

SAMPLE

R.E.M. Afreet

written by

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She taps enter, over, and over. She taps it rapidly!

JANINE (CONT'D)
Come on! What the fuck?

The page is blank.

JANINE (CONT'D)
(shuts laptop)
Fuck it.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- EVENING

Janine sprawls on the couch.

The whiskey bottle lays on the floor.

Her eye lids flutter.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEYWAY -- MORNING

Janine's eyes flutter open.

JANINE
No! Not this again!

Panicked. She turns to the sky.

JANINE (CONT'D)
Wake up!

Her breathing grows heavier.

JANINE (CONT'D)
Wake up! Wake the fuck up! Wak-

The Afreet appears behind her.

Cowering, Janine takes off. The Afreet appears in front of her and thrashes her against a wall, GROWLING in her face.

JANINE (CONT'D)
(cries)
Please. Let go! Let go!

INT. LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Janine remains asleep while The Afreet creeps towards her.

EXT. ALLEYWAY -- CONTINUOUS

The Afreet sniffs Janine's neck, moaning while she shudders.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

The Afreet lays just above Janine, its face to hers. It roars!

INT. LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Janine wakes up!

JANINE

Get off!

The Afreet is gone and the room is now void of furniture. Even the whiskey is gone.

She pants with a smile. Relieved. Even a bit of laughter.

A GROWL lightly rumbles and freezes Janine.

Old, scraggy hands rub Janine's exposed feet.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Fuck.

The Afreet hops from behind the couch and JUMPS AT HER FACE!

INT. BEDROOM -- MORNING

Janine wakes up, falling out of bed!

JANINE

(holding her head)

Oh fuck.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- MORNING

MERIDIAN, 37; observant and well composed, glares at Janine who chugs a beer.

MERIDIAN

Janine.

Janine holds up her finger and finishes the beer with a belch.

JANINE

Sorry.

MERIDIAN

I'm gonna have to ask you to tone the drinking down a bit.

JANINE

(chortles)

If you've seen what I've seen, then you'd ask for one too.

MERIDIAN

Not really much of a drinker.

JANINE

Oh, Dr. Goody. Gotcha.

(sighs)

Okay Doc. I suppose you know all about pulling things out of people's heads.

MERIDIAN

I wouldn't put it that literal.

JANINE

How long have you said you've been doing this?

MERIDIAN

Ten years.

JANINE

Jesus.

(laughs)

Sorry. I just— people pay for this?

MERIDIAN

Well aren't you?

JANINE

Touche.

MERIDIAN

People fear what they don't understand. My job is to help them confront it. You fear an entity that is beyond you.

JANINE

A thought that I never put together.

MERIDIAN

But it is there. You don't know why, but it can remain until you understand the meaning behind it.

JANINE

Yeah. Well...

Janine pops another cold one.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Can you get it the fuck out?

MERIDIAN

Only you can do that. You seem to treat it more like a cognitive implant than a mere dream. Scrapes the edges of my job description.

JANINE

Well you were the closest thing to help I could find.

MERIDIAN

How did you find out about me?

JANINE

How about we get the damn thing out first, then we'll talk over coffee and cake.

MERIDIAN

(smiles)

Patience Janine. Have you ever been hypnotized before?

JANINE

No.

MERIDIAN

Good. Once I put you under, chase it. The hypnosis is meant to keep you within a lighter plane of sleep. You'll wake up when you want to.

JANINE

What if I'm trapped within another dream?

MERIDIAN

A loop seems unlikely. Well, for this procedure in particular.

Meridian observes the room and its silent incommodiousness.

JANINE
Everything okay?

MERIDIAN
(beat)
Yes. Let's get started.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- LATER

Janine lays on the floor with Meridian kneeling above her head, ritualistically.

JANINE
Couldn't you bring a mat?

MERIDIAN
Eyes closed, Janine.

Janine closes her eyes and they both quiesce, but briefly.

JANINE
(eyes closed)
How can I relax if the floor is so
fucking cold?

Meridian sighs.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Janine lays in the same spot, but with pillows underneath her.

JANINE
Okay. Go for it Doc.

Meridian rubs Janine's temple.

MERIDIAN
(whispers)
Sleep.

Janine takes a deep breath, taking in a euphoric sensation. She exhales deeply.

Her eyes flitter and close.

EXT. CROSSWALK -- MORNING

Janine's eyes peel open.