

A Tale Of My Mind

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ACT 1

The stage is black. A single light comes straight down center. A man is standing there with a photo of a man and woman. He begins the poem. As this poem is being recited, more light is added to the stage. Others criss-cross the stage saying lines as they cross and disappear. MACY/WOMAN 1 enters. She begins to decorate the room with things being handed her by those moving across the stage. By the poem's end, The Man has handed the picture to Macy. She hangs the picture on the wall

MAN 1

Do you believe in a dream? You have no concept of my destiny/ I show you my loneliness/ I ask you to come with me/ I am not as lost as my fore/ You mock me with your smile/ Does not conviction shine in my eye? I am the product of Time and Thought/ Pain...Fate...Love...Hope...Hate/ Does not conception come before the birth? These thoughts are old Only in doing, am I new/ Hourglasses and picture books/ They are of no use to you/ Do you believe in a dream? I have no more to give you/ You think I am naïve/ Because I show you what is new to me/ Thoughts of past are shielded by experience/ You have no idea who I have been/ You see my physical imperfection/ And gauge your assault accordingly/ Though a mind is the magnet of the universe/ You ignore the power before you/ Try skating on the sky for a change/ Imagine you...inside out...looking at you/ See me dancing in my mind's song/ Read the lyrics of my mind's song/ Find me before you dismiss me/ See me before you talk of me/ Ask me before you judge me/ Then you might know who I am/ I've traveled these temples thru thought For a reason/ Do you feel my dream?

The phone rings.

MACY

Hello. He's still at work. But I believe he'll be home in a few hours. Okay. I'll tell him.

Macy hangs up the phone.
Wilson/MAN 2, enters as if in a hurry from the bedroom with only some slacks and a T-shirt on.
Whistling.

MACY (Continued)

Bills, bills, bills! Everyday bills! But all that is about to change. Are you gonna tell me what we're supposed to be getting ready for?

He hugs her from behind and notices the table and phone in their new position

WILSON

It's a surprise!

MACY

I have a surprise for you too!

WILSON

Oh yeah! Have you seen my black church socks?

MACY

They're in your bottom dresser drawer.

Wilson runs back to the bedroom

WILSON (O.S.)

Did I get any calls today?

MACY

Sears and Roebuck called to see if you were alive!

Macy sits on the couch and picks up the interior design magazine on the coffee table

MACY (Continued)

And if you are dead, they would like for you to drop a check off by the store on your way to the funeral.

Wilson enters and sits in the chair and puts on his socks

WILSON

I'll put a check in the mail tomorrow.

MACY

How much?

WILSON

Why?

MACY

Because I know you're gonna forget.

WILSON

OH yeah! You're probably right. Twenty five! Anybody else?

MACY

Your momma called! At ten o'clock asking for you. Knowin' full well you've been at work for hours by then.

WILSON

I really need to call her. I was supposed to take her to dinner the other day.

MACY

Well I swear, that woman is sticking pins in a voodoo doll with my name on it!

WILSON

you know Momma has nothing against you. Oh damn, I forgot...

MACY

Whaaat! You forgot!

WILSON

Yes! I forgot! I'm entitled to forget something every once in a while. Aren't I?

Macy goes to Wilson and hugs him
from behind

MACY

Yes baby. I'm sorry.

Macy kisses him on the cheek

MACY (Continued)

Did momma hurt big daddy's feelings?

Wilson nods his head like a little
boy

MACY (Continued)

Well what did you forget big daddy?

WILSON

I forgot to remind you to rinse out...

MACY

The good wine glasses. Yes baby, I did.

WILSON

Good!

Wilson gets up to go to the bedroom
and is stopped by another memory.

Macy sits on the couch and picks up
the magazine

WILSON (Continued)

Ah damn! I forgot to get a corkscrew from the store!

MACY

Calm down. I got one from Mr. James. Well actually he brought it over earlier saying that you told him that Mr. White was coming over. He knew you would for get to get a corkscrew.

Wilson sits on the back of the
couch

WILSON

Good ol' Mr. James.

MACY

Yeah. Good ol' Mr. James. He is the kindest man.

WILSON

Yeah. I remember when I was little, Mr. James and Poppa would sit-

Wilson looks toward the front door
which is down stage left

WILSON (Continued)

right out there on the porch after work and shoot the shit about politics and stuff. Yeah Mr. James say that two of the saddest days of his life were when Momma and Poppa moved to that smaller house out in Woodside when he retired. And the day Poppa died. But he was so happy when we were able to buy this old house back. Thank goodness for the paper mill. That job has helped to keep alive my family's history.

Wilson looks around the room

WILSON (Continued)

Have you seen my blue tie?

MACY

It's in the laundry room hanging on the door knob.

Wilson goes to the laundry room

WILSON

What's it doin' in there?

MACY

You put it there to remind you...

WILSON (O.S.)

May! I can't find my blue dress shirt!

MACY

To remind you to get your dress shirt out of the dryer!

WILSON (O.S.)

Oh yeah! Now I remember!

MACY

You know you still haven't told me why Mr. White is coming over here tonight.

WILSON

You haven't told me your secret either.

MACY

You first.

Wilson enters and sits beside Macy

WILSON

OK! You ready? This could be the night! This could be the beginning of the rest of our lives! I'm getting a promotion, baby!

Macy is unpleasantly surprised

WILSON (Continued)

When Mr. White saw how I handled that fire that broke out at the mill, he told me that he had no idea my leadership skills were that good! I told him that I was just doing my job! And he said that things would be happening for me very soon. And soon is now baby! Soon is now!!

MACY

Wilson I...

Wilson stands and goes stage left
of the couch

WILSON

Plant Manager! No one has been plant manager! My grandfather, Poppa, my uncles, two of my cousins! We've all worked at the mill and Poppa was promoted highest. And that was shift supervisor!

Wilson looks around

WILSON (Continued)

Where did I put my belt?

Macy stands and walks away from
Wilson

WILSON (Continued)
What's wrong with you?

MACY
I don't want to do this.

WILSON
What?

MACY
I don't want to stay here! In Alexandria! We've been here
too long already! We've talked about this a thousand times.
Before we were married we said that we would be here for a
short while. Just long enough to save up and move...away!

WILSON
But baby I thought...

MACY
you thought?

WILSON
Yes, I thought that if a life presented itself here...we
could...

MACY
Stay here!

WILSON
Yes! Stay here!

Macy goes in front of the coffee
table

MACY
Here! Around the corner from your Momma! Across the street
from "good ol' Mr. James"!

WILSON
Now you wait a minute...

MACY
No! You wait! Because too many minutes have passed without
letting you know how I feel!

WILSON
Alright!

Wilson sits on the couch

WILSON (Continued)

Alright. You tell me how you feel!

MACY

Don't do that.

WILSON

Do what?

MACY

Don't be this way!

WILSON

Well how do you want me to be?

Wilson stands

WILSON (Continued)

The biggest night of my life and my wife tells me that she's not only displeased with the reason that this is the biggest night of my life, but she can't stand her life with me! Right! So given that information, why don't you tell me how I'm supposed to be!

Wilson goes towards the bedroom but
Macy cuts him off

MACY

Why didn't you tell me?!

Wilson doesn't respond

MACY (Continued)

I need more than this. I actually have dreams.

WILSON

I have dreams too!

MACY

Yes but they exist here. Settled and safe. I want to know what it's like to see the sun set while swimming in the pacific ocean. I want to see the leaves change colors in Maryland for myself, instead of hearing about it from friends that've already left this place. I want to look into your eyes and tell you I love you with the Grand Canyon in the background. I want more than this.

WILSON

But May that's just it! With this promotion, we could save enough money to go anywhere we want. California, Maryland, Egypt...You've always wanted to go to Egypt!

Macy doesn't respond

WILSON (Continued)

Well what do you want me to do? Running that mill is the only thing I know how to do!

MACY

I don't know! I just don't want to live the rest of my life saying what if.

Wilson goes toward the front door

WILSON

My God, May! My promotion is just outside that door. It'll be knocking at any minute. My life is here!

MACY

I want to do interior design.

WILSON

What?

Macy brings Wilson the magazine

MACY

I've been reading these magazines and books about how to arrange and color a home to maximize your chi. Feng Shui.

WILSON

Fungnnn...what?

MACY

Feng Shui.

WILSON

Feng Shui.

MACY

Yes.

WILSON

Feng Shui. To paint walls and move furniture. Hell, you can do that right here! Mr. White, I'm sorry but I will not be taking that promotion because my wife wants to move across country to paint walls and move furniture!

Wilson throws the magazine down

MACY

I've been by your side...faithfully! You've come home from work dirty, I've cleaned you! you've come home from work hungry, I've fed you! You've come home from work angry because they wanted you to stay late, I've comforted you! Me! All the time, me!

WILSON

But what happens if we leave? Huh? You have these dreams, but we'll have nothing! I'll have nothing!!

MACY

You will have me! I just want to know if I will have you.

There is a silence. Wilson sits on the couch

MACY (Continued)

I've been accepted to a school in Los Angeles. They said they would pay for me to come and see if I like it.

There is a silence

MACY (Continued)

I see.

Macy goes toward the bedroom. She abruptly stops and faces Wilson.

MACY (Continued)

You had all of me. I've loved you! Sacrificed! you told me once that you would always be there for me and I told you the same. But only one of us has been true to that! I won't be stuck here anymore. I'm leaving...with or without you.

Macy exits.

Wilson is reflecting on the moment when SANDRA MITCHELLE enters. She notices him and crosses DS opposite of Wilson. Lights fade on Wilson as a spot light shines on Sandra.

SANDRA MITCHELL/WOMAN 4

January 16th 2006. Me, my husband, Raymond and my two children, Siera and Raymond Jr. 6 and 9 respectively, decided to go to the Kingdom Day parade down in South Central LA. It was a beautiful day, about 72 degrees. It had just rained the day before so the air was clean and the sky was clear. There were so many people out. Couples and families sitting and playing and laughing. We saw a few celebrities and politicians. Raymond even shook hands with the former chief of police, Congressman Bernard Parks. It was really nice. You see, we live in a quiet part of Pasadena. Very few people other than white were we live. And I started noticing a change in my daughter, Sierra lately when we would come across black people. Like a fear was growing inside her. So I thought it would be a good idea to go out to the black community during a time of joy and happiness.

(MORE)

SANDRA MITCHELL/WOMAN 4 (Continued)

The children were able to have a good time. Ray Jr. even made a friend and played in Leimert Park while Sierra and I ate cotton candy and cajun chicken hot-link sandwiches. All the while Raymond kept a close eye on us. Which I appreciated. Not that I felt nervous about my surroundings. In fact, everyone was very nice to us. It just feels good to know that your man is going to be a man, you know. At the same time you gotta know how to let your man be the man, you know. Evidently, some gang members got into some kind of scuffle and the police, on horsesback, started chasing them across the park. People started running and screaming and knocking people over and my husband grabbed Sierra and told me to head up Crenshaw away from the crowd. But my 1st thought was to get to the car. And the car was not up Crenshaw. The car was parked back off of Vernon. So he started going up towards Crenshaw. I screamed for Ray jr. and we started going towards Vernon. It was one of those things that happen in a moment. Before I knew it, Raymond was gone. And the crowd was pushing and grabbed Ray Jr. But instead of getting ahead of the stampeding crowd, Ray Jr. and I got caught trying to cut across. Ray Jr. fell and broke his leg. By the time Raymond realized we weren't behind him, he couldn't come back for us. The crowd was moving too fast. Ray Jr. was trampled to death. When we found him, the friend he had made that day was on his knees beside him. The little boy was crying, holding Ray's hand. He said that Ray Jr. kept asking if we were alright. Raymond never got over it. I think he believed he failed Ray Jr. Like if he was a stronger man this would not have happened. He hasn't spoken to me or Sierra since that day. Last night he killed himself in the back yard. He hung himself from the treehouse he built with his own hands for Ray Jr. Today I stayed home from work and I watched that movie, "House of Sand and Fog". And Ben Kingsley did something in that movie that all of a sudden made allot of since to me. After his son was killed, he made some tea for his wife and he put something in it that made her sleepy and killed her. Then he killed himself. Sometimes, I believe God puts challenges in front of you to see how you will react. To see if you will do the right thing. Well when my daughter came home from school. She told me that she had made a new friend today. And that the girl's name was Briana Williams. She said the girls skin was like the friend that Ray Jr. had made. And I looked at my little girl. And I said, "I love you". Now drink this and tell me all about it. I gave her her juice and I had my tea. And I listened to baby girl tell me about Briana until she went to sleep. And now I'm getting sleepy. My husband was a strong man. He was a leader and I didn't follow my husband the first time. I messed up. But this time, I'll do it right.