

DREAMS DON'T DIE

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Summer

Featuring

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Summer is not as long as it used to be. We come to dreaming of dreams until time comes to orange the green. Take down some summer time. And just give up for tonight. Hide in the shadows. Taste the sweet sappy air. Believe in yourself. Live for yourself. Discover the love. Be out here solo. Summer.

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Dreams Don't Die

A Summer Experience By

William Pan From June

3, 2021 To September 11,

2021 Featuring His Friends,

Adventures, And Photos



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ORBITS FASCINATE ME. WHAT ARE THE CHANCES THAT A MYTHICAL COMET OR DISASTROUS ASTEROID COME CLOSE TO MY ORBIT JUST TO BE SLINGED FAR AWAY FROM EACH OTHER. THAT WAS IT. WE ALL CHANGE EACH OTHER'S TRAJECTORIES BY THE THINGS WE SAY THE THINGS WE DO. SOMETIMES THOSE FLIGHT PATHS INTERSECT AND WE CRASH TO VENTURE ON JOURNEYS TOGETHER. MOST OF THE TIME THEY COME TO ORBIT TO LEAVE AS TIME PASSES AND GRAVITY SHIFTS. WE TAKE TIME FOR GRANTED. ORBITS CAN STAY FOR LONG AMOUNTS OF TIME AND OTHER TIMES DISAPPEAR IN WEEKS. THAT'S MY REGRET. I DIDN'T CHERISH THE ORBITS. OR AT LEAST I TRIED THIS SUMMER. I THINK ABOUT THOSE INFLUENTIAL PLANETARY INTERACTIONS WHILE PLAYING "SELF CONTROL" BY FRANK OCEAN. I ALWAYS QUESTION, WHEN WILL IT BE OUR POOLSIDE CONVO? OUR PARKSIDE CONVO? OUR FACETIME CONVO? I KNOW THAT YOU GOTTA LEAVE BUT GIVE UP AND TAKE DOWN SOME SUMMER TIME. KEEP A PLACE FOR ME. BUT TAKE THIS TIME TO DRIVE THROUGH THE CAVERNS AND RIVERS OF 2021 AND ENJOY THE PLANETARY STARS AND SHOOTING STARS THAT ORBIT AROUND THE SKY. WE DON'T EVER GET MANY OF THESE MOMENTS. HOW MANY TIMES IN OUR LIFE DO WE HAVE MOMENTS LIKE THESE? YOU KNOW WHAT MOMENT I MEAN RIGHT? THE ONE WHERE YOU STARE OUT AT THE NIGHT SKY THE LIGHTS ARE BREATHING AS A WARM ORANGE TURNS TO PURPLE BLACK. THE WIND SPEAKS TO YOU AND SUDDENLY THE MEMORIES FLASHBACK SO QUICKLY AND ALL OF IT TO LEAVE. ALL TO REALIZE THEY WERE MEMORIES OF THE ONE YOU ARE HOLDING IN YOUR ARMS SO MUCH. I'VE HAD MULTIPLE OF THESE MOMENTS. ON TOP OF SUICIDE HILL. IN MY 2010 BLACK DIRTY PRIUS. WHILE SNUGGLING IN BED AT FAIRVIEW AVENUE. MULTIPLE TO LITTLE. I'M A MAN OF THE PAST. OPTIMISTIC AND HOPEFUL GAZING THROUGH THE THREADS OF THE PAST FOR THINGS I MISSED SO MUCH THAT I HAVEN'T ENVISIONED THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE FUTURE. THE FUTURE AND PRESENT ISN'T GUARANTEED BUT THE PAST IS. I TRY TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE PRESENT ALL FOR THE GRAINS TO FALL BETWEEN THE TIGHTLY CLASPED FINGERS AS THE EARTH MAKES ONE ROTATION. BUT THIS SUMMER I'LL CHERISH THE MOMENTS. IT'S TIME BECAUSE DREAMS DON'T DIE. I'VE BEEN EDITING THIS THROUGHOUT ALL SUMMER TO DOCUMENT ONE OF THE TIMES IN MY LIFE I AM FREE AND LEARNING TO BE FREE. I DIDN'T KNOW IF IT WAS TOO PERSONAL, BUT I THINK ORBITS CAN INTERACT THROUGH TIME AS WELL. CERTAIN EVENTS TIGHTEN THE TRAJECTORIES TO LOOK BACK AT OUR LIVES IN STAGES. WHETHER IT BE 12 YEARS OR 75 YEARS, I HOPE FUTURE WILLIAM CHERISHES THE HOPEFUL AND UPSETTING ROLLERCOASTER THAT SUMMER 2021 IS AND WAS. DREAMS DO DIE. AS A KID I THOUGHT IF I TRIED HARD ENOUGH I COULD CONTROL MY LIFE AND ACHIEVE THE GOALS I'VE ALWAYS WANTED. SUMMER 2021 HAD OTHER PLANS BUT IT IS OK SOMETIMES TO JUST GIVE UP FOR TONIGHT. LET THE RIVER FLOW. LET GRAVITY FALL. TIME TO GO HYPERDRIVE AND WAIT FOR THE NEXT ORBIT.

DREAMS

DON'T

DIE.

WHERE
WAS
I?

LOST NORTH OF THE WOODS.



ITS HER YEAR NEXT YEAR.

crazy how time passes. im more proud of her than she is of me. wish her the best of luck senior year light speed. in 20 years ill look back to how young we gunslinging siblings were.



I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM SO PROUD.

deep in their hearts i can feel their longing. longing for younger times innocent days. their son has grown up and ready to leave the world. im ready but they hope im not ... yet.





HOW MANY TIMES DO WE GRADUATE?

once for elementary school, once for middle school, twice for high school, once for college, maybe more for grad school (def not going to happen but we never know).

how do you graduate high school twice? well easy steps here

- 1) feel alienated and left out at one school
- 2) make new friends at another school 40 minutes away
- 3) go to first graduation feeling like a stranger somewhat
- 4) go to second graduation feeling like you're coming home
- 5) have a friend yoink a diploma cover for you from the pile

congratulations you have graduated twice. class of 2021 of two schools. not often do things happen in this way, but i got lucky with this orbit. at first it doesn't feel like i've graduated. i felt the same old kid. it didn't hit until i saw a frank ocean subreddit post, screaming along the lines,

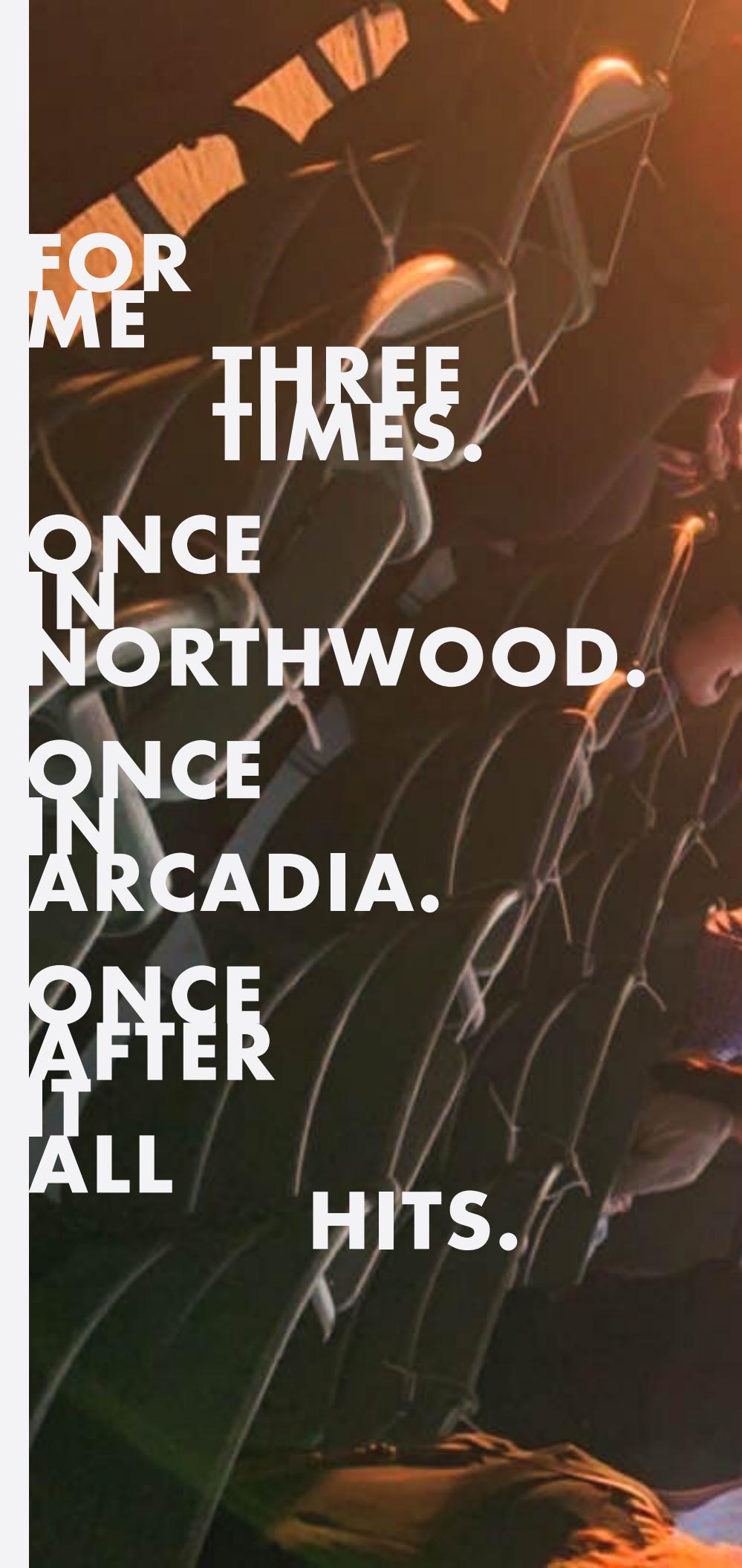
WE'LL NEVER BE THOSE KIDS AGAIN.

from the song ivy. it still didn't hit, and it still doesn't hit yet. but now graduating we enter a new world. a world of independence. a world of struggle. its not going to be easy on our own and we are all off on our own journeys on our own orbits.

i've always had expectations of graduation to be grand and fulfilling. the end of an era deserves to go off with a bang. when i first graduated, it felt like nothing. it felt lonely to stand in a crowd of people you once knew. yeah i knew their names it wasn't hard, but did i really know them. i knew what some of them did, the ones that vaped, the ones that went to great schools, the snitches, and the nerds. but, i felt like a stranger being watched. that familiarity is awkward. afterwards i was trying to find people to take pictures with but it didn't click. like yeah i should take a pic with them, but how close was i with them. but realized yeah we aren't close now, but we were once in orbit light years ago. now gravity shifted and i see them like a ufo.

second graduation i felt empowered. i thought i would be alone because i sat alone in the large santa anita race track in stands of parents staring off into the far and tall mountains on a falling sunset. but i felt at home. arcadia was where i belonged. 99% of the people didn't know me, so no shame. i was a stranger disguised to be myself. never did i feel so warm cheering for my friends. stanley, ryan, winston, vanna, and ... elaine. damn sry to rachel i didn't know you were first legit. but i felt that connection with all the things we've been thru for not even the longest time. it was like picking off ripe fruit.

i see everyone that have been along my journey from two different places, i see it now. we'll never be those kids again who grew up together. now as adults we have responsibilities, experiences, mistakes, and wisdom. all burdens that when we had kids who looked up to the clouds never felt. we'll never be those kids again.



FOR ME THREE TIMES.
ONCE IN NORTHWOOD.
ONCE IN ARCADIA.
ONCE AFTER IT ALL HITS.

DREAMS DON'T DIE





