

Where Once We Sat We Sleep

A Tragedy in Three Acts

TP

1

For it was until I met you that I could begin to sleep
It was only three weeks prior that my eyes consistently wept
There was no end in sight
Who moved the death bed
Where once we sat we sleep
Forever dreaming of what we have left
Happiness was always an act of theft
For months it was left unsaid
That I'd rather love or be left for dead

The blue painted door lead to paradise
I tried to enter but the door bell
Slightly left of centre
Fell to the ground like we did after our first bag together
My heart
In some sort of panicked trance
Sinking through the wooden panels my soul began to rattle and dismantle
Rebuilt out of hot rocks
My mind began to roll back the clock
A sudden detox
Then an image of you hunched over the jukebox
Track five on repeat
You saved my life
Trick or treat?

We sat down to watch videos of Sigur Rós on repeat
The glacier was glistening from a distance
The sun shining
At the midnight hour
The sea was still
The rocks
Still damp
Holding hands
Looking out to whatever was blue
It was said
That this
Was paradise

The rain fell
The sun cried
This is when we knew it was the end of time

She came down from the heavens to preach of a better life It's with no doubt that she saved my life

She listened as I whined, and cried the best thing I could do was make her a peanut butter sandwich and now we lie on the floor listening to our favourite rhymes

Spending time apart from my lifeline I find it hard to tell myself that everything will be fine I'll leave it down to her to define the beginning of life

There's no such thing as time when we're together the birds sing a better tune when the universe aligns and the stars are in kind

There's no stopping us now the flame won't cease to exist for our end will only be achieved together in some bliss exodus

I hate that we have to work today
Could have been eating cold potatoes in our underwear
With nothing to fear
Draw the curtains my love
There's nothing to see here

We danced to Nick Cave in the dark
We kissed underneath the apple tree
The sun rose but not like how it use to be
Before the rain came
I gave you my jacket
And we discussed the end of time

No more money belts too tight like your sisters stolen shoes
The ice cream machine has been turned off
The cream is leaking
Our love was seeping
Through the barriers
There's no need to hide anymore
We're the higher beings

Simulated Happiness was one of my five a day
The other four too sad to mention
But what matters now is not the end
But the beginning
Did you see the two magpies in Burgess Park?
Embracing each other as if it's the last supper
The sun sets as it always does from east to west
Which way to our custom made highway
I'll drive
Relax in the passenger seat

Her sky-like eyes piercing my mind
With soft echoes of love and lust whispered into my ears I'm lost in a forever trance

Strolling the hills in black and white
It's not long before we take a pew to embrace the view

The winds picked up
Take my jacket
Still permeating the fragrance of last spring
A time in which my mind occupied the darkest winters

The herd rushing to their nightly supper
The excursion of excitement echos from peak to peak
It's time to take our leave

The earth was ours
The rolling hills
The winding footpaths
The elongated streams
The silent churches
Are all ours

I sleep with my shadow
It follows me everywhere
It was upon that ordinary day it said hello
and since has slowly eaten away my soul
For better or for worse I am different because of it

We came back to shore
Hands clenched
Legs weak
This was when we knew it was the beginning of something new
The stars said that we should wait no longer
For the time is right
The sun
Still bright
Long past midnight
We breathe in unison
One union

We wept to the soundtrack of another industrial revolution
The prospect of a life with enhanced degradation
Of charcoal skies
Reverberating cries for salvation
We're the unlucky ones my dear wipe away the tears

We danced to Nick Cave in the dark
We kissed underneath the apple tree
The sun rose
But not like how it use to
Where once we sat we sleep

We sat and cried in the rain
We didn't care to move
As we didn't want to rock the boat

If we fall
I know you'd float

As they gave us the keys to our new life
Our feet crept towards the morning light
She opened the door
I followed suite
The ceiling expanding to a great height
I collapsed into her arms
This was when we knew we were ok
This was the beginning of something new

To start again means to be reborn
The hallowed leaves have turned brown
The pagans ritual has moved downtown

White ballgowns
Belated hand-me-downs
Egyptian Cotton dressing gowns
Suitable only within the bohemian playground

Jumping off the block
From floor 99
I strike a pose simulator to Yves Klein
A blue skyline
The pavement etching that bit closer
It's almost time to reenact the sublime
I reach out to the white light
Embraces me my love
It's like we've never been apart

To start again means to be reborn
The hallowed leaves have disappeared
The pagans have all but cleared
No ones left but a few pioneers

The bottles are empty
The language of love has changed aplenty
The clothes are burning on the pantry
The typewriter stopped at page twenty

The wind had all but ceased
All I can think about are the deceased
No need for the long list
Perhaps It's best to exist with a clenched fist then that of a bleeding wrist
Whatever happens next will not be preserved like some sort of sacred text
But what is certain
Is that you'll be next

We walked on cobbles until our knees trembled

It was a pilgrimage of sorts
Flashbacks of the bookcase
Together we wanted
To bare witness her resting place

The sun shone
Both wearing black
Not even a minute had past and we began to sweat
Our heavy breaths in sync
The vertical path
To steep to sprint

Half way up we came to a halt
A black bird
Crossed our path
Alone
It's posture
Upright

Searching for its partner

The summit approached
In single file we went
The ruins we quickly met
Reloading the camera with a roll of Ilford
I asked her to pose on top of the delict alter

We circled a concrete structure
Its spiral fell
Struck by lightening in 1875
(gasp)

I take a photograph

The overspill of the dead awaits
Two gravediggers
Dressed in black
Replacing an old
Withered
Plaque

And there she was

Sylvia Plath

We sat there thinking about what might happen next
Where once we sat we sleep
It's safe to say this is just the beginning
The peanut butter jars are nearly empty
Believe me
Take the leap
For
Where once we sat we sleep

For a symphony of regret is the soundtrack to our (my) existence
My mind
A concert hall
Empty
Decaying
Is not fit for consumption.

Our plasticine dreams melting in black and white
The 35mm lens burning bright
Like some heavenly flashlight

Our red brick palace
A relic of the industrial revolution
We kissed beneath the cotton mill
Blending into the rust
Our palms clenched,
Like a tightly knitted scarf,
My destiny
In your hands
Show me the promised land

I do not wish to cry alone
For all I've done for you
I thank you for your time
Your patience
Permanence

Now all that's left for me to do
Is to take a leap of faith
Pray for me in turn
That I'll wake again

Like two stars colliding our hands met in the middle
From then on we needn't rely on the universe for guidance

We came first in the egg and spoon
Our mutual understanding radiating down the M40
Others prefer to recommend the destructive detour
Never again will I advert from our path to paradise
Next time
We'll catch the replacement bus service

There's a particular type of sound that makes us cry
Together we melt into a marble stature depicting our deeps darkest fears
Onlookers take pictures
Their options
Count for nothing here



2

We speak over zeros and ones
Silence interrupts us
Over and over again
Each time we speak flesh can be seen
Hidden by jealous cloth
With the need to be ripped
Split
And fucked

This place for which I am now based makes me hot
With a temper and rage
The sea does nothing for me
"You're 26" says she
"Make a decision"
The pressure
Seeping in
Her impression
Insulting
Patronising

What the fuck am I writing

The projector
Bright
The 35mm presents memory as a daydream
She calls cut
The rushes rushed
Her ego refreshed
My feelings
Crushed

Where once we we sat
We now sleep in different beds
The memories hurt
My heart aches
You left
Took me by surprise
As long as you can sleep easy
You're absolutely dead to me

I hope they remember
Why you left me
Why you checked out
Why you couldn't support me
Why you couldn't love me

The weak belong together
Pitty

I did this all for you
You never listened
Never understood
Didn't want to know
Your impressions and insults pieced my soul
As long as you had your bottle
You didn't want to know

The sex stopped
Horny
I felt guilty
Getting pissed with her mates
My feelings extinguished

To the few
Who believed me
When I said she was the one
The only entity
My salvation
My fucking rescue remedy

Now I've had to move back home
Surrounded by suitcases
I can't see a way out of this
Someone
Hire me

She wanted distance
She wanted a break
She didn't want to face up to the heartbreak
The train wreck

She's the conductor

Of an empty orchestra
The auditorium
Projecting memory
The Hot Chip record's on repeat
Wake up from your dream
This isn't some sort of game

The pressure for me was immense
You judged and judged
And accepted your selfish fate
09.10.20
Day before the world mental health awareness day
How ironic
Iconic

I am plagued by misery
First mum went
Then the rest
All I ever did was love
And in the end
I'm the one who's been fucked

I'm the one who has suffered
And sacrificed my life
For you
I sat in the waiting room
I held you on the floor
I kissed your wrists
And helped you face your demons
As something that can untimely be defeated

I did it
I
Did it out of love
I
Did it not out of duty
But now that you've left me
Rot in Purgatory

I'm forcing myself to write
To tell myself
That I'll be fine
In reality I know this feeling will remain
Like that of a recurring nightmare
Accompanied by the occasional night terror

What you've done to me is never to be forgiven
You don't deserve to be happy
Ditching me while covid is watching
What about the redundancy?

The empathy?
The compassion?
All things you're lacking
Fuck you for leaving me

What did I ever do?

To deserve this
Her coffin wasn't enough for you
Trying to save other peoples' jobs while
I
Losing mine
But as long as you're fine
I hope the Wetherspoons dream is enlightening
For when you wake up
The bed
Still cold
Your heart not enough to comfort the sheets
In sunshine or in rain
Your tears are without feeling
The selfish symphony is on repeat

I'll save you a seat

The epilogue
An ambient soundscape of the past
The prologue
A field recording depicting my feelings
And everything in-between is a dance routine
In which
I'm no longer alive

Four starts out of five

The chef on the south coast
The town cryer
The coward
The liar

Destroying lives as if you're doing an order of fries
Just look into her eyes
She came down here to build a better life

Enough has been said about my previous love interest
Apparently there's regret
But I won't ever forget

You knew of me
But not as it should be
I'll always be there
So when you're with her
I'll be watching
I hope you'll act in fear
For I'll always be there

As you read this now
You have to know that my life
Has been turned
Upside down

My "love"
My "everything"
My eternal
Left me in her web of lies
After the move to the south coast
She knew
Neglecting any form of support
You're the one who checked out

On the board at twenty-one
An age of confusion
I was completely unproven
I tried to adapt
To learn
To be the modern man

Saving my job
Saving theirs
All I tried to do was care

My job
'Deleted'
My prospects
Diminished
My "love"
Has well and truly finished

And all the while
I now have to think about you
For the date of your death has also arrived

How on earth
Am I
Still alive

Perhaps it seems you just wasn't ready
But this has changed everything
The sun has well and truly set

From the moment we met
I wept and wept
Your Peckham palace was a retreat of sorts
This is it
I thought

Our Berlin escapade was exciting
Life affirming
Your talents enchanting
Your humour charming
Your venerability
Should've been a warning

I need you to know
That I tried
I tried
And tried
To give you everything
My soul is empty
My heart aches
Like a thousand natural shocks
The sour grapes have filled my glass
Without you It's well and truly empty

To you I wasn't enough
The pandemic shrinking you
To an 'unrecognisable organism'
The sea of doubt was persistent
In the end you were far from present

Remember me
Think good of me
But most of all
Love me

Regret is aplenty
The bed
Briefly empty
Quickly occupied by
Some sort
Of idiocracy

'You don't deserve this'

These four words on repeat
Make me sick
When times got tough for me
You packed my bags and decided to leave me
He won't love you like I did
He won't care for you the way I did
The only remedy for this sort of tragedy
Is to somehow wipe my memory

Where once we'd have sex
In consequence
Of two starving bellies
Now these moments mean nothing to me
Our intimacy
Safely a thing of the past
I know your relationship with him is in it's infancy

Now it makes sense
Opposite London Bridge station
Having a full palpitation
I confessed that I still loved you
Even forgave you
And that I'd quite possibly wait for you

But little did I know

Rubbing your belly
Telling me you didn't want to lose me
This was clearly a sign of someone that was guilty

All the while
My heart was aching
My resting pulse rate
Heartbreaking

And still you were lying
That to me
Is just confusing

For it was a few weeks after that I gave you the gift
The signature from the puzzle you couldn't complete
Within its frame contained a date
Of our post-lockdown retreat
Then
You really were my soul mate

You packed my things
I departed
And you couldn't wait to get started

The very same gift
Had to bare witness
To an act in which you'll never receive my forgiveness

For all that I've done for you
The least I deserved was the truth

You wanted

'Distance'

'Space and time to be alone'

We're human
I know you'll go back a second time

This truly is the end
For what we had now belongs in some distant dream
I know you'll think of me when you're with him
Fuck your fairy-tail ending

Now that the truth is finally out
My heart
Now resting at its usual rate
Can finally begin to operate

On Thursday
You said that you loved me
Held my hand
Caressed it
Told me that you
Didn't want to lose me

In reality
You'd already colluded with Mr Buffalo Wing
In reality I know you'll never be happy
All for what?
two-thirds of the latest craft brewery tomfoolery
The messages go back further than
'A week'

The cheek

Doing It in-between our sheets
My side of the bed was barely cold
How considerate
How the mighty will fall

Your lies were poison
My irrational delusions
Were projections of the truth

My instinct correct
You made his dick erect

The regret
Will forever
Be
Correct



3

What's clear is that
You've
Left me for a city

It's light
It's drink
It's blow
Always beaconing
I was doomed from the very beginning

By not being honest with me
The pain
Prolonged
Like an elongated bad dream
But what's clear
Is that I'm the one connected to the living

All I wanted was the truth
Not an excuse
One after the other
The knife is yet to be removed

I was there
Forever
You'd have a hypo
I ran towards the medicine
And stayed up
Until you were able to fall back asleep

People are telling me you were looking for a distraction
All the while I was suffering
At times
Not knowing how to express what I was thinking
You resented me for things out of my control
You know what you did
Tell

He
No one will ever love you like me
The ultimate distraction
The nail in my jigsaw shaped coffin

It wasn't something new
It began in the winter
Face up to it
The love you had for me evaporated

But at London Bridge you spoke differently
You held my hand
And told me that you didn't want to lose me

The irony

You ask me for distance
As if lockdown wasn't enough
Yes
I had work
We agreed on the routine
For money
And to me
That was going towards another beginning

I wanted to make it work
My actions spoke louder than words
But in reality
You'd already made your mind up

I'm on a train
It's final destination
Suffering

Sitting on this train
The carriages empty
I know you're drinking as if nothing has changed
The bottle
Asking you not to think about the consequences
For I can't do the same

I'm suppose to wait for you to talk to me
Like the clown whose been made redundant
His role
Deleted
The only thing I had for you was love
And you threw it back in my face
The custard pie trick was always on repeat
But I didn't let it effect me

We kissed in the rain
Walked in the sun

The ice cube once melted on our boiling skin

After what you did
The ultimate revenge
I thought
Was to take Tranquility Base with me

I left it alongside the Beach House record
My case filled with memories of us on the floor

We cried and declared our love
Was this beginning of the end?

It seems

I was never a romantic
Always an optimist
My only objective?
Was to give you the life you always wanted

I know that you've suffered
Struggled with your existence
You let me in
I was your lifeline
But now
I'm nothing more than a distant memory

I wasn't asking for a family
Or for the pitta patter of tiny feet
To you
Brighton was a luxury retreat
From life
At a time where there's no such thing as a constant

The least I expected was to be supported
You didn't have to lift a finger
After all I was going through
I still gave to you
And to all those around you
My only problem was that I was too good to you

Now I'm nothing more than an
"Ex"
What we went though
To me
Is now pure regret

This is the end of an era
Most certainly for you and for me
Perhaps you're having illusions
Of one day being friends
But this is well and truly the end

Your mentality
Lacked empathy
You haven't ever suffered like me

It stems back to that time in the mortary
At fourteen
Looking at my mum knowing that she won't ever speak to me
A year previous I did the same with my granny
I despise suits
As they remind me of my funeral duties

I think rationally
Whatever is placed before me
I won't ever let it defeat me

The regret means nothing to me
I wanted humanity
Not selfish deeds
I held you in the highest degree
You used your sister to blow off steam
I was always transparent
This was never enough
The end product
Nothing more than heartbreak

In the week of which you were mostly texting me
Dropping pieces of information like atom bombs
I just wanted it all to end
It was appealing
The thought of being with the silent ones
The souls of the past
For at least with them
I am able to rest

The spectre of paranoia is all around me
The worst thing of all
I don't want you to leave me

In contrary
To what those have said to me
I want to hold you and to support you in being able to breathe
To kiss you like the way we use to
To have sex like the way we use to
But deep down
I know this will never be possible

My world is continually in a state of flux
Nothing seems to be on my terms
This is the greatest heartache

I'm forcing myself to write
To tell myself that I'll be fine
In reality I know this will forever stay with me
Like that of a recurring nightmare
Accompanied by the occasional night terror

I'm suffering alone
Within the great fog
I sit In Fuckoffee and wonder what could've been

Right now
All I want is to know what you're thinking
By staying silent
You've signed off my wish for an early death

For the last few months I was praying for an aneurysm
To send me asleep
In reality all I ever wanted was for you to hold me
I wasn't ok
But you continued to ask
As if we were on a long journey
On repeat
"Are we there yet?"

Your fantasy
Living within that room with a view
I wish you could've stood in my shoes
Just to feel the pressure
And to have understood
What was expected of me
Not to the detail of having an economics degree
But simply
That the pandemic always had the final say

In the end
You didn't care about the lack of intimacy
The blinkers were on
The greenery from B&Q
Another distraction
As well as the drink
I beg you
Put down the bottle
And just begin to think

In life It's ok to be different
To have different goals
Different aspirations
Nothing could quite beat
The exciting feeling you gave me

Even towards the end
When you felt distant from me
I continued to think about you
And to do anything to make you happy

Working at the gallery I'd keep my phone on vibrate
Waiting for a reply was the only thing that kept me going
I firmly believed we were like those two otters
Swimming in a circle
Like them
We'd fall asleep holding hands
Forever connected
There was nothing for you to fear
What's best for us
This was my only concept
I even gave you a book of their philosophy

Everything I said
In one ear and out of the other
If only you'd had patience
I always waited for you
No matter what you did to me
I never walked away

We really could've had a good life
My instinct telling me so
I'm yet to be proven wrong
I'd do anything for you

My heart bleeds
Supply me the stitches

Even if one day
In the future you
Realise what you've done to me
You
Deep down
You
Will suppress these feelings of what we had
Until the next guy comes along to supply you with the latest chill pill
The very same pill that will help you forget your actions
The injustice
Something for me that won't ever go away

The Patti Smith dream is just an illusion
Moving to Paris with her sister in nineteen sixty-nine
You've always wanted to do the same
The Chelsea hotel
Room 1017
I use to kiss that tattoo

And tell you that I wouldn't ever leave you
And to this day
I don't ever regret what I did for you

This ending is something that I never
For one moment
Imagined that would ever happen
Your scares of the past never put me off
All I ever did was love you
And today
I know you'll never be happy

And for that

I have no sympathy

The cheat chain
Forged only by you
Feel its wright
Cast from pain
The scares will forever remain

Our past
Now nothing but a dream
For everything I did for you
Cleary didn't mean a thing

I'll be there in your dreams
The smell of me won't ever leave your derelict sheets
Whoever you'll meet
You'll still wish it was me

Of all the times we had
It's a shame you had to fuck him instead
You had to rush
To escape from something that didn't exist
Like in a state of an emergency
You couldn't wait to call

TAXI

Unwilling to believe me
You turned to the nearest distraction
The bright lights of Brighton can most defiantly keep you
Where drink is the only escape
I'm struggling to hold back the pain

For the first time
You watched me walk away
Remember that moment
I'll never be back again

You reserved me a suit at the heartbreak hotel
You've locked me in
I am forever bound by the shackles of what you've done

The TV
Stuck on Channel twenty-two
Its pictures
Showing you
Laying alongside the invisible man
The he who ruined you and me

I'm looking for anything complementary
To grasp any sense of positivity
The teas gone cold
The tears continue to roll
Down the face of someone who
Just wanted to know the truth

For dinner
Chilli
The menu
Limited
Just like how it use to be

Love
Something that I once believed in
After what you've done to me
I won't ever play again
In a game where I was never going to win
Even towards the end
You held all the pieces

Checkmate

I am stuck in this heartbreak hotel
Forever in limbo
In the room without a view
These four walls
If only they could talk

To get out
I know what I have to do
And that is to learn how stop to loving you

Once
Our intermarry
Like electricity
Powered our souls

The pulse
Beating so quickly I'd somethings forget to breathe
We'd even forget to eat
Lying on the sofa naked
We use to think
Life couldn't get any better then this

We took risks
But for the first time
I wasn't worried
For If the accident happened
I'd be there to pick up the pieces

In a daydream
Or quite possibly two
I'd think about a family
With you
You even told me once you'd want them to wear glasses
And to support The Arsenal
It was a thought that never made me frightened

However
Now in October
It's suddenly all over
Our life
Ruined only by you
As soon as stress began to seep in you couldn't wait to get rid
To work it through was unthinkable for you
I always supported you

The distance
Dictated by you
I did everything for us
My life
Was always at the sake of you

As the winter night approaches
I lay here in the dark and begin to ponder
Why you left me
When all I ever did was adore her

I'd carry her through the tough times
She never walked alone
I gave her the torch
To illuminate her life
You betrayed me instead
And hid behind those lies

I knew this was her dream
To follow her sister in toe
I allowed her to roam
I'm the one who suffered alone

There's no excuse
For how you treated me
Where was the support
Even when I was trying to grieve

My heart
Continues to bleed
I'm desperate for it to stop
So I can pursue a new dream

My outlook on life changed
From the moment I met you
I cried in the hope of being able to hold you
And yes
Life got tough
Life became demanding
During a global pandemic
The whole world was crying

I told you I wanted to fight
For our chance at a better life
You didn't want to know
You couldn't resist the chance to find something new
You were determined to believe in a new sort of

"Truth"

What was it worth?
You're now alone
And so am I
Our bed
A shrine to regret
And still you lay in it night after night?

To this end I say
Me and you?
I hope it was just a dream
For what you did to me is something that I could never have foreseen
I'm struggling to believe you were capable of such treachery

Our lives
Now heading towards separate departure gates
Never to be seen
This truly is the end
For you

And for me

I know that you're with him

When I left
I looked round and I could tell it was he you were texting
That's why I came back
For you
To hold what you've now lost
You think we can be friends?
I must be some sort of a mug

This text
Therapeutic from act one to three
What's done
Cannot be undone
You need to realise that this isn't some sort of dream
Where all is forgotten
And you can see me again

What I go on to do next isn't thanks to you
You threw me away at my lowest point
This gives me the confidence in being able to never forgive you

I'm sure this doesn't worry you
At the moment the bright lights are comforting you
Along with the messages you sent
Behind my back
While I was working for our future

This text
Similar to the ending of Annie Hall
Our life depicted in a play of sorts
In three acts
Where my only crime was to love you to the fullest
My heart aches
The hands
Still continue to shake
You were always the protagonist

For I wonder who would play us in this twisted tragedy
For you
I'd cast the destructive type
A cat with nine lives
Each event forgiven by those who continually wept
For me
The fool
A clown
The ultimate tool

Right now you're in full control
This is your ending
My closure
On hold
Perhaps one day our roles will reverse
And you'll be the one in pain
Suffering the very same pain
Crying
On train after train
And wondering what could've been
For all I did was love
My punishment
Eternal
Your actions
Unrecognisable

This book is a roadmap
To you
My former love

It's roads
Twisting and turning
Passing the landmarks of our past
In the end
It will lead you to enlightenment
Guided by your actions
They are bound in consequence

The car in which you sit
Fit only for one
I modified it so
For this is your chance to put right what's wrong
Where once I sat in the passenger seat
Now
Empty
My impression will be felt
It will be missed
The GPS wanting to take you to what could've been
Unfortunately the car won't drive that far
For you were always in the driving seat

There's no way
I'll look back and think
It's all ok

I gave you everything
It now seems that I was never going to win

You should've been straight with me
Supported me
Loved me
Treated me like your soul mate

For my actions
My only signifier
Being of someone who would've done absolutely anything for her

The south coast won't be your saving grace
The heartbreak won't go away
I only ever wanted to make you happy
Whatever you seek?
Isn't situated alongside that cobbled beach

Whenever you sleep
Think of me
And remember the warmth we created
In years to come
Wherever you will be
Rest in peace knowing that I'd of scarified everything
For a better

We



Where Once We Sat We Sleep

tommypullen.com

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