

DESTI

DIA/MONOLOGUE

By

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And

SOME RESIDENTS OF STOCKHOLM

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EXT. TRACKWAY, FOREST - NIGHT

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Almost pitch dark. A car makes its way through a dense forest. The front lights illuminating the tree trunks, the small red back lights on the dusty road behind the car.

Inside, two shadows on the front seats.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Shit we're out of focus.

MAN (O.S.)

Yo, focus please.

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MAN (O.S.)

Listen, as long as we keep allowing all these multinationals to keep us in a headlock, nothing will change. The status quo is set, and we're on the wrong end of it. Do you seriously think Mark Zuckerberg will EVER do anything against the interest of the company, even though that would be in the interest of his public? No! There's a handful of people getting rich, living a life with Tesla's and functional cancer medicine, the rest of us is expendable. Unless at some point this gets balanced, nothing will ever change, I promise you.

WOMAN (O.S.)

(cynical)

You just texted on your iPhone...

MAN (O.S.)

Yeah but I don't drink Coca Cola. Think for yourself, how many brands do you use on a daily basis, and for which ones you can find alternatives without punishing yourself and making life extremely difficult?

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WOMAN (O.S.)

So we're headed for infinite amounts of pussy. We need da money, da paper, flap flap flap!

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WOMAN (O.S.)

But to see a change like this we have to radically redesign our educational system. I mean, how can we expect our kids to accept our differences when we're educated in blocks, being expected to complete the same block in the same period of time with the same results? This way we will never discover our true abilities. We stick to this system of expectations instead of creating space for radical individualism. Not like Facebook, and all these other fake platforms that are more about being seen as someone who doesn't deviate from the others, than about actually profiling yourself as being different - no, real individualism. And this starts at school. Let the teachers figure out what you like to do, what you're good at, and let them encourage you in learning exactly that. If you don't like math, then do something else. If you don't like drawing, then do math. You know what I mean?

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MAN (O.S.)

It's not a place where we're going; it's a process. And we're all responsible. An irreversible process, of which the destination might be just as well a place we really don't want to be. The quest is to avoid this. Don't play with unforeseen outcomes; they are likely to be unpleasant.

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WOMAN (O.S.)

I'm confused. Our leaders and decision makers are all talking the same bullshit, repeating themselves, copycat each other. There's no vision at all. No strategy nor blueprint. There's a lack of information due to the overkill of information. We're back to square one, choosing our direction on basis of trust.

MAN (O.S.)

Trust is so 2017. It's all manipulated. We're on our own.

WOMAN (O.S.)

I can't see where to go from this mess.

MAN (O.S.)

Keep going.

WOMAN (O.S.)

But there should be a way to reshape this chaos, to something worth living for, right?

MAN (O.S.)

Just keep going.

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Silence.

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MAN (O.S.)

(heroic voice)

And while we dream of doing great things, fighting for an all determining cause, we sit behind our computers watching diagrams, buying virtual coins and are caught in the limbo of fighting pre programmed digital battles based on heroic battles that once took place in the real world.

(MORE)

MAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Battles your friends have fought as well. We're all veterans in the same digital war in the same subliminal detailed world where we shot the same digital people with our digital guns, a shared experience that bonds and makes for many interesting conversation.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Yeah man, have you finished GTA 5 yet?

MAN (O.S.)

Sure did. Really loved being this Trevor-character.

WOMAN (O.S.)

He's my man.

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MAN

We should stop being afraid of getting kicked out of the team if another player arrives. If we're with eleven players and another one shows up it doesn't mean someone else has to leave. Maybe we can play with twelve? I think that's something we have to learn as humans, that our position is not immediately endangered when change makes its entrance. We need to have faith in that part of life.

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WOMAN (O.S.)

Just slide the bar towards how drunk you want to feel. Just adjust the volume of your favorite soundtrack for the scene you're in. The goal is 100% make-ability. The place where we banish any kind of unpredictability.

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WOMAN (O.S.)

As a human race we need the feeling to go somewhere, otherwise we'll get bored. We're born colonizers. If we don't feel like having a purpose, for instance to expand, we're doomed. That's why I like Elon Musk. Not sure if he's the perfect example but what I love about this guy is that he shares this thought. His ideas seem crazy, like 'hey let's colonize Mars', but I think this gives humanity an essential perspective. We need to feel there are options, things to explore, new worlds to discover. This is in our nature. Always looking for a better place.

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MAN (O.S.)

(in despair)

I lost all hope in humankind. Man is beast. I'm scared that we will never overcome our differences, never building the bridge between our divergent perspectives on life, without guarding that bridge, imposing limitations on who can and who can not cross. I don't see it happen. Our goal is our trap waiting to be exploited. We only care for what is close to us. Other than that we're no better than ruthless animals.

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WOMAN (O.S.)

(passionate)

This reminds me of this scene, which to me was a metaphor for everything that's wrong with humanity nowadays. I was walking, like, hiking, in the middle of nowhere, a giant fucking forest where I sometimes go to avoid people. You meet like two humans a day when you're lucky. Or unlucky.

(MORE)

WOMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Whatever you want to call it. Anyway, from a distance I see this dude, walking his dog, a little fat one that is obviously bred for his revolting aesthetics. The dog is running free; he (or she, couldn't tell from this distance), is super happy to be in this huuuuge fucking forest. Then the dog takes a massive dump - and now we get to the point of my story - the guy takes out a little plastic bag and while gagging he struggles to pick up the shit and walks on. What The Fuck! Why would he pick up this shit, no one is EVER going to see it, we're in the middle of a fucking forest the size of Denmark dude!

MAN (O.S.)

Lol.

WOMAN (O.S.)

This is what is wrong. We forgot why we do the things we do. What the reasons were for certain habits. They became just hollow routines, habits we don't even like but just keep for the sake of their existence. If we ever aim to get to a better place, we need to review everything, be able to shake off old habits, rewrite the whole fucking scenario from scratch.

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MAN (O.S.)

(blunt)

Right now, the thing to do is create awareness, awareness to give us a mandate to take control. And once we have control, we want the people around us to support us, not get angry with us.

WOMAN (O.S.)

And what happens after you gain control?

MAN (O.S.)  
(agitated)  
Well, to start, there's  
deportation, you know?

WOMAN (O.S.)  
Ehh..

MAN (O.S.)  
Yes deportation, that's a start.  
Then we take control of the media,  
so there will be free press again.

WOMAN (O.S.)  
Can people then still say things  
that are not in line with your  
ideals?

MAN (O.S.)  
To a certain point, yes.

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MAN (O.S.)  
We should start considering  
ourselves as one, one people.  
Imagine the consequences. All the  
smartest medicine, technology and  
outer space researchers being not  
competitors but colleagues. Food  
distribution, not just for one part  
of the globe which is considered  
'your people', but for everyone,  
because everyone is your people.

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MAN (O.S.)  
Yeah, it's just a matter of time  
before it all starts to decay.  
Forests will burn, oceans will  
flood, rivers will run dry. All  
these ignorant idiots around us  
only talk about what's inside their  
pockets, what the next moron in  
charge is doing wrong, who tweeted  
what and who bought this new car?  
And the moron in charge couldn't  
care less. We're fucked, I'm  
telling you. They didn't introduce  
the term 'mother nature' for no  
reason.

(MORE)



MAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Maybe we should threat her like that. Maybe two or three generations more before the irreversible effects of this behavior make life really bad for everyone, but then it will be too late. We just don't act upon stuff we don't see.

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WOMAN (O.S.)

I like that. Yesterday I saw an ambulance from the train-window, parked in a side street. It had its sirens on and next to it was a stretcher with someone on it. I didn't see what exactly was going on but it didn't look all too good.

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MAN (O.S.)

Yeah well... Perfection is overrated.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Perfection is boring, and thus for me not utopian. In my ideal world things aren't boring. There, we get to shape things as we would like to see it, while having a lot of fun.

MAN (O.S.)

It's a weird thing that in human evolution we try to banish any kind of unpredictable behavior.

WOMAN (O.S.)

The more stable things are, the more predictable. It's going to be super hard to create a utopian vision in this era of full control, mass-monitoring and informative confusion, you know?

MAN (O.S.)

To me it's about finding a balance between a happy carefree life, and still finding myself in unpredictable, exciting situations.

(MORE)

MAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Maybe this isn't really the right place to find those kinds of things.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Not in the cities anyway. Go up North, where there are no people.

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MAN (O.S.)

I can't think about West without first saying North. You know, North, East, South..

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MAN (O.S.)

It's so unclear to me where we're headed. I have no idea. There's just too much going on for me to process. It's too fast, too much turbulence. There's no way of telling if we're going the right way or the wrong. Maybe we're even standing still, like rocks in the river.

WOMAN (O.S.)

(dreamy)

I feel like a rock in the river.

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WOMAN (O.S.)

This morning I saw a guy my age crying his heart out in the subway station. Nobody stopped to see how he was doing. Neither did I. I feel shitty for that. All I did was stand by the rails close to where he was, so I could stop him in case he wanted to jump. What should I have said? I don't even speak his language.

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WOMAN (O.S.)

It's not easy to have a vision. I mean, a vision that is beyond a personal one. I know what I want. I want an easy life. An easy job, no stress. Video games in the evening, weekends with beers and friends, and in the future maybe a wife and kids. I don't like to tell people what to do, simply because I have no idea. I don't vote either. I'm clueless, just let me be. The scale of things is too complex and too big for me to think about what makes me unhappy and it's a useless thing to do anyway. How can a girl like me make any significant changes? Nah, just let me be, I'm happy like this.

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MAN (O.S.)

Look, the first thing is to let go of all this political correctness. Yes, our history sucks, it will always suck, but we're not responsible for what our ancestors did. Let's start with a clean slate. All this racism and female oppression isn't based on the current situation, it's a heritage that has nothing to do with our generation. Should I feel guilty for being born a white heterosexual man? I don't think so. I'm human. And I consider everyone around me equally human. I wish the whole world would be like this one day.

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MAN (O.S.)

If my country would go back being a white country, with the values that were once custom here, that would really make me happy. We want to take care of every single one of us, no matter if he's old, handicapped, or sick.

(MORE)

MAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

But the immigration costs us a lot of money, and because of that we cannot care for our own people anymore. They need to leave. All of them.

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Short Silence

MAN (O.S.)

The thing is, things will never get better as long as we deny our colonial heritage. Because we will never understand why we have what we have and why we want to protect it this much. With all these immigrants coming in, this is the most heard argument. The fear they will take from us. Like our ancestors took from them. The presumption of this idea only has to be confirmed once or twice in the media, and we're back to this protective state of being, depriving from things that are different and thus untrustworthy. If we could only bridge this gap, and look at them as 'us' - I think about 90% of all problems in the world would be solved. No idea how to get here, but I guess a good thing would be to start with teaching our kids a non-whitewashed version of history. Not to overload them with guilt, but next to being aware of the effects of fake news it would be a good thing to be just as aware of fake history.

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WOMAN (O.S.)

When was the last time you've recognized a friends handwriting?

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WOMAN (O.S.)

You know what it is? At this point things are just too strict.

(MORE)

WOMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Too fucking serious. I mean, the people trust the government, but there's no trust in return. They're very scared to grant us freedom, excesses. It's like they drew two big fat lines on the blueprint of our society, and everybody's free to move within the lines, but as soon as you take one step outside, you're fucked. You're out!

Literally. As soon as you start realizing this, it becomes a limitation that is hard to live with. That's why I'd like things to change, or I'm leaving. That's probably the best thing to do anyway, because I lost faith. We're a bunch of people who bend their heads and stay quiet, even if we feel like kicking the shit out of something. The people enjoy it when choices are made for them. I should go to a place where there's more freedom, like Amsterdam.

MAN (O.S.)

Or Mars.

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WOMAN (O.S.)

I thought I heard a big fly crashing my window, but it turned out to be one of the neighbors flying his drone. Will the kids that grow up with drones feel more affection for flies than we did? They sound the same. Maybe a fly becomes more adorable?

WOMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Do you think the crazy ones in the streets talking to themselves feel less crazy since everyone has got Bluetooth earphones?

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MAN (O.S.)

I'd say accepting some chaos on the outside will get us closer to perfection on the inside.

(MORE)

MAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

But some would say everything is perfect all the time everywhere. I think moments of chaos are moments to learn and reinvent certain things. But there's too little chaos here.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Maybe there's too little to reinvent?

MAN (O.S.)

For shizzle, I think where you live is better in that aspect. Trusting chaos is trusting your intuition. But too rigid laws leave little room for intuition. And if everything is very rigid on the outside chaos will rise on the inside. I suppose it's a yin yang game in time and space. Hey, do you want some mushrooms?

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WOMAN (O.S.)

It's strange I never asked myself this question recently. Maybe because I got kids. Everything I think about is right in front of me, there's no headspace nor time to think this far ahead. Or maybe I just needed to be stimulated, because now I'm suddenly doing it. Not that I have an answer to the question, but I realize it's important and I'm shocked I didn't think about it for so long.

Silence.

WOMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I prefer a certain matter of chance in my life. Anticipated moments are rarely the moments that stay with you, it's the surprises that stick. Therefore I wouldn't want to draft a perfect future, even if looking beyond the mountains of troubles we're facing. Because the surprise will always be better than the presumed goal.

(MORE)

WOMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

If we would all be more capable of adopting this thought, and be less controlling, I think we would experience a new type of mankind.

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MAN (O.S.)

At some point we will meet alien life, and the worthy ones will be spared. The others will fade. This is the moment we get another chance, not sooner, not later. Worthy ones are the ones pure of heart, the ones who only do good. Unselfish.

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WOMAN (O.S.)

It's true that we have a history of aiming for some form of perfection within our society. Since years the government has been pursuing this idea of the individual freedom as the highest good; financial, educational independence, equal chances for everyone. The urge for individual equality and thus freedom is something we grow up with. It's not about all ending up as equals, but about us all having the same chances and freedom to take a path that suits us best.

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MAN (O.S.)

This got me thinking of the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve used to be fucking dumb. And that made them happy. No doubts, no shame, no awareness. All was good. Until they took that damn apple. Maybe we need to get back to that state of being to be able to live peacefully together again. But then again, this current state of being is what makes us human.

(MORE)

MAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

So maybe there's no room for humanity when we collectively want to get to a better place. I mean, look at the whole Brexit fiasco. They took the apple, deceived by a serpent to take it. There's too many damn serpents around nowadays.

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WOMAN (O.S.)

The best is in the past. Gosh, I sound like my mom when I say this, but I seriously think we've seen our best time as humans. If there's any comparison with the ISIS philosophy and mine, it's that they try to relive times as they have once been. Like Mormons do. Reinstate long gone circumstances, and live that way. I'm not a religious woman though; I don't like these kind of guidelines, and the violence that comes with it. And maybe it's nostalgia in general, that makes me long for the passed times. This also happens with love. When you break up, the bad stuff disappears first, the good stuff remains. This probably happens in general with history. Now thinking out loud, I guess I'm full of shit.

Silence.

WOMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I think I should drive.

MAN (O.S.)

Why? Am I not doing it right?

WOMAN (O.S.)

It's just fair I also get a turn. Want to switch seats?

MAN (O.S.)

If we go the wrong way it's your fault.

WOMAN (O.S.)

You can always correct me if I go wrong.



MAN (O.S.)  
(sighs)  
Okay.

The car stops. The light dim. What's left is a dark dense forest.