

Date 3 / 1 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / Lyric

Title Following One's Dreams

Author / Director / Zelina Garza

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I encountered this picture while browsing through a photography blog entitled "Honey in the Sun" photography.

Content / CD / Summary / Precis (Say? "Plot? Setting/Situation? Key lines/phrases scenes, etc? )

This picture shows a woman dressed in summer clothing attempting to climb a set of floating stairs. The woman and the stairs are located in a grassy and weedy field with various shrubs in the background, and the time of day seems to be around dawn. The woman is trying to keep her balance as she slowly progresses from the first floating stair to the second floating stair.

Content / CM / Meaning? / Theme(s)?

The main theme of this photo is believing in oneself and going after one's goals and aspirations. The woman in the photo, though hesitant, is slowly ascending the stairs towards the end result she wants to achieve, a goal that is not seemingly far from her grasp. Nevertheless, she appears to be taking her time, making sure her foothold is solid enough to support her and to propel her towards the major task that she wants to achieve. Ultimately, the main message that this photo is trying to get across is the importance and significance of pursuing one's unique and personal aspirations no matter the circumstances and trusting oneself fully along the way. If a person doesn't even believe in himself then ultimately no one can. It also encourages people not to stay content in their safe existences, but instead urges them to leap, to follow the passion that would drive them if they gave it the chance. Even if the sacrifices that one employs in the process of attaining their goals seems too drastic, the end result will be a feeling of happiness and satisfaction with life that money or possessions could never buy.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

This photo is clearly taken by an amateur photographer, and it is photoshopped in a way such that there are floating tiles that look like steps to an invisible staircase. The stairs themselves appear dangerous and hard to stand on, symbolically representing the woman's fear in pursuing her ambitions, though she does it anyways because she knows the end result will bring satisfaction.

Commentary (What do you want to say? Why like? Questions? Synthesis / Allusions-Connections / Relevance to personal experience, to literature, 20Q's? etc.)? "Poetic" Traits?

Though an amateur photo by a woman who even claimed that she lacked confidence in her photographic skills, this photograph ironically possesses a more significant and influential meaning than most professional and so-called "artsy" photos that I have ever seen. Much like Victor Frankenstein in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, the woman in the picture is learning to trust in herself and her own skills so that she can expand beyond her current state of existence and ultimately reach a state of contentedness that only her personal accomplishments could ever attain. Frankenstein, in a similar manner, pushes beyond the boundaries of everyday scientific knowledge and attempts to make an enormous scientific breakthrough, bringing the dead back to life, by trusting his intellectual knowledge and instincts. He pursues his goals and ambitions even though he knows it is highly risky because ultimately he believes his benefit to mankind will outweigh any cost that he had to endure while engaging in the experiment. Thus, this picture is poetic because it tries to get the viewer to go after things that are personally satisfying and fulfilling, even if they must take risks to do so. Bitter consequences would ensue had a person passed up the opportunity to try and achieve something he had long desired.

over (do not mix logs; e.g., no poem log in front, and movie log on back)