
The Reticent Revolution of Sexual Daydreams

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Abstract

Daydreaming is a spoken word poem that captures the intimate moment in which a woman fantasizes about having sex with her 'crush'. Although romantic and tender at times, this piece is not a snapshot of 'everlasting love' between two people, but of the reticent revolution of self-love, self-indulgence, and self-surrender that invokes sexual daydreams. brown's (2019) 'Pleasure Activism' observes the sensual imagination as a private and safe place where we develop fantasies of what we desire – what we want to *do* to others, or what we want *done* to us by others or what we want to *witness*, while acknowledging that these fantasies are heavily influenced by cultural social norms and intersecting systems of hierarchy that can perpetuate the disempowerment of ourselves and others. This leads brown to recognize sexual fantasies as sites for radical healing and liberation – as a quiet space where we get to intentionally work on developing new fantasies and generate power in and/or out of the bedroom. Inspired by brown's work, *Daydreaming* challenges androcentric and suppressive cultures of sexual exploitation and repression by (re)imagining and (re)claiming sex as something full of reciprocity, rapture, and vocality, thus disrupting the long-standing history of silencing survivors of sexual trauma and the patriarchal view that sexual pleasure is primarily for white straight cis men. As such, the poem embodies counter-hegemony, not only offering us an opportunity to see, feel, sense, and imagine differently, but to also (re)shape "our real-life desires and practices", as brown (2019) puts it (p. 222). By creating space to envision new imaginary landscapes of sexual healing, sexual empowerment, and sexual liberation, *Daydreaming* reminds us of the power and potential of the radical sexual imagination to liberate a part of our (sexual) selves from within. It seeks to celebrate the political and liberating process of shamelessly luxuriating in our own erotic imaginations to activate our inner sexual worlds, and thus to produce social change.

Keywords

poetry, sexual fantasy, sexual revolution

Daydreaming

I picture us at the park -
blanket picnic talking about books and art,
eating grapes and tarts,
while whispering in my ear
how much you'd rather taste me instead.

I think of us in bed -
moans and groans that feel like a sedative,
your hugs and kisses are reparative.
attentive to my wants and needs,
the only time we'll admit
that we don't mind begging on our knees.

I picture us on a boat -
our bodies afloat the bed we rock.
my knees by your waist side,
as our insecurities fall wayside
to the waves we ride.
like the sea crashing into the shore,
making me crave the pounding of your....
heart. beat. even more.

I picture your body pressed up to mine -
your head rested upon my chest,
my arms wrapped around your neck.
Baby, *please me.*
squeeze me.
vow to *never leave me.*

use the tip of your tongue
to trace every line of my body to read me.
appease me with your literacy.
be author to all my notions of intimacy.
Don't say a word.
just use sounds and verbs to translate how much you like my curves.

let our bodies converse like musical instruments -
playing in my mind all day, pressing rewind and play,
because I love how gentle your voice always kisses me.
like when the tip of your nose grazes mine.
as gentle as when I lightly scratch the back of your hair line.
in the same way brown autumn leaves gently hit the ground when it's due time.

I like when your eyes lock in;
in the same way our legs lock intertwined when you grab hold;
like your arms grip-locked tight around my torso as we lose control;
I like the way that we unfold.
the thought of "*my turn*" gets me excited.
maybe while Miles Davis is playing,
I can blow. your. horn. –
show you just how much I like it
when *you adorn me*,
how much *I adore you*,
how much *our bodies speak volumes*.

there are no better thoughts than this.
I think that you might just be my favourite daydream.
the best kind of distraction to sweep me off my feet and take me.
oh baby, you *elate* me.

References

brown, a.m. (2019). *Pleasure Activism: The Politics of Feeling Good*. AK Press.

Author Biography

Annalissa Crisostomo (she/her) is a first generation Canadian and mixed-race woman of colour with Filipina and Afro-Indo Guyanese roots. She is a PhD student in Adult Education and Community Development (AECD) at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto (U of T). She holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from York University, and a Master of Education in AECD from OISE, U of T. Her work and studies have focused on the transformative power of creativity and imagination to ignite and foster learning, leadership, healing, and social change. At the heart of her praxis is the belief that ‘dreaming’ is some of the most important work we can do as individuals and as a collective. She is inspired by artists, activists, and scholars who have instilled in her a relentless devotion to (re)imagine and (re)create new worlds full of colour and magic. As an artist, her creative work touches on themes such as radical love, loss, redemption, identity, healing and dreaming.