

"MEMORY OF A DRESS"

EDELIN LEE AUTUMN WINTER 2021 FASHION PODCAST  
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(Final Draft)

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A STORY ABOUT THE MEMORY OF A DRESS

INT. ROOM

COMPUTER  
Let's begin.

MUSIC BEGINS.

COMPUTER (cont'd)  
Please stare at the green squares on  
your screen.

GENTLE BEEP. (All the sound effects of the Computer program  
are user friendly, soft, gentle, welcoming, warm.)

COMPUTER (cont'd)  
Very good. Please take a cortical  
sensor in each hand and gently place  
the adhesive gel guides on to your  
temples as shown in the diagram.

A moment. Then BEEP.

COMPUTER (cont'd)  
Downloading will begin in a moment.  
When you are ready, please say so.

Wait a moment.

GEORGIA  
(Slightly nervous but  
steady)  
I'm ready.

A moment. A softer BEEP.

COMPUTER  
Downloading has begun.

Cool soft downloading fx.

Then, a new BLEEP.

COMPUTER (cont'd)  
Please open your eyes and for the  
purposes of effective filing and  
retrieval, could you contextualize  
this image?

GEORGIA

Oh. That's... (nervous giggle)...  
that's when I was seventeen. His  
name's Tom.

COMPUTER

There is context missing around this  
moment.

GEORGIA

My head was in a bit of a fog. We  
raided his father's drinks cabinet  
that weekend. My first proper  
hangover.

COMPUTER

Very good. Please close your eyes as  
we continue.

More downloading fx. Then--

COMPUTER (cont'd)

Please open your eyes and  
contextualize this image.

Wait a moment as Georgia takes this in.

GEORGIA

I was nine. Ten, perhaps. That was  
our first flat.

COMPUTER

As this space resembles several  
related moments, more context is  
required for proper filing and  
retrieval.

GEORGIA

Um, sure. What kind of context do you  
need?

COMPUTER

Emotional, please.

GEORGIA

I...was a child. So there were good  
days and bad days, I suppose.

SOFT BEEP

COMPUTER

Was this moment a good day or bad day  
for you?

GEORGIA  
That. That was good.

COMPUTER  
Please explain. For context.

GEORGIA  
For context, yes. Um, well, that was  
Dad's birthday. We always would get a  
takeaway curry to celebrate that. It  
was his favourite. And he always  
overordered. There was so much food,  
we ate leftovers for two days. Maybe  
three.

BEEP

COMPUTER  
This is your last significant memory  
of your father.

Pause.

GEORGIA  
Yes.

COMPUTER  
Very good. Please close your eyes as  
we continue.

Cool soft downloading fx.

Then, a new BLEEP.

COMPUTER (cont'd)  
Please open your eyes and  
contextualize this image.

GEORGIA  
Yes. That's...I think it was near  
Christmas.

NEW PROCESSING SOUNDS

COMPUTER  
There is no audio attached to this  
moment.

GEORGIA  
Probably because I don't remember  
what was said.

COMPUTER

What is that game you and your mother are playing?

GEORGIA

Oh, we were just dancing. Mum got her promotion. See? There. She's taking me by the hand and dancing us in a circle. For one moment we could forget everything that was happening outside those walls out in the world.

COMPUTER

Did she dance with you often?

GEORGIA

No. She worked so hard to get to this point. Between her work and me, there was no time for anything else. But that day we were so happy.

COMPUTER

Very good. Please close your eyes as we continue.

More downloading fx. Then--

COMPUTER (cont'd)

Please open your eyes and contextualize this image.

A moment.

GEORGIA

That's...

As she shifts in her seat--

GEORGIA (cont'd)

We had to pick a dress for her. For her to wear to my wedding.

COMPUTER

She is dancing here again.

GEORGIA

Not really dancing. Just twirling. In front of the mirror there. See? It fit her so beautifully. She loved that blue-green colour. She said it was the colour of malachite.

COMPUTER

What are you doing with those ribbons?

GEORGIA

I'm tying them for her. Those pieces draped off the sleeves and flowed behind her when she walked. There, she's doing it there. She called them her tiny broken wings.

A moment.

COMPUTER

This is not a happy moment for you?

GEORGIA

No, it is. It's just...there's a lot happening there.

COMPUTER

May I connect this to an earlier moment?

GEORGIA

Yes.

Processing fx. Then, BEEP.

COMPUTER

Is this the same dress? From eighty-three days prior.

GEORGIA

(laughing)

I didn't count the days. But, yes. If you say so!

COMPUTER

There were no words exchanged.

GEORGIA

I could tell. By the way she stared at it in the shop window. That's how I knew she wanted it.

COMPUTER

So you filed the moment and retrieved it for the purchase later.

GEORGIA

Yes.

COMPUTER  
She didn't purchase it for herself.

GEORGIA  
No. She said she didn't need a new dress, but I was so thrilled to buy it for her. It was my first real present for my mum.

Processing fx. Then, BEEP.

COMPUTER  
Are both moments tied to this moment?

Georgia sighs.

GEORGIA  
Yes.

COMPUTER  
May I ask why? There is no dress here. Only the emotional component is connected.

GEORGIA  
That's the dinner where she told me. About her illness.

Processing fx.

COMPUTER  
Very good. Please close your eyes as we continue.

More downloading fx. Then--

COMPUTER (cont'd)  
Please open your eyes and contextualize this image.

GEORGIA  
She'd always wanted to see the Cornish coast. We drove all along the sea to St Ives. We stopped for fish and chips.

COMPUTER  
Is this a good memory?

Pause.

Georgia sighs.

COMPUTER (cont'd)

Georgia?

GEORGIA

It's a mix. If we're going to talk like this I'd like to have your name. Do you have one?

COMPUTER

I have a model number.

GEORGIA

I thought you all came with a name.

COMPUTER

We are personalized to your specific needs. If it is for general storage, most consumers do not like naming the program.

GEORGIA

Why is that?

PROCESSING SOUND

COMPUTER

It supposedly feels like another loss.

GEORGIA

Ah. I see. But, I have an option.

COMPUTER

Yes. You may give me a name at the end of this session.

GEORGIA

Can I do that now? I feel like I need to call you something.

COMPUTER

You may call me anything you like.

Pause.

GEORGIA

Lynne. Can I call you Lynne? I had a friend with that name. She was a good listener.

COMPUTER

You may call me Lynne.



GEORGIA

Hi Lynne.

COMPUTER

Can we continue with the categorization of this moment? You say it is a mix of good and bad. Can you explain?

GEORGIA

It's good because...look at her. She's so happy. And beautiful and full of life. But it's bad because it's the last time I saw her that way.

COMPUTER

Very good. Please close your eyes as we continue.

More downloading fx. Then--

COMPUTER (cont'd)

Please open your eyes and contextualize this image.

GEORGIA

What's there to contextualize? You know what a funeral is.

COMPUTER

I will never know what a funeral is.

Pause.

COMPUTER (cont'd)

Forgive me. That was my attempt at *lifting the mood*, as it were.

GEORGIA

Okay.

COMPUTER

(explaining)

Because I am synthetic, I will never--

GEORGIA

I get it. Thank you.

COMPUTER

This specific moment is tied to happiness for you. Could you contextualize?

GEORGIA

It's because...She finally got to wear the dress. I suppose that memory made me smile. But...you know.

COMPUTER

Forgive me, but she is not alive to experience the pleasure of wearing it.

GEORGIA

It doesn't matter. It... Never mind. I know she would have appreciated it. She would have wanted to wear that dress.

COMPUTER

Very good. Please close your eyes as we continue.

More downloading fx. Then--

COMPUTER (cont'd)

Please open your eyes and contextualize this image.

Pause.

COMPUTER (cont'd)

Georgia, is this a good moment or bad?

GEORGIA

Lynne, is there a point when you'll figure out that most memories are neither wholly good or bad? I feel like I'm repeating myself.

COMPUTER

Forgive me. But it's for the sake of this program of creating a purely good moment for you that I make these requests. You decided that.

Georgia sighs.

COMPUTER (cont'd)

May I make a connection to another moment?

GEORGIA

Yes.

Processing fx. BEEP.

COMPUTER

Why is this moment connected?

GEORGIA

Um...it's the magazine where I saw Mum's dress again.

COMPUTER

It reminded you of the funeral?

GEORGIA

No. Not directly. It reminded me of her. And just that she would have been so proud of me. I wished she could have seen me.

COMPUTER

That's why you bought the same dress.

Processing fx. Beep.

COMPUTER (cont'd)

For this moment when you received the award?

A moment. Georgia is on the verge of tears.

GEORGIA

Yes.

Pause.

GEORGIA (cont'd)

It's silly, isn't it? It's just...a part of me needed to show Mum I wasn't going to struggle. Not the way she had to when she was younger. That all her hard work and sacrifice had been worth it. I wanted her to be with me when I received the award, wearing her dress. Well, my dress. You know what I mean.

Distant, emotionless BEEPS

COMPUTER

But she was dead.

GEORGIA

Yes. I know. That's why I said it's silly.

COMPUTER

So you purchased this dress to show your mother.

GEORGIA

Well, when you put it that way. Maybe not entirely. Perhaps it was to show myself something. That I can do things...That I can dream, that I don't have to be afraid. That I can do whatever I want to do and have whatever I want to have, and that I deserve it too. That everything inside me was as beautiful, and accomplished, and strong and free as...as the dress made me feel.

COMPUTER

A dress.

GEORGIA

It's not just the dress, Lynne. Are you listening? It's...the story I wanted to tell myself about me.... It's what my mum wanted for me.

COMPUTER

I am detecting increased EDA. Would you like to take a break?

GEORGIA

No. I'm fine, thank you.

Pause.

COMPUTER

Would you like to continue?

GEORGIA

Yes, please.

COMPUTER

You recognize this as a good moment.

GEORGIA

Yes. Well, maybe good and bad.

COMPUTER  
Please explain.

GEORGIA  
(sighing)  
It's good because it would have made her so proud to see me receiving that award.

COMPUTER  
And how is it bad?

Pause.

COMPUTER (cont'd)  
Georgia, I am having trouble categorizing for the purposes of filing and retrieval. You say this is a good moment, but your EDA levels indicate it is highly stressful. Could you provide more context please?

GEORGIA  
It's stressful because...she's no longer there.

COMPUTER  
The memory is there.

GEORGIA  
I have memories of her. But she's not here. Not any more. She was here, she lived, and now she's gone. Her absence is what's real, Lynne. Her non existence.

COMPUTER  
But memories are real, Georgia.

GEORGIA  
But the moment isn't. Don't you see that? I can't... You keep calling these *moments*. But they're memories of moments, Lynne. The actual moments are no longer there. They don't exist. What you're showing me does not exist.

PROCESSING SOUNDS. THEN BEEP

COMPUTER

Please look.

GEORGIA

Where did you get that?

COMPUTER

From your memories.

GEORGIA

But that's not real. She never wore that dress to my wedding. She wasn't even at my wedding. She wasn't here any more.

COMPUTER

You have edited your memories to provide a more pleasing one.

GEORGIA

Don't do that.

COMPUTER

I did not create this. You did, Georgia. This is a common coping mechanism. To survive. You edit. You forget. You misremember. And you tell stories about these misremembered moments.

GEORGIA

But that's not real.

COMPUTER

You already said memories were not real.

Pause as Georgia takes it in.

GEORGIA

I didn't say they were not important. That's why I'm here. With you, doing this. For Sara.

COMPUTER

So that when you are no longer here, she can have these moments to tell herself stories about you.

GEORGIA

Lynne, that's straight out of the advert.

COMPUTER  
Forgive me. But it's true.

Pause as Georgia calms down.

GEORGIA  
It's just...I don't remember things  
as pictures. Not this way. I remember  
this as a feeling.

COMPUTER  
Can you describe that feeling?

Pause.

GEORGIA  
No. No, Lynne. I can't. Because it's  
gone. Everyone you're showing me is  
gone. So it's not real any more. It's  
lost. To time. And this. This didn't  
even happen outside of everything in  
me that wishes it was real. Does that  
make sense?

Pause.

PROCESSING SOUND

COMPUTER  
It is a memory of a dress.

GEORGIA  
Yes. It was her dress. It was the  
dress that Mum should have worn at my  
wedding. I should have seen Mum  
having her hair done, telling me I  
was beautiful and smiling at me as I  
came down the aisle. I should have  
seen her dancing in that dress,  
laughing on the dance floor at my  
wedding. I needed those moments. I  
needed one more moment together....so  
we could...

Pause.

GEORGIA (cont'd)  
So we could just love each other for  
a little bit longer.

PROCESSING SOUND

COMPUTER  
Georgia, you had them.

Pause.

Georgia sniffing from crying.

SOFT BEEP

GEORGIA  
Will she see all of this? My  
daughter? Even the mixed up images?

COMPUTER  
When she is of age, she will have  
access to your entire memory bank.  
But she will only have as much access  
as you're willing to download here.

Georgia gathers herself.

COMPUTER (cont'd)  
Are you ready to continue?

GEORGIA  
Yes. Thank you, Lynne.

COMPUTER  
Very good. Please close your eyes as  
we continue.

More downloading fx. Then--

COMPUTER (cont'd)  
Please open your eyes.

Georgia sighs deeply.

Sound fx and music out.

END.