

Moment

By

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Original Draft

EXT. POND - DAY

Descending from the sky, a small and still body of water reflects the world around and above. Bright and glowing.

All is calm. Upon the edge of land near the water, lays a TEENAGE GIRL. She appears asleep.

She moves slightly. Her eyes open to reveal their violet color. She lifts herself to sit. Stares over the pond.

TARA brushes her hair from her eyes and over her ear, revealing a TREE BRANCH IMAGE moving slightly on the right of her face and neck. The moving image extends along her arms.

Tara feels the ends of her hair. Surprised by it's unique, elegant style. She leans over the pond. Her reflection causes her to pull back slightly. She slowly returns.

Tara closes her eyes and brings her hand to her chest over the area of her heart. Her jaw slightly drops and her eyes turn wide.

A smile forms on her face. Tara scans around the bright world. In the plants nearby, A TEENAGE BOY SUDDENLY SITS UP INTO VIEW.

Tara jumps. Her eyes quickly recognize the boy.

TARA
(excited)
Sairin!

SAIRIN turns to Tara. His eyes squinting from the brightness.

SAIRIN
(groggy)
Tara?

She scrambles over the plants and embraces him tightly.

SAIRIN
(strangled)
Gotta... let me... breathe...

Tara releases him. She stares at him, out of breath and smiling.

Sairin brushes grass and leaves out of his hair. His eyes turn wide as they fall on the tree branch moving on Tara.

TARA
I can't believe you're here.

SAIRIN
Where are we?

She looks up at the sky. The bright glow reflecting in them.

TARA
It looks like I imagined.

Tara stares at Sairin softly.

TARA
(softly)
I think we're in *Heaven*.

Sairin turns frozen.

TARA
(gently)
My heart doesn't hurt anymore,
Sairin... This has to be it. We
even look how I imagined.

They look down at their clothing. Imaginative and comfortable. Sairin looks up at Tara.

SAIRIN
You always said you wanted violet
eyes.

Tara gently smiles.

SAIRIN
So where is the ring over our
heads?

TARA
I don't think it's exactly like
that.

Sairin looks down speculating.

SAIRIN
If this is... Heaven... then why am
I here?

Tara turns to Sairin. Stares at him. Appears uncertain.

SOFT MUSIC CARRIES THROUGH THE AIR, REACHING TARA'S EARS.
She turns. The music is faintly heard around her.

SAIRIN
What is it?

TARA
I hear... music.

Sairin looks around.

SAIRIN
I don't hear anything.

Tara listens. She searches around them. NO ONE IN SIGHT. She rises and Sairin helps her up as they stand.

Tara stares out in the distance.

TARA
It sounds familiar. I think... It's
a song you played before.

They stare at each other. Tara slowly closes her eyes as she hears the music... ALL BECOMES DARK.

The low music barely heard in the darkness.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

TARA'S EYES OPEN. Sairin stands beside her on a small bridge. Water flows beneath them.

Both appear stunned.

SAIRIN
How'd we get here?

TARA
I was just thinking of the time you
played that song. This is where you
were practicing.

Sairin stares at Tara. He moves his foot back and touches an object behind him. He turns and looks down to see what it is. Becomes still.

He reaches down and lifts an ACOUSTIC GUITAR in his hands. He stares at it in awe. The guitar is worn and the color faded with stickers and symbols upon it.

SAIRIN
(amazed)
No way... How did...?

He turns to Tara. She appears just as surprised as him. Tara leans forward to see the water below.

SAIRIN

I didn't know you remembered that song.

TARA

You said it was new. I really liked it... even if it wasn't finished.

They turn to each other. Sairin smiles.

Tara moves her hands along the bridge railing. Her hands bump an object. She slowly brings an ORANGE JOURNAL in front of her. Her eyes stay on it.

SAIRIN

Is that the one you always write ideas in?

TARA

(amazed)

Yeah...

Sairin looks around the bridge thoroughly. Tara opens her journal. She turns over the pages seeing them covered and organized with words and images. She smiles, admiring.

TARA

I wrote some of this when I was in third grade...

Sairin looks at the journal with Tara as she begins to read from it.

TARA

"The things we create... come from what we know and feel. And our strongest way... is by desire."

Tara turns to Sairin. She continues reading.

TARA

"Energy is limitless and boundless. If you guide it right and focus enough, it can do anything. You can move it instantly in any way imaginable. Anywhere... One day, we'll be able to teleport to places when we desire them the most."

She pauses on the last sentence. Continues on.

TARA

*"When we pass away... we become
what we always were... free forms
of energy."*

Tara turns to Sairin. He stares at her inquiring.

TARA

Just my idea, of what happens to
life... when it ends somewhere...

SAIRIN

Then we really aren't in Heaven.

Tara looks at Sairin, curious.

SAIRIN

We still have our bodies. We're not
free floating energy things yet...

Tara looks down thinking.

TARA

What if... we could come back from
Heaven? Maybe wanting it strong
enough can make it possible.

Sairin looks at Tara's tree branch image moving on her
hands.

SAIRIN

I'm not sure what is possible
anymore...

TARA

Anything.

Sairin looks at Tara's eyes.

TARA

My mom always said... if you can
imagine it... it is possible.

Tara looks over the bridge at the flowing water.

TARA

She has all these ideas about life.
How it's always in motion... Always
continues on... and that we're all
connected in ways we don't know
yet.

Sairin looks down at the water with her. Tara appears deep
in her thoughts. She closes her eyes.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

The violet of Tara's eyes reveal. She sits on a swing beside Sairin. His guitar strapped on his back while her journal is on her lap.

SAIRIN

How do you do that?

Tara looks around at the platforms and slides. The sand below her. She stands from the swing.

Tara and Sairin move through the playground. Tara stops and stares up at the climbing bars.

TARA

I used to be so afraid of these.

SAIRIN

The monkey bars? I was a pro at these.

Tara smiles as she continues staring at them.

TARA

I remember when my parents took me here one time, I could do everything else... but not this. My Dad told me to just jump up and grab the bars. Promised he would be under me if I got tired or if I fell. I just climbed to each one. I was fine until he started moving back... I asked him why he was moving and he said I had to come to him. I was pretty scared... So I just climbed faster... and then when I got to the other side... I let go... and he caught me.

Sairin turns to Tara.

TARA

They taught me so much and wanted me do as much as I could. They helped me feel like I didn't have this heart condition. I wish... I could have done that for more people. For everyone.

SAIRIN

I think you did, Tara.

Tara turns to Sairin. His eyes assuring. She smiles appreciatively.

TARA
 Maybe I can go back... if I imagine
 the last place I was when I...

She becomes silent on the memory. Tara closes her eyes. Sairin watches her.

She opens her eyes. The same world around her. Tara closes her eyes tight.

TARA
 (whispering)
 Please... Let this work...

Her eyes slowly open. Everything remains the same.

TARA
 I'll try to imagine home. Maybe
 everyone is there.

Tara closes her eyes even tighter. She appears intensely focused.

SAIRIN
 Tara...

She doesn't let up. Continues trying.

SAIRIN
 Tara, wait.

She WINCES AND GRASPS HER CHEST. Sairin reaches for her shoulder. THE TREE BRANCH RECEDES SLIGHTLY ON HER FACE AND ARMS.

She calms.

TARA
 How can it still hurt?

SAIRIN
 Because we're still living.
 (looks up at the sky)
 Heaven... is probably a place so
 beautiful, you wouldn't have to
 wonder you were there.

TARA
 Before we were here... my heart
 felt so weak. Where else can we be?

Sairin looks away. Thinking. Tara appears lost.

SAIRIN

Remember when we all used to hang out in the trails? No one else was around so we made up these places... and pretended to be back in time. You, Jen, me, Erin.

Tara stares at him curiously.

TARA

That was when we were eight...

SAIRIN

Exactly. Think of those times.

TARA

I don't know if I can anymore.

SAIRIN

I know you can, Tara.

She looks at Sairin's encouraging eyes. She looks down. Slowly closes her eyes...

EXT. HIKING TRAILS - DAY

Tara opens her eyes to find them both in an open field. Ahead of them are trails in the grass. Sairin looks around.

SAIRIN

This is it. Come on...

Sairin walks forward. Tara looks around her... then follows him.

Two pairs of shoes make their way over curved land coming to a wide trail.

SAIRIN

Erin wanted to be in a fantasy land. Jen thought we should be on another planet. I just wanted to scare you girls... but whatever we thought of, we always went with your ideas. They always turned out to be the best.

They come to a stop on the trail where several other paths meet and extend from.

TARA
I need to find a way back, Sairin.

Tara looks around at the different paths leading out.

SAIRIN
Remember this spot?

Her eyes show familiarity.

SAIRIN
We were lost out here once... When we were eight, everything seemed so far and confusing. It was getting dark. We started hearing crickets and we were panicking. But remember how we found the way back home?

Tara stares at Sairin softly.

SAIRIN
You told us to not be scared... To just keep walking on the trail we felt was the right one. Pretty soon... things looked familiar... and we got back.

Tara looks down one of the paths, recalling the memory.

SAIRIN
I don't think we're supposed to be worried... or scared. I think we need to find the *right* way home.

Tara continues staring over the path... lost in her thoughts.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HIKING TRAILS - MOMENTS LATER

Tara and Sairin sit upon a hill beside the trail. Tara opens her journal upon her legs. She moves through the pages to the final page of writing.

TARA
This is the last thing I wrote. I remember being by the lake...

Tara is silent as she tries to remember.

SAIRIN
What did you write?

TARA
Umm...

She looks back at the page... Her eyes slowly widen as she reads.

TARA
(whispering)
It *is* like I imagined...

Sairin appears calm.

TARA
This place... Us... Everything...
It's just like I wrote in here. I
thought it might have been a dream.
But it feels too real.

Tara closes her eyes and lays back against the hillside.

TARA
I can go anywhere... but why not
home? Why not back to my life?

Sairin lays beside her. He remains silent as he stares up at the sky.

SAIRIN
What if... this is something you
really wanted? Being here now... It
had to be for a reason. What if
this isn't meant for finding a way
back to your life?

Tara turns her head to Sairin on the grass.

SAIRIN
What if it's about... learning how
to let it go.

She stares at him with captivated eyes for the longest moment. Slowly lowers them. Sairin gives a small, heartfelt smile.

Tara turns to look up to the sky as it reflects in her eyes. The breeze flows smoothly over them.

THE TREE BRANCH BEGINS TO GROW AND EXTEND ALONG HER.

TARA
Sairin...

He stares at her without blinking.

TARA
Can you play that song?

Sairin recalls.

SAIRIN
It's not finished yet...

Tara smiles. Humbled.

TARA
(softly)
I know.

As Sairin studies Tara... he appears to understand her.

He smiles. Sairin moves up and brings the guitar onto his lap. Tara sits up beside him. She stares into the distance over the land.

Sairin begins to play softly. The familiar song rising around them.

Tara appears soothed, falling into the music. Sairin and Tara's eyes slowly close... LIGHT DIMINISHES.

TARA (VO)
(softly)
*When you close your eyes... you can
imagine and go anywhere. Sometimes
what you find, is just beautiful..
and you surprise yourself with your
imagination.*

IN THE DARKNESS... THE SONG CONTINUES...

Fades...

TARA (VO)
When you open your eyes...

EXT. LAKE BEACH - EVENING

TARA'S EYES OPEN... Revealing their true green color.

TARA (VO)
*...the world you see, is just
 another part of that beauty. And a
 special one.*

Tara sits beside Sairin on the beach sand, leaning on his shoulder.

The vast lake lays before them and a large dock extends nearby. The sun sets in the far distance casting intense orange over them. The brightness around them is gone.

Tara And Sairin appear different. Their clothes and hair no longer of the same unique style. THE MOVING TREE BRANCH IS ABSENT FROM HER FACE AND ARMS.

Tara's hand grasps the sand in her fingers. She gives a soft and weak giggle. Smiles.

TARA
 (calmly)
 I remember. I remember this place so well. I saw so much here. People always had fun. Were always happy and just enjoyed life. It made writing... and thinking... and creating... just *effortless*. This was Heaven to me.

THE SUN-LIGHT BEAMING AROUND THEM COALESCES AND OUTSHINES THE WORLD AROUND TARA... HER EYES BLINK AS SIGHT SLOWLY OBSCURES AND DISTORTS INTO LIGHT...

EXT. DOCK - DAY - MINDFLASH

IN A BRIGHT AND GLOWING WORLD... Tara stands before the dock. An infinitely white and endless expanse surrounds and extends in the far reaches beyond the dock.

EXT. LAKE BEACH - EVENING

Tara stares at the descending sun. It beams bright from her eyes. She looks down at the small rush of water moving up the sand.

TARA
 You're right, Sairin. We don't have to be worried anymore. I found the right way home...

EXT. DOCK - DAY - MINDFLASH

Tara walks along the dock. Looks down at the water as it becomes deeper. Her reflection follows. She looks back at the Earth. Watches it moving further way.

EXT. LAKE BEACH - EVENING

Tara watches the water recede from the beach.

TARA

You helped me get back.

SAIRIN

Please hold on, Tara. Fight it.

Tara smiles. She appears weaker as each moment passes by.

EXT. DOCK - DAY - MINDFLASH

Tara reaches the end of the dock. Stands on the edge. She is lit in a massive halo formed by the streaming rays of sun-light and the reflections from the water.

She looks softly at her reflection. Lowers to the dock and reaches down towards the shining water.

EXT. LAKE BEACH - EVENING

The sky fades with the sunset. Sairin watches with worried eyes.

TARA

It's okay...

EXT. DOCK - DAY - MINDFLASH

Tara's hand meets her reflection's. She smiles. Brings her hand back.

She stands. Looks over the water.

TARA (VO)

*It's everything you imagine... and
so much more.*

THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE EXPANSE GROWS... TARA CLOSES HER EYES
AS SHE DISAPPEARS IN THE LIGHT.

EXT. LAKE BEACH - EVENING

Tara's eyes are barely open. Squinting at the last inches of the visible sun.

TARA
Sairin... Thank you.

SAIRIN
For what?

TARA
(softly)
Being there with me.

Sairin looks down between them. Concerned.

TARA
(softly)
Bye, Sairin.

SAIRIN
Tara?

TARA
(softly)
It doesn't hurt anymore... It's so
beautiful... It's so...

Sairin hears inaudible words from Tara. Her eyes close completely.

HER GRIP LOOSENS AND HER ORANGE JOURNAL SLIPS FROM HER HANDS TO THE DOCK.

Sairin is still. All is silent. He holds Tara close and slightly rocks with her as he closes his eyes.

He opens his eyes. Glistening with tears. He smiles as he watches the sun fall completely below the horizon.

SLOW FADE TO:

EXT. LAKE BEACH - DAY

Sairin walks along a pathway. He carries his guitar on his back and Tara's orange journal in his hand.

He steps onto the sand. Stands, panning his eyes over the lake.

Sairin lifts his guitar over his head and lowers to sit on the very edge of the sand where the water meets.

He sets her journal down beside him. He stares down at it and smiles. Sairin holds his guitar close.

SAIRIN

You're not here anymore... because
your heart was too big.

(smiles)

Your imagination was endless...

Sairin is silent. Remembering. He gathers himself. Looks down at his guitar.

SAIRIN

It's finished now, Tara.

Sairin looks over the water.

SAIRIN

I'll play it loud... and it will
reach you... wherever you are. This
one... is for you.

Sairin closes his eyes. Lets the sound of the drifting water and wind calm him.

TARA (VO)

*Where do we go when this world
passes? When life fades away?*

He begins a soft, single note. Strums the guitar once. Looks back to the distance as the sound carries over the water.

TARA (VO)

*The water keeps rushing. Continues
flowing on. As all forces will. All
goes on. Wherever we begin or
end... it's about the moments of
life. Those experienced along a
journey... a desire... a dream.
That's a life we want to live.*

Sairin continues on slowly. He plays in a rhythm similar to a heartbeat.

TARA (VO)

There's so much in this life...

He gradually increases force and speed.

TARA (VO)

So much that offers beauty...

FLASHCUTS:

- The glowing sky reflecting in Tara's eyes.
- Tara and Sairin watching the sunset on the beach

TARA (VO)
Happiness... Connection...

FLASHCUTS:

- Tara embracing Sairin tightly
- Tara and Sairin on the bridge finding the guitar and journal
- Tara and Sairin closing their eyes as Sairin plays the song

TARA (VO)
*So much we want to hold onto...
Sometimes... events happen faster
than we can handle. We can't always
stop them...*

He plays stronger. Releasing everything into each motion.

TARA (VO)
*But we can step back... travel
somewhere... someplace... maybe
inside... Long enough to find the
clarity and guidance needed to be
okay... and continue on... It's not
only about where you end up at the
end of one journey... but where you
choose to go after... When it's
passed... will I wonder what I
could have done? Will I regret
anything?*

Sairin looks down at Tara's journal. He smiles brightly.

TARA (VO)
*From the incidence of loss... to
the instance of creation... This
moment... was enough.*

Sairin's creation for Tara flows. He lifts his head up to the sky.

All rises from the beach...

The lake... Above the trees...

Into the vast and endless blue...

And beyond...