

Shadows of My Mind

by

Joseph Arnone

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Cast of Characters

NAOMI :

18

AUNT ELDA :

40's

Place
Suburbs

Time
Evening

2.

Setting: The play takes place in a suburb similar to Long Island.

At Rise: Naomi stands at the front door entrance when her Aunt Elda lets her in. The main action takes place in a living room on a couch.

*NAOMI knocks on the front door and
AUNT ELDA opens it.*

AUNT ELDA: Hey! Come on in, sweetheart. I didn't expect you at all. Good timing.

AUNT ELDA and NAOMI hug.

NAOMI: Why is it good timing?

AUNT ELDA: Because I'm bored to death to be honest. Want something to eat, drink?

NAOMI: I'll have some soda? You have soda?

AUNT ELDA: Yeah sure honey, sit down. I have 7-Up. That okay?

NAOMI: Thanks.

AUNT ELDA: So talk to me. How are things at home? You know I called your mother and it takes her three days to get back to me every time. What's her problem?

NAOMI: I don't know. She's been really busy I guess.

AUNT ELDA: Tell her to call me because I need to ask her something.

AUNT ELDA hands NAOMI a glass of soda.

So what's up?

NAOMI: Ummm, well, I needed to talk to someone.

AUNT ELDA: Oh yeah? Okay. I'm here. What's wrong, something wrong? It's not drugs is it?

NAOMI: NO, no it isn't drugs---

AUNT ELDA: Oh, thank God, because that's all we need. Are you pregnant?

NAOMI: (laughs) No, nothing like that at all.

AUNT ELDA: It can't be that bad honey. What is it?

NAOMI: It's emotional.

AUNT ELDA: Emotional? We're all emotional in this family. It's in your DNA.

NAOMI: I know but lately, I don't feel as normal.

AUNT ELDA: Normal? What's normal? Explain.

NAOMI tears up and tries not to cry.

NAOMI: I torture myself and I don't know how to stop it...I try so hard to think positive and for the most part I do, I am; but, keeping myself that way is the hardest thing in the world. It creeps up on me out from the shadows of my mind. I hate to sound like some cheesy novel but it's true. Whatever I have going on deep inside myself, I do my best to ignore and most days, everything is good but when it hits, when this sudden rush of negative energy comes by, it's like a wave of depression.

I get so down about the direction of my life. Am I making the right decisions? Am I being who I am meant to be? (beat) I get low about the things I do and I second guess my choices after I've already made them and then sometimes days later I change my mind again and go back to an earlier choice I made about the same damn thing...

Back and forth, back and forth...like a circle of confusion. I feel like I'm going crazy when this happens, when I can't seem to figure out a solution to my path...it's like a disease in my brain...I get trapped inside myself and I get lost in this really lonely place; until finally I find some inner strength and I rip forward in a new light but I know that it's only a matter of time before I go back to that, that way of being and it scares me. I don't want to be that way...I just want to be happy and want to know that I am living my life with purpose. I don't want to have any regrets when I get old and look back on the life I've lived; cause I won't be able to go back and that would kill me in the end.

I may need help. I don't know if this is something that I should see a doctor about...like a therapist or -I don't believe in medication. Never have. Maybe I'm too emotional and take myself too damn seriously. I don't know, I don't-What do you think, huh? How do I put an end to these phases that I go through?

AUNT ELDA: You want a glass of white wine?

NAOMI: Uhhh, okay...

AUNT ELDA: Have a glass with me. It's good for the nerves.

AUNT ELDA pours wine into two glasses.

First of all dear, you are very very dramatic. I love it, I mean, it's you, so deep, everything is so deep...I was once that deep too. You remind me of me growing up. Everything was such a big deal to me but when something was an actual big deal I treated it like it wasn't. You see sweetheart, it's important not only to make decisions but to stick to them in life with confidence. The confidence comes from trusting your gut.

NAOMI: Right.

AUNT ELDA: I'll give you something I never gave anyone my entire life. Ready?

NAOMI nods yes.

I was in love once. Just once. His name was Giovanni. He was Italian. He was built like one of those Greek statues. Anyway, I was in love but my family got involved because they didn't like him. They thought he was a trouble maker and that he didn't come from a good family, at least, not the kind of family my father and mother wanted me to be part of and I listened to them. Biggest mistake of my life.

I ended up meeting your moron of an Uncle Fred and here I am. There's not a day goes by when I don't imagine what life would have been like with Giovanni.

NAOMI: Wow, I had no idea.

AUNT ELDA: Your mother knows but she doesn't know the details...not how much I loved him...no one does. You see I made the wrong choice. I went against my gut. Had I made the right choice and stuck to what was true inside myself, I may be better off today.

Now, no one knows for sure...we are not Gods. We cannot predict the outcome of choices but I've always believed that it's important to make decisions that make you feel rooted in something...and see it all the way through.

NAOMI: Right.

AUNT ELDA: That's where all the good shit is anyway, right?

NAOMI: Right.

AUNT ELDA: Am I making sense to you?

NAOMI: Yeah.

AUNT ELDA: How's the wine? Good?

NAOMI: Actually, really good.

THEY both laugh.

AUNT ELDA: You're much smarter than I was at your age. You'll do fine. When you make a decision about something and stick to it, all the confusion and worry disappears. And it's not a crime to change your mind, only after you see what the first decision brings you.

NAOMI: Right.

AUNT ELDA: That's all there is to it. The more you approach things in such a way, the easier it is to cope with life's bullshit. Because no matter what choices you make Naomi, there's always the bullshit. And not every choice you make is going to be the right choice in the long run but at the moment you make a choice, it should feel like the right one. That's all any of us can do.

NAOMI: Tell me more about Giovanni.

AUNT ELDA chuckles.

AUNT ELDA: He was a prince. Dark eyes with jet black hair and the most perfect smile and beautiful teeth.

NAOMI: Where do you think he is now?

AUNT ELDA: I heard he moved to California. Who knows? Probably married with his own family by now. I broke his heart.

NAOMI: Did you?

AUNT ELDA: Oh sure, sure. I called the whole thing off. He wanted to propose to me but I put an end to it before he had the chance.

NAOMI: Oh, that's so sad.

AUNT ELDA: It is, it was. I'll always remember those eyes of his, when I told him. I never saw such ...well, it was a tough time.

NAOMI hugs her AUNT.

Yeah, yeah...

NAOMI: What movie star did he look like?

AUNT ELDA: Oh, without a doubt he was a Dean Martin, Johnny Depp type.

NAOMI: Really?!

AUNT ELDA: Forget it. Heads would turn when he entered a room.

NAOMI: Wow. I want to find a man like that.

AUNT ELDA: You will. Some day you will. And don't let anybody tell you different. As long as he treats you like a lady and loves you, that's all that matters.

NAOMI: Thanks for talking to me. You really are my favorite Aunt.

AUNT ELDA: You're welcome sweetheart. I'm always here for you. Just a block away. Knock on my door anytime. You know that.

NAOMI: I feel better.

AUNT ELDA: I can't take all the credit. I'm sure the wine had something to do it with it also.

THEY both laugh.

END OF PLAY