

Dreams in Dust and Marble

by
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FADE IN:

INT. THALIA'S FACE.

THALIA (20) sleeps peacefully. Her flawless alabaster complexion and delicate features practically glow against her jet black hair.

A leather strap, with electrodes, is secured snugly around her head.

BUZZING is heard as sparks fly from the electrodes. She CRIES OUT, convulsing.

She reaches to her nightstand and taps the snoozebar on an alarm clock. The buzzing and the sparks stop. She casually rolls over and closes her eyes.

Her bedroom is lavishly furnished with a heavy gothic influence.

Time passes on the clock before it off again. Thalia is shocked awake.

She presses the 'off' button on the clock and sits up. She casually takes the strap from her head and hangs it on the bed post.

She stands and stretches. Every joint in her spine POPS.

Her nightgown sways as she steps up to the window. She draws the curtain runner. Soft moonlight lights up her face.

The sky is dreary over the cemetery outside her window.

She smiles and SIGHS.

She steps to the adjacent corner of the room and pulls on another runner. The wall glides apart like the curtains. She steps into the cemetery.

Unique and bizarre tombstones line the ancient landscape. In the distance, PALLBEARERS carry a casket. Tall and thin, they resemble the subject in Edward Munch's 'Scream.'

She walks among the stones, gently stroking some of them.

THALIA

Good morning, Mister Doyle. Good morning, Mister Wiley. How are you, Missus Cole?

She bends down to a stone. Chiselled on it is the word 'KEYCHAIN.'

THALIA
Hello Mister Donaldson.

She runs her fingers along the word KEYCHAIN. Other stones have names like 'SUNGLASSES,' 'YOUTH' and 'WRISTWATCH' engraved on them.

THALIA
How are you feeling today?

She looks up and sees DOGGLEBE (20), a dreary-looking harlequin, sitting on the stone. He reads a book.

THALIA
Doglebe! I didn't see you.

He briefly looks at her and returns to his book.

THALIA
I see you're reading a new book.

She leans over to get a closer look at it.

ROGET'S THESAURUS.

THALIA
How is it?

Doglebe looks at her briefly and returns to his book.

DOGGLEBE
Good... Acceptable... Satisfactory.

She looks at him for a moment before walking away.

She steps up behind a tombstone and opens a drawer in it. She pulls out a shortened version of her nightgown.

He watches her from the corner of his eye.

She fixes the belt on her daytime dress and puts the nightgown in the drawer.

The tombstone crumbles to the ground. Thalia jumps back.

THALIA
Doglebe? Did you see...?

Dooglebe ignores her.

She reaches into the rubble and pulls out SOCCUBUS, an ordinary-looking sock puppet. She shakes the dust off it.

She looks at it, apprehensive.

She starts putting it on her hand, but stops. Dread grows on her face. She slides it on, turning her head away.

Soccubus SCREAMS in agony.

Soccubus SLAPS Thalia in the face (using his entire 'body').

SOCCUBUS

You know how cold your hand is, you stupid bitch? Warm it up next time you shove it up my ass!

THALIA

Oh Soccubus, I'm sorry--

SOCCUBUS

Shut up!

Thalia shields her face with her other hand as he continues hitting her.

SOCCUBUS

Shut up! Shut up! Shut up! Shut up! Shut--!

He looks at the crumbled stone. Things suddenly grow quiet.

SOCCUBUS

Was that always like that?

He and Thalia look at each other.

Dooglebe looks at the two briefly before returning to his book. He SIGHS.

EXT. TOWN STREET.

Thalia and Soccubus walk along a row of mausoleums. She holds Soccubus so the two are at eye level with each other.

The mausoleums are all extremely narrow. Store signs over the doors include 'HOUSE OF PAST,' 'ROSE-COLORED' and 'AVOLITION.'

THALIA
 But why are these weird things
 happening, Soccubus? First the
 stone collapsing--

SOCCUBUS
 --stone collapsing--

THALIA
 --and the bridge was missing--

SOCCUBUS
 --bridge missing--

THALIA
 --and the caterpillar was walking--

SOCCUBUS
 --caterpillar walking--

Pallbearers walk about in the distance.

THALIA
 I mean, caterpillars don't walk. I
 don't understand--

SOCCUBUS
 --caterpillar walking--

THALIA
 Something is wrong.

SOCCUBUS
 The wrong caterpillar is walking.

THALIA
 What?

She stops walking and looks up at a store front.

It's a STARBUCKS.

She squints at the brightly lit storefront, confused.

She slowly lowers Soccubus as she stares at the green logo.

THALIA
 Starbucks? What's this Starbucks?

SOCCUBUS (O.S.)
 Forget that. Just don't forget
 what happened the last time--

She jerks him up at to eye level, horrified.

He has a sneer on his face.

SOCCUBUS
 --you left me down there too long.

She turns away, ashamed. He blows a kiss to her.

SOCCUBUS
 Better.

The two go to the next shop, the 'McMORGUE,' and enter.

INT. MCMORGUE.

The shop is very long and poorly lit.

Thalia walks past rows of bare shelves. In the back is a counter with a ticket dispenser on it. Next to it is a small metal sign: 'TAKE A NUMBER.'

She reaches for a ticket, but the dispenser is empty.

SOCCUBUS
 Well...? Take a number.

THALIA
 There's... There's no number.
 There's no tickets.

SOCCUBUS
 Take a number.

THALIA
 There's no tickets...the
 dispenser's empty. I can't--

SOCCUBUS
 (yelling)
 --Are you stupid? Take a number!

THALIA
 I tried. There aren't any tickets
 left--

Soccubus grabs the sign and hits her with it. She YELPS.

SOCUBUS
 (garbled)
 Take a number!

He slaps the sign in her hand.

SOCUBUS
 Was that so hard? Was it?

She flips the sign over. On the bottom is the number 74.

THALIA
 I'm sorry. I didn't know--

SOCUBUS
 You're wasting my time.

He turns away in disgust. She looks at him, saddened.

ACCALIA (O.S.)
 Number seventy-four.

ACCALIA (40) stands in the doorway, wearing a very elegant gown that accents her tall slender stature.

ACCALIA
 Thalia?

THALIA
 Accalia!

The two step to each other to hug. As Thalia's arms wrap around her friend, Accalia. Seconds pass before Thalia realizes this.

ACCALIA (O.S.)
 Number seventy-four.

Thalia looks around. Accalia sits behind the counter.

THALIA
 Accalia?

ACCALIA
 Thalia. Good to see you, little one.

Thalia steps up to the counter.

THALIA
 Accalia, what's happening to me?

ACCALIA
Happening? What do you mean?

THALIA
Accalia these weird things have
been happening today. First the
tombstones in the cemetery start
crumbling--

SOCCUMBUS
--tell her about the caterpillar--

THALIA
--and the four squares in the park
are now one larger square but not
like I'm used to--

SOCCUBUS
--the caterpillar--

Accalia drags her finger along the counter. The pattern she
traces grows, becoming three dimensional.

THALIA
--And now there's this strange new
store next door to your--

SOCCUMBUS
--caterpillar--

THALIA
--store?

ACCALIA
What store?

THALIA
Starbucks. It's called Starbucks.

Accalia wipes her hand across the counter. The raised shapes
disappear, leaving a clean counter.

ACCALIA
There's no such Star-store.

THALIA
It's right next store. We saw it.

SOCUBUS

(muttering)

We also saw the caterpillar but who wants to hear that?

ACCALIA

The papercut store is next door.

THALIA

No, it's not. Come take a look.

Thalia, Accalia and Soccubus step toward the door. Through the shop window, they see Dogglebe sitting on a mailbox, reading his thesaurus.

THALIA

Dogglebe?

A large caterpillar crawls up Dogglebe's back.

THALIA

The caterpillar!

SOCUBUS

Too late to talk about him now!
Story's over.

The caterpillar reaches his neck. He's not aware of it.

THALIA

Dogglebe!

She grabs Accalia's hand and pulls her out the store.

EXT. CEMETERY

Thalia, and Accalia find themselves standing in the cemetery. Dogglebe sits on a stone. Pallbearers carry a casket nearby.

THALIA

We're here?

ACCALIA

Here?

SOCUBUS

Define 'here.'

THALIA

We were in town, Accalia. We were at your store.

ACCALIA

My store?

Accalia steps up to a stone and traces her finger over the top of it. The image raises, much like on the counter.

ACCALIA

It feels like my store.

THALIA

Accalia, how did we get here?

She wipes the tracing away and turns to Thalia.

ACCALIA

Get here? We walked here.

THALIA

But we didn't walk here. We saw Dogglebe outside your store--

Dogglebe sits on a stone behind Thalia, reading.

THALIA

--and we stepped out to see him and found ourselves here. We didn't walk here. I don't know why we--

DOGGLEBE

Familiarity...

Thalia spins around, surprised.

DOGGLEBE

Closeness... Intimacy...

THALIA

What? Dogglebe, what's going on?

Accalia steps up to Thalia and gently takes her hand.

SOCCUBUS

What about the caterpillar?

Accalia looks at Soccubus.

ACCALIA

Caterpillar? What caterpillar?

THALIA
Dooglebe, there was a caterpillar
climbing up your back--

SOCUBUS
--Now she talks about the
caterpillar--

THALIA
--it was climbing up your back and
when we went to see you we ended up
here.

MOTHER (V.O.)
--Just promise me you'll take them
this time, okay?

THALIA
I will, Mother! Just leave me
alone, okay?

Everyone looks at Thalia.

Long awkward silence.

THALIA
What's going on, Dooglebe?

He looks up from his book.

DOGGLEBE
Changes... Mutation...
Translation... End of the world...

He returns to his book.

THALIA
Changes? What changes? Dooglebe?

DOGGLEBE
Home... Residence... Reality...
End of the world.

He points up a path.

Thalia has a look of horror on her face. She GASPS.

Scores of broken and cracked tombstones lay on their sides.

THALIA
What's happening? Dooglebe, why--?

She turns to Dogglebe only to see that he's not there.

SOCCUBUS
Will you keep it down? I'm
watching the game!

THALIA
You're... you're what?

SOCCUBUS
Shhh!

Thalia sees Accalia walking away, among the toppled stones.
Pallbearers play ring-around-the-rosie in the distance.

THALIA
Accalia?

She hurries after Accalia and catches up to her.

THALIA
Accalia help me--

Accalia turns to her.

THALIA
What's going on?

Accalia shrugs nonchalantly and walks off.

Thalia steps back, shocked. Lost.

She kneels down to an overturned stone. With some effort,
she turns it upright. It slips back into its hole in the
ground.

THUNK!

STONE
(whisper)
Thank you....

Thalia looks at the stone, a little surprised.

She steps to the next stone and uprights it.

THUNK!

2ND STONE
(whisper)
Hurry...

She sees Dogglebe and Accalia in the distance. He's perched on a tombstone. Accalia tries to sit like him on an adjacent stone. She falls off.

The two LAUGH.

Thalia smiles and GIGGLES quietly.

ACCALIA (O.S.)
Don't laugh!

Thalia turns quickly. She is shocked to see Accalia standing next to her, arms crossed in anger.

THALIA
Accalia!

ACCALIA
It's not yours to laugh! Not until
you're finished!

Thalia is shaken. She looks at Dogglebe, who sits on a stone, quietly reading.

ACCALIA (O.S.)
Otherwise you'll have nothing to
laugh at!

She turns back to Accalia only to find her gone.

ACCALIA (O.S.)
Nothing!

She looks around quickly. Confused.

Accalia is with Dogglebe again. She tries balancing herself on a stone again, but falls.

The two laugh. Louder than before.

Thalia watches sadly.

She slowly steps over to the next stone. She kneels down and places her hand on it.

Something catches her eye. She looks in the hole where the stone came from. It's filled with water.

Light comes from it.

She looks closer at it.

INTERCUT

An old dripping water faucet is seen in the water.

BACK TO SCENE

Thalia watches this, amazed.

 THALIA
 (whispering)
 Succubus?

Succubus comes up.

 THALIA
 What is that?

 SOCCUBUS
 (beat)
 Water.

She rolls her eyes at him.

She dips her hand in the water.

Succubus looks at her. Then the water. Then her again.

He sniffs the pool.

 DOGGLEBE (O.S.)
 Choose...

Thalia and Dogglebe look up. Dogglebe sits on a nearby stone.

 DOGGLEBE
 Pick... Elect... Select--

 SOCCUBUS
 --he's rhyming now--

 THALIA
 --Dogglebe--

 DOGGLEBE
 --End of the world!

 THALIA
 Dogglebe, what's happening here?
 What's what's going on?

DOGGLEBE
Decide... Judge... Arbitrate...
Adjudicate--

 SOCCUBUS
--more rhyming--

 DOGGLEBE
--end of the world!

 THALIA
What do you mean, Dogglebe? I
don't know what you mean.

Dogglebe closes his book and looks angrily at her.

He points to the tipped over stone.

 DOGGLEBE
Being... Existence... Real...

He points to the pool.

 DOGGLEBE
End of the world.

Thalia and Dogglebe look at each other. Soccubus looks
between the two. HOLD.

Thalia reaches for the tombstone and, with much effort,
stands it back up in the hole.

THUNK!

The water is gone.

She and Dogglebe look at each other. Soccubus looks casually
around and SIGHS.

More THUNKS are heard. Thalia looks around her.

Everyone looks to the background. Many of the toppled stones
turn upright by themselves.

 THALIA
I don't understand.

 SOCCUBUS
(gasping)
Witty comebacks... Bottlenecking...

Socubus falls limp. Thalia looks at it briefly.

 DOGGLEBE
 Fixed... Corrected... Amend...
 Remedy.

 THALIA
 No... No end of the world?

Dogglebe returns to his book. She rushes up to him, putting her hand over the book.

 THALIA
 You--you've been saying 'end of the
 world' all day and now--

He turns away.

 THALIA
 You don't...

He looks to her. His face seems a little softer now.

A little happier.

She smiles at him.

Thalia hurries to the next stone. There's a slight skip in her step. She falls to her knees and pushes a stone up.

THUNK.

 STONE
 Things are changing...

She hurries to the next one. She struggles to lift it.

 THALIA
 (straining)
 Accalia... Can you help... Help me?

Accalia leans over Thalia, angry.

 ACCALIA
 Why? This is your problem! You
 know what to do.

Thalia leans back, horrified by this.

 THALIA
 Accalia?

ACCALIA

You think we're going to baby-sit
you all your life?

Accalia's voice changes to MOTHER's voice.

ACCALIA

You're old enough to take care of
yourself. You know that.
(Accalia's voice)
I can't do this anymore!

Accalia storms off.

THALIA

Accalia? Accalia?

She turns to where Dogglebe was sitting.

THALIA

Dogglebe?

He's gone.

THALIA

Dogglebe?

She looks around, frightened.

THALIA

Socubus, where is--?

She lifts her Socubus hand up. Socubus is gone. All that
is left is a stump. She SCREAMS!

THALIA

What's going on? What's--
what's...?

A tombstone falls over at her feet. She looks at it and
looks around.

THALIA

What do I do? What do I do?

She looks around.

Pallbearers walk off. They wave to each other as they
disappear over a hill.

She is alone. She looks very small, like a lost child. A tear rolls down her cheek. It sparkles like a diamond.

STONE
(low; gasping)
Finish... what... you started.

She struggles to lift the stone.

THALIA
I can't.

STONE
You... must.

Her hand slips and slides on the stone.

Frustration shows on her face.

THALIA
I can't hold you. Why are you--?
Why are you so slippery?

STONE
I'm slippery... only in... your
mind...

She stops to listen to him.

STONE
An obstacle... that you must
overcome... I could be... heavy...
or hot... or poisonous...

THALIA
But why? Why can't you be light?
And easy?

STONE
To test... your commitment...

THALIA
My commitment?

STONE
This isn't... the first time... you
have had... to repair your life.

She shifts her weight.

THALIA

Not the first time? What do you mean?

STONE

You...do not know...? No... you wouldn't...

THALIA

Don't know what, Mister Farthing?

STONE

Your world... has died before.

THALIA

I don't remember this. Why don't I remember this happening before?

STONE

Because you died... Death erases... your memories.

THALIA

H-how do you remember, then?

STONE

It is my job... to record death...

Thalia puts her hand over her mouth, taken back by this.

THALIA

So I should... Fix everything that's broken?

STONE

Yes...

She grips the stone and, struggling, uprights it.

THUNK!

THALIA

And I just keep doing this?

The mouth is gone from the stone.

She looks at it, sadly.

She makes her way to the next stone. She wraps her arms around it.

VOICE (V.O.)
 You're eating too much off the
 sidewalk, Maxie.

She uprights the stone.

THUNK!

She moves to the next one.

Dooglebe sits on a distant tombstone, reading. Accalia
 stands next to him, watching Thalia.

ACCALIA
 She tries so hard.

SOCUBUS (O.S.)
 She's doing it again! So tired of
 this shit!

Dooglebe and Accalia behind the stone that Dooglebe sits on.

SOCUBUS (O.S.)
 I'm sacrificing a lot for her.
 More than you two ever did.

Dooglebe and Accalia roll their eyes.

SOCUBUS (O.S.)
 --ever has. How much more of this
 shit am I suppose to take?

Dooglebe leaps off the stone and onto the next one.

SOCUBUS (O.S.)
 Where were you guys last New Years
 when she locked herself in the
 bathroom and slit her--

Accalia pulls the stone over, crushing Socubus.

SPLAT!

SOCUBUS (O.S.)
 (muffled)
 --motherfucker!

Dooglebe and Accalia give each other a 'thumbs up,' smiling.

Accalia looks down. She points downward. Dooglebe looks.

The hole where the tombstone was is filled with water. The sink faucet can be seen in it.

A stone is uprighted, filling the hole.

THUNK!

Thalia leans against the stone, wiping sweat from her brow.

She runs to the front of the stone, half-smiling

THALIA
Is this better?

She looks around.

THALIA
Hello? Anybody?

She sadly walks away.

ACCALIA (O.S.)
Do you think she'll do it?

Accalia and Dogglebe watch from their spot.

ACCALIA
I mean, do it right? Permanently?

DOGGLEBE
Maybe... Perhaps... Mayhap!

A pallbearer shuffles up to the two. He looks down at his feet, avoiding eye contact.

PALLBEARER
(timid)
If I may--if you don't mind my asking--what are the...? What is the...? What is the word?

DOGGLEBE
Color...? Shade...? Hue?

PALLBEARER
No. No. What are the--? I'm sorry. I can't think of the word.

DOGGLEBE
Blend...? Alloy...? Composite...?

The pallbearer puts his hands over his face, mimicking Munch's *Scream*.

PALLBEARER

No. That's not it. What is the word...? The results of a choice. The outcome of a decision.

DOGGLEBE

Consequence?

Pallbearer dramatically points to Dogglebe, smiling.

PALLBEARER

Yes!

DOGGLEBE

Ramification... Result...

PALLBEARER

What will be the consequences of her actions?

Pallbearer and Accalia look at Dogglebe. He shrugs.

They turn toward Thalia, in the distance.

Thalia drags her way along, dirty and disheveled.

The cemetery looks normal. All the stones are upright.

THALIA

Accalia...? Dogglebe...?

There is no answer.

She walks away and SIGHS. She gently strokes tombstones with her hand as she passes them.

THALIA

Is anyone here? Hello?

She walks up to a clearing. Something catches her attention. Her eyes open wide in amazement.

Thalia approaches a statue of a kneeling woman holding out a basket.

The statue is of her!

She looks in the basket. It's filled with golden spheres, the size of apples. They glow softly.

She picks one up and looks at it.

THALIA

What do I do, now?

SOCUBUS (O.S.)

What do you think?

She spins around, looking around for the voice. She looks down and does a double-take.

She picks up Soccubus and slides it over her stump.

He shakes himself off like a dog stepping out of water.

The two look at each other. She smiles and fixes her hair.

Soccubus slaps her hard, jerking her head back.

SOCUBUS

This is all your fault! All.
Your. Fault!

She looks at him, frightened.

SOCUBUS

I tell you what to do. And you
don't do it. And you fuck
everything up!

THALIA

I'm sorry--

He slaps her.

SOCUBUS

Shut up! I've been trying to take
care of you since we met. Who else
does? Your friends? You don't
have any!

THALIA

(sobbing)
But Accalia and Dogglebe--

SOCUBUS

--aren't here! They aren't here!
I'm here! Right...? Right?

THALIA

Yes.

He leans toward her.

SOCUBUS

(calmly; assuringly)
I told you I'd take care of you,
didn't I?

A tear rolls down her cheek, glistening.

SOCUBUS

That's right... And all you have to
do, is do what I say, okay?

She meekly nods. He gently and lovingly kisses her cheek.

SOCUBUS

Ready? See that stone?

He points to a tombstone directly in front of the statue.

SOCUBUS

Knock it over.

THALIA

I don't think--

SOCUBUS

(furious)
You don't think? I know you don't!
I've known that since I've known
you! You don't wanna do what I say
and knock over the stone? Fine!

He grabs one of the sphere and jams it in her face.

SOCUBUS

(garbled)
Then eat this!

She turns her face away, but Socubus keeps trying to force
the sphere in her mouth.

SOCUBUS

(garbled)
Eat it! Eat it! Eat it!

Doglebe, Accalia and the Pallbearer watch from their spot.

PALLBEARER

What are they doing? I don't understand--

ACCALIA

Can it be any good with Soccubus?

DOGGLEBE

Doubtful. Uncertain. Iffy--

Accalia runs toward Thalia.

ACCALIA

Come on, then!

Dogglebe hops from stone to stone, following.

Thalia takes the sphere from Soccubus and throws it down.

SOCCUBUS

Which is it? Knock over the stone, or eat the ball?

ACCALIA (O.S.)

Thalia!

Thalia looks at Accalia and Dogglebe as they rush up to her.

THALIA

Accalia? Dogglebe--?

SOCCUBUS

Why are you looking at them? Why? They left you! They left you!

ACCALIA

So did you.

SOCCUBUS

I came back!

THALIA

But.. So did they--

SOCCUBUS

Forget them! Do what I'm telling you!

ACCALIA

Thalia, he doesn't know what he's talking about.

SOCCUBUS

I do know!

(to Thalia)

Now, either you knock over the stone or eat the ball. Or do I gotta shove it up your ass...? I hear it works that way, too.

He nods at her, grinning.

She slowly steps up to the stone and leans against it. She looks at Accalia and Dogglebe.

SOCCUBUS

Don't look at them. Just do it. I know what I'm talking about.

She pushes the stone over.

THUD!

Thalia looks down.

THALIA

What's this?

She points to the hole left behind by the fallen stone. It's a shiny white basin filled with water.

Everyone steps closer to the water. They look confused.

THALIA

Soccubus? What do I do now?

SOCCUBUS

Ummm... Throw those ball things in the water, I guess.

ACCALIA

You guess?

SOCCUBUS

Shut up, whore.

(to Thalia)

Throw 'em in the water.

Thalia grabs some of the spheres and throws them in the water.

SPLASH!

Accalia reaches for the basket.

SOCCUBUS
(to Accalia)
By herself! Only she can do it.

Thalia drops them in the water.

SPLASH!

She reaches for more.

SPLASH!

SPLASH!

SPLASH!

From Thalia's POV, we see her hand holding one sphere.

It changes, slowly becoming an amber pill bottle. Thalia's wrist now has two old scars on them. The background becomes cracked and dirty tiled walls.

The hand shakes the bottle into a toilet. Yellow pills fall out into the toilet.

PLOP

PLOP

PLOP

A bathroom door is visible in the back.

MOTHER (O.S.)
(muffled)
And clean up before I get back.
You hear me?

The pill bottle is empty. The hand goes limp. The arm rests on the toilet seat.

MOTHER (O.S.)
Don't forget to take your pills
this time, Maria. Maria?

The doorknob RATTLES.

MOTHER (O.S.)

(angry)

--Just promise me you'll take them
this time, okay?

MARIA sits on the floor by the toilet, her back to the wall. She's in her early twenties and resembles Thalia (not so gothic). Her clothes are dirty and her hair is unkempt.

She looks tired and broken.

An old and tattered sockpuppet, lays at her feet.

MARIA

(annoyed)

I will, Mother. Okay?

She looks at the medicine bottle.

The label reads 'THORAZINE.'

She looks upwards, past the bottle at an old porcelain sink. On it is a DRIPPING SINK FAUCET.

Maria stares at it. A tear runs down her cheek, glistening in the light.

FINAL FADE OUT.