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By Danielle Brame Whiting

PELLY sits in a chair upstage right of BASHA, both are facing the audience.

PELLY

Tell me about your first memory.

BASHA

You ask me that question and my mind is suddenly flooded with a million things.

PELLY

Is that how your mind works?

BASHA

I mean, yes, I think so. You ask me what my favourite movie is and suddenly I'm hearing lines and seeing scenes from hundreds of movies. It's like I'm doing a super quick scroll through my Netflix backlog. Anytime I try to stop my mind on one of them they scroll even faster. There's too much in here

Pointing to head.

PELLY

Can you think of a time when there wasn't such a crowd?

BASHA

Stares straight ahead almost stunned by the concept that such a time might have existed. After a while Basha tilts their head and frowns in an attempt to remember. Looks at the ground and bites lower lip. This goes for a while and they finally look up, defeated.

No.

PELLY

I remember being four and laying on my back in a park after completing lord knows how many spins. I loved spinning when I was a kid. I was lying there, and the world above me was bouncing around, so I closed my eyes. And when I closed my eyes I could feel my whole body



slowly trying to right itself. Things spinning at different speeds slowly falling back into rhythm with each other. I wasn't thinking, I was just feeling. Paying attention to everything that I could feel, and it was very peaceful.

BASHA

That's not how it happened.

PELLY

No?

BASHA

You spin, yes, and then fall to the ground. If you keep your eyes open the sky, the clouds, planes flying past, they get all messed up and nothing makes sense. So, you close your eyes. But that makes it worse. It's chaos. Nothing makes sense, you worry that it will never stop and then it becomes difficult to breath and...

Basha is struggling to breathe, but Pelly does not seem to be worried by this.

PELLY

And did it eventually stop?

Basha nods

And when it stopped you were fine?

Basha nods

Everything went back, just as it was before?

BASHA

Of course it did!

PELLY

When your mind is flooded with memories, with thoughts, with movies...

BASHA

It's chaos.

PELLY

Chaotic.



BASHA

No order to anything. I try to contain it. I wrap my hands around my skull light this. (*Demonstrates*) Because I think if I can show my mind how to still itself, it will eventually be able to do it on its own. Then it doesn't stop and I worry and I think what happens if this is it for me. I know I'll go mad and then what will happen to me?

PELLY

But so far?

BASHA

So far?

PELLY

Has there even been a time where it didn't stop?

BASHA

No.

PELLY

Do you think worrying about whether it will stop makes it worse or better?

BASHA

Well, I guess it prolongs it, doesn't it? Because I've added an extra thought to an already full mind? Just like the spinning. If I didn't spin, then the sky would stay where it's meant to be.

PELLY

And that's all those bad moments in our life are. Spinning. And eventually...

PELLY AND BASHA

It stops.

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