit.

Jack

Why bother telling me this now. I’m dead aren’t I?

Spirit

More or less.

Jack

But you said…

Spirit

I said what?

Jack

You said I was dead.

Spirit

You are dead, but you will be brought back to life.

Jack

How?

Spirit

I guess the world has a different plan for you.

Jack

I never realized how quickly it could all be over.

Spirit

Life is short.

Jack

Indeed.

A pause. The man sighs trying to comprehend his situation. The spirit puts a hand on his shoulder.

Jack

So all this time you’ve been alive in me.

Spirit

Yep.

Jack

And I never realized...

Spirit

You did at one point. As a kid I used to control you. Your life was dictated by your dreams.

Jack

Why can’t you control me now?

Spirit

I cannot give you happiness, only the opportunity to be happy. It is up to you to choose whether you want to be miserably powerful or happily poor.

Jack

I guess I chose wrong didn’t I.

Spirit

That’s for you to decide.

Another pause.

Jack

So what now? Do I go to Heaven? Hell?

Spirit

No, you go back.

Jack

Back where?

Spirit

Back to reality…

Flash of light.

Andrew,

Good job giving the characters an environment to react to, and making Jack a bit more consistent. He seems less arrogant now and open to the journey that the spirit takes him on.

How will he return to life after a car crash? Maybe say something about where his body is during this journey?

B+