VISIONS, ART and LOVE

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Paranormal visions of two artists, MIKE a singer/songwriter and Nicole, a painter of abstract art, lead to creative dependence, love, fame and fortune. MIKE and NICOLE were in true love, and the intricacies of life tested their bond. However, the relationships between the other two couples ended tragically. This story is adapted from the original novel.

FADE IN:

An apartment complex in the SoHo district of New York City mostly occupied by aspiring musicians and artists.

THE VISIONS:

In one of the apartment complexes there are two artists, one a painter and the other a singer/songwriter. Each has a dream of a successful future. One of the artists, NICOLE REDMOND, wants to display her paintings in a gallery one day. The other, MIKE ROBERTS, hopes to see the band he is in, break through to the big time.

NICOLE: She imagines her paintings displayed in a gallery, in the future. She has a recurring vision of a man and hears music. It gives her a tremendous amount of creative energy.

MIKE: He dreams that the band, of which he is a member, becomes world famous. He has a recurring vision of a beautiful girl, surrounded by paintings, which gives him the energy needed to compose.

CHAPTER ONE

FRIENDS, VISIONS AND PARTIES

INT: APARTMENT COMPLEX IN NEW YORK CITY

The apartments in this complex are all similar. They are typically simple, clean and sparsely furnished. In every apartment there is a small room that can be used as a studio, den etc. In one of these apartments there is a beautiful young woman, named NICOLE. She has long black hair, large brown eyes and peach colored cheeks. Her apartment is painted a tan color with white curtains on the bay window. The living room has two brown fabric love seats, a modern art chair and a beanbag chair. The dining room has a small round table and three chairs. The studio has paintings all over the walls as well as several on the floor. She is painting an abstract picture of a spiral with colors, changing from red to orange to green to yellow. Inside this spiral there are two figures, a man and a woman. They are holding each other and flying. As she is painting the picture, she has a vision in which she hears music and sees the face of a young man with brown hair and blue eyes and hears music. This vision gives her creative energy, which inspires her to paint for a long period of time.

INT: ANOTHER APARTMENT-SAME COMPLEX

This apartment is painted white, with blue curtains on the window, a brown leather sofa and love seat, a baby grand piano and a rectangular coffee table. In it, there is a handsome young man named MIKE, of medium height with brown hair and blue eyes. He is composing, playing music and singing. While he is composing, he has a vision of a young woman, with paintings of many colors behind her. This vision gives him the energy to create and compose. After composing, he calls his friend MAX.

MIKE: Hey MAX. How's it going?

MAX: I'm glad you called. I'm throwing a party tomorrow night and wonder if you'd like to come?

MIKE: Sounds good to me. I'll be there.

MAX: Great! I'll see you then.

MIKE: You got it man. Talk to you later.

INT: MAX'S HOUSE

In the late evening, MAX throws a typical party attended by friends he made when he went to a university and with whom he grew up. MIKE entered the house. MAX was a well-known divorce lawyer and his house reflected his success. The house was large, two levels, well-furnished and with a pool in the back.

MAX: MIKE! I'm glad you could make it.

MIKE: I'm glad to be here. I needed this.

MIKE'S attention was caught by a beautiful blonde girl with large green eyes, who was involved in a conversation with a group of people and MAX noticed this.

MAX: MIKE, meet SUSAN. She is a philosophy professor.

SUSAN: It's nice to meet you. Would you like to be part of our group conversation?

MIKE: Sure. I can't say that I'll be able to say anything, but I'll listen.

GUEST: SUSAN, can you explain the philosophy of religion?

SUSAN: When it comes to religion - philosophy and history are intertwined. Suffice it to say, all religions throughout history, have performed the same function. The primary purpose of any religion is to control the masses and guard unfathomable knowledge. What better way to pass down this knowledge than through taboos and religion.

GUEST: What knowledge are we talking about?

SUSAN: Man has always pondered the question of where we came from and why are we here.

GUEST: That may be, but throughout history, different religions all worshipped different gods.

SUSAN: Every religion has borrowed from the religion that preceded it. Man has a need to acknowledge something greater than himself. The gods do just that, but they are all basically the same. All religions have the same legends about a great flood, virtue and sin, good and evil and a savior. The earliest known religion was Zoroastrianism. It began in Persia. Its commandments were much the same as those in Christianity. The Egyptian god Horus was identical to Jesus. The pagan gods of such regions as Greece and Rome, were the same as the characters of present day Christianity. The gods Zeus and Jupiter were simply painted over to represent God and Jesus. The striking similarity of all religions, however, is their relationship to galactic constellations.

GUEST: What do constellations have to do with religion?

SUSAN: Galactic constellations are the foundation of all the religions of the world. They seem to influence our belief systems and our thirst for that "unfathomable" knowledge. We have been in the age of Pisces for over 2,000 years. This is represented by the constellation of the same name. It has the outline of a fish in the heavens. One might ask, how this is related to Christianity. Jesus was a fisher of men. He supposedly fed a multitude with baskets of fish. He walked on water, etc. Now, we are going into the age of Aquarius. Who knows what that'll bring? All the ages are depicted in the Zodiak.

GUEST: What does the symbol of the cross represent?

SUSAN: All civilizations have used the cross to symbolize the sun, and the four points of the Earth. The sun has always been recognized as the giver of life. It rises in the east, sets in the west, and due to the wobble of the Earth on its axis, the sun is in the either in the north or south.

After the group conversation, MIKE was awestruck at SUSAN'S intelligence. He was able to approach SUSAN when she was alone.

MIKE: SUSAN, I really enjoyed listening to you. Would you like to come to my apartment, where we can continue the party and talk more?

SUSAN: Sure why not.

They left, and SUSAN followed MIKE to his apartment.

INT: MIKE'S APARTMENT

MIKE'S apartment was very clean, simply furnished, but with furniture in excellent condition and a beautiful Steinway baby grand piano that his parents had given him as a gift.

SUSAN: This is a nice apartment, and the piano is outstanding! Do you play MIKE?

MIKE: I not only play, but I also compose. I'm a singer/songwriter. If you'd like, I'll sing you one of my new songs.

SUSAN: Sure, I'd like to hear it. MIKE went to the piano and SUSAN sat on the sofa. She really enjoyed hearing MIKE sing and play.

SUSAN: MIKE, you really have a lot of talent.

MIKE: Thanks for the compliment.

After MIKE played and sang, he went to the sofa to sit with SUSAN. They were both very excited and drank some more. This led to sex. Afterwards, they realized that there was no sexual connection between them and agreed to remain friends.

SUSAN: It's been a great evening. I really enjoyed it.

MIKE: I'm sure we'll see more of each other.

When SUSAN left, MIKE returned to his piano, where he had the vision of the beautiful girl and the paintings. With a tremendous amount of energy, he composed music until 3:00 in the morning.

INT: NICOLE'S APARTMENT

NICOLE asked herself why everything in real life can't be just as good as she would like it to be. She didn't have her gallery, because she didn't have the money and enough pictures. She wondered what she had to do to take the first step to make her dream a reality. She was tired of thinking about this, so she called her friend ANNETTE.

NICOLE: Hi ANNETTE. I haven't seen you for quite a while, so I thought we'd get together, if you have the time.

ANNETTE: I'm glad you called. My boyfriend is currently working, so I have plenty of time. Do you want to meet at the mall?

NICOLE: Great!

ANNETTE: Let's meet in front of Macy's at 1 o'clock.

NICOLE: I'll see you then.

EXT: THE MALL

NICOLE and ANNETTE met in front of Macy's. While they shopped, they carried on a small conversation.

NICOLE: Are you happy with your current boyfriend?

ANNETTE: Not really, but I just don't like being alone.

NICOLE: I couldn't live with a man that I didn't truly love. Sometimes, I have a vision of a certain handsome young man, with brown hair and blue eyes. This vision makes me feel very special.

ANNETTE: My God! Forget about your dreams and visions and return to the real world. Get out and meet new people, make new friends, have fun and enjoy life. My boyfriend has a friend, who is an engineer, makes good money and is single. Why don't you come out with us this weekend? We're going to a Japanese restaurant called Samurai at 7:00 in the evening.

NICOLE: You're probably right. Let's make it a date for this weekend.

INT: SAMURAI RESTAURANT

The restaurant Samurai had all the makings of an authentic Japanese restaurant. There, ANNETTE, her boyfriend and his friend STEVE, sat at a table adorned with flowers, and each had a serving of tea. NICOLE immediately saw them when she entered and went to their table.

ANNETTE: NICOLE! It’s so good to see you. This is my boyfriend NICK and his friend STEVE.

NICOLE: It's nice to meet you both.

NICK ordered Peking duck and red wine for everyone. They all joked, laughed, enjoyed each other's company and had a great dinner.

STEVE: NICOLE, I had a great time and I really enjoyed being with you. I'd like to see you again. May I have your phone number? NICOLE liked him from the start, so she gave it to him.

NICOLE: I look forward to hearing from you soon.

INT: NICOLE'S APARTMENT

On Monday morning, NICOLE woke up to a beautiful summer day. She had a light breakfast of tea and a blueberry muffin. While she was eating, STEVE called.

NICOLE: What's up, STEVE?

STEVE: Hi, NICOLE. I'd really like to see you again, so I thought we'd get together one day during the week.

NICOLE: Saturday would be good for me.

STEVE: Give me your address, and I'll pick you up from your apartment at 5 o'clock.

NICOLE: Its 12155 Turnberry, Apt. 36. I'll be ready.

After that, she went to her studio, but couldn't seem to paint, because she didn't have the vision which gave her the energy and inspiration to do so.

EXT: NICOLE'S APARTMENT/ THE PARKING LOT

NICOLE was waiting outside when STEVE pulled up. His car was a Nissan Altima. It was in very good condition and quite clean.

STEVE: Hi NICOLE. You look great! I thought we'd take a walk in Central Park, if that's okay with you.

NICOLE: That's exactly what I like. I really enjoy talking and walking in the park, with nature all around me.

EXT: CENTRAL PARK

It was a mild summer evening, with a slight breeze. The air in the park was filled with the aromas of grass, trees and flowers.

NICOLE: Do you have any hobbies STEVE?

STEVE: My primary hobby is my work. I really enjoy being an engineer. My secondary hobby is sports in general, football in particular. What about you NICOLE? Do you enjoy sports?

NICOLE: Not really. My hobby and my life are painting.

STEVE: Honestly, I don't understand painting. It's like another world to me. During her date with STEVE, he did all the talking, and all he talked about was sports.

NICOLE: It's been nice spending time with you, but it's getting late and I must go home now.

STEVE: Could I call you and we can meet again? I get the feeling that you're very special to me.

NICOLE: Sure. Feel free to call me.

INT: NICOLE'S APARTMENT

When NICOLE entered her apartment, she decided to call her mother.

HELEN (NICOLE'S mother): Hi NICOLE. How are you?

NICOLE: I felt like talking to you, so I thought I'd give you a call. I had a date this evening with an engineer named STEVE. My friend ANNETTE introduced me to him.

HELEN: I'm so glad that you met someone new. I hope he turns out to be the man of your dreams. It's my dream to see you get married and have children. I want grandkids.

NICOLE: Oh Mom, I just met him. How can you talk about marriage and kids. I don't know what'll happen next.

HELEN: NICOLE, every mother has concerns about her daughter.

NICOLE: Mom, everything's okay. I've got to go now. Have a good night and I'll call you later.

HELEN: Okay. Take care.

After speaking with her mother, she had the vision of the handsome man, and heard beautiful music again. This gave her a lot of energy, and she went to her studio and began painting in a very energetic manner. While painting, she thought of her date with STEVE, and realized that they had nothing in common. NICOLE decided that she would never see him again. NICOLE spent so much energy painting, she wanted to relax and watch a movie. The movie made her very tired, and she fell asleep in front of the TV. She dreamt she was in love with a man. She couldn't see him, but only hear him. The dream seemed so real.

CHAPTER TWO

THE BAND, CONCERTS, AND MANAGER

INT: BAND MANAGERS OFFICE

The manager's name was JOHN. His office was somewhat bland and simple. It was windowless with white walls, a desk, three chairs and a conference table. The band, called the SPEED of LIGHT, met at JOHN'S office. The SPEED of LIGHT got together with him before the upcoming music festival, to go over the songs they will play and make any necessary changes. They played and JOHN told them they sounded great and fresh. He gave words of encouragement and praise to the band members. He told them that they should practice a lot before the festival, and asked MIKE to compose more songs. The band consisted of six members.

• MIKE: piano and vocals

• CHRIS: bass guitar

• GERRY: rhythm guitar

• DAVE: lead guitar

• JIM: drums

• ALEX: saxophone

INT: NICOLE'S APARTMENT

NICOLE was painting in her studio. When she finished the painting, she thought to herself, (that's one more picture for my future gallery). Then, NICOLE called ANNETTE.

NICOLE: Hi ANNETTE. Do you have any plans for this weekend?

ANNETTE: I'm going to the concert in Central Park tomorrow, with some friends at 5:00. Would you like to join us?

NICOLE: I love the park, and I love concerts too. I'll meet you there.

EXT: CENTRAL PARK

From an aerial view, Central Park looks like a huge green hot dog in the middle of the city. The green is because of all the trees and vegetation. The weather was beautiful. It was sunny, but not too hot. The sun's rays penetrated the trees, illuminated the stage and the surrounding area. In the park there were pop and rock groups for the music festival. When NICOLE came to the park, ANNETTE was already there with two other men. They were waiting for NICOLE.

NICOLE: I'm sorry I'm a bit late.

ANNETTE: I'm glad to see you. This is NICK and TONY.

NICOLE: It's nice to meet both of you.

ANNETTE: The festival has already started, so let's go inside and enjoy the music. The area close to the stage was standing room only.

Even though many people were there, they were able to find a place to sit. While there, NICOLE saw a man singing who gave her special feelings and emotions. Afterwards, ANNETTE made a suggestion.

ANNETTE: I'm feeling kind of hungry. Let's all go out to eat.

NICOLE: That sounds good to me.

TONY: It doesn't matter to me where you decide to go. I'm not choosy. I'll eat anything.

NICK: I know a place that serves real good food and isn't expensive.

INT: STEAK AND ALE RESTAURANT

They all had steak dinners with salads and red wine. Tony took an interest in NICOLE and told jokes trying to show his sense of humor to her.

TONY: NICOLE, I'm really glad I met you. I'd like to see you again.

NICOLE: I really enjoyed everybody's company this evening. I look forward to seeing everybody more often.

After a good meal with good people, they all said their goodbyes and went to their homes.

INT: MIKE'S APARTMENT

Unable to compose, and feeling barren, MIKE just wandered around his apartment. It's a mystery, but it was when MIKE was feeling like this, that MAX usually called. Sure enough, the phone rang and it was MAX. This confirmed the mystery.

MAX: MIKE! What's the good word?

MIKE: Same old-same old.

MAX: I'm having a party tonight and you're more than welcome.

MIKE: That sounds good to me. I'll be there.

INT: MAX'S HOUSE

When MIKE arrived, there were many people there, and everybody was drinking and smoking. Everyone did as he or she pleased. It was chaotic. MIKE'S attention was caught by a girl who was playing and singing at the piano. It was country music, he tended to enjoy it occasionally. He enjoyed this and listened for a while. When she was finished he clapped. He told her that he liked her ability and would like to hear more. She was very talented. She was a pretty redhead with a great shape. Her name was LISA. She thought that MIKE was sexy and handsome. MIKE asked her to dance and, as they did, they touched. He asked her to come home with him after the party, and have more to drink.

INT: MIKE'S APARTMENT

When MIKE and LISA arrived at his apartment, they were already drunk.

MIKE: LISA, would you like wine or champagne?

LISA: I choose champagne.

While they were drinking champagne, MIKE asked LISA to dance. There was chemistry between them. They began kissing, and had a romantic night. MIKE woke up quite early and was taken aback by how beautiful LISA looked as she slept. Immediately, he went to his piano, and composed a new song about her. The sound of the music woke her up. She went to MIKE. He sang his song to her. This excited her very much, and she kissed him passionately. It was a very special moment between them. Then, MIKE made coffee and something to eat. After breakfast LISA left. MIKE thought, ‘she's different. I really like her’. He was sure that he would see much more of her. Afterwards, MIKE went to his piano. Then, he received the recurring vision of the beautiful girl surrounded by paintings. He began to compose with a fury. Later, exhausted and covered with sweat, MIKE fell asleep feeling that he accomplished something very important.

INT: NICOLE'S APARTMENT

NICOLE received the recurring vision again. This time she realized that the man in her vision, and the person singing at Summerstage were the same. While NICOLE was painting, she thought to herself, ‘even though I have a lot of paintings, it's still not enough for a gallery’. This is the one thing she wants in life, and she realizes that she must put in a great deal of hard work to achieve it. At that moment, ANNETTE called.

ANNETTE: I'm going to the outdoor cafe at the mall with some friends. Do you want to join us?

NICOLE: I feel like getting out. I'll meet you there.

EXT: OUTDOOR CAFE

When NICOLE met ANNETTE, there were three boys with her.

ANNETTE: Hi, NICOLE. This is BILL, DOUG and PAUL.

NICOLE: Glad to meet you. They all ordered beer and juice.