

Dreams

written by

Eli Gee

10/11/20

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

An autistic boy, DANIEL, (12), sits in the passenger seat of a car, looking out the window. A plane is seen flying in the sky. The boy has a look of daydream and wonder on his face. A pilot's pin is stuck to his jacket. His elbow accidentally presses down on the window switch, and a BLAST OF AIR enters the car. He winces before his mother quickly rolls up the window and switches on a song on the stereo while soothing him.

MOM

Hey, hey. It's okay, buddy. You're good.

Daniel takes some deep breaths and closes his eyes.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Daniel runs through the house as if he is the airplane and also the pilot. He runs into his mom's arms, and she hugs him. Later, at dinner, he draws himself in a plane, with his mother insisting for him to eat his food.

MOTHER

C'mon, Daniel. Eat some of your chicken.

INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

Daniel lies in bed playing with his favorite toy airplane, simulating flight noises with his mouth. His mother walks in and tells him it's time for bed, tucking him in. After she turns the light off and leaves, Daniel gets under his covers and reads an aviation book by flashlight.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING (Blue Hour)

Mom gently shakes Daniel awake. He stirs.

MOTHER (smiling)

Hey, I have a surprise for you today.

INT. CAR - DAY

In the car, after a while of driving, the pair approach the entrance to an airfield. Daniel's face lights up, changing from indifference to excitement. His mother smiles at him. As soon as

the car parks, he jumps out from the passenger side with eagerness and runs onto the landing strip. His mother, trying to keep up with him, opens her door quickly, calling out to him.

MOTHER

Daniel, wait!

As he approaches one of the prop planes, it begins to start up. The propellers start to whirl, the engine sputtering, and Daniel slows down and stops in his tracks. Standing only a few yards away, Daniel is overcome by paralysis of auditory overstimulation, physically taken aback by the loud sounds of the aircraft. His knees buckle and body contorts in reaction. He tries to cover his ears but, as the plane begins to be ready to take off, it becomes too much. He collapses on the ground as his mother finally catches up to him. The plane starts to power down, its pilot noticing the situation, removing his BOSE headphones, and hopping out to help. Daniel becomes fairly inconsolable, traumatized by the deafening sounds of the plane as his mother tries to comfort him. The pilot has a look of sadness, seeing the pain the boy has just experienced.

INT. HOME - EVENING

Daniel walks through the door, emotionless and distant, and sits on the couch. His mother looks at him and softly begins to cry, heartbroken by watching her son's dreams crushed. She sits down beside him, and holds and comforts him, tracing his ear.

EXT. AIRFIELD - DAY

Arriving at the same airfield once more, Daniel cautiously opens his car door. Stepping out, he sees the PILOT, geared up and ready to go, standing next to his plane. Tentative and nervous, Daniel stands conflicted. Daniel slowly moves forward while his mother reassures him. The Pilot approaches Daniel. He takes the BOSE QUIETCOMFORT HEADPHONES from around his neck and gently places them on Daniel's ears.

Daniel shuts his eyes tight as the headphones are switched to the noise canceling. The world around Daniel becomes quiet. As he opens his eyes, he sees the plane propellers spinning, but without sound. The pilot ushers him into the cockpit, where Daniel takes the passenger seat.

The pilot then prepares for takeoff as Daniel sits back in the passenger seat and smiles. Once in the air, he looks around at

the skylights and sunset with awe, as if seeing the world anew for the first time.

CUT TO Daniel, now a man, sitting in the same seat, no longer a passenger but a co-pilot, wearing the same headphones.

SHOT: the plane accelerating down the runway, the camera panning up into the sky.

Info card: **80% of people with autism experience auditory sensory overload, making the sounds around them an obstacle to reaching their potential. For some, silence is convenient. For others -**

TAG: **Silence amplifies dreams.**

END CARD: BOSE