

MY RED DREAM IS EVERYTHING



(HEAVEN'S ON FIRE)

By: Amanda S. & Andrew W.

This project started as being disappointed in a camera. After making a few decisions to live my (Andrew) life in a different way, accepting and enjoying life rather than actively hiding away from it, I looked for more ways to express myself and taking pictures always was interesting to me. I had especially liked weird images and had read about "lomography" for a while. I bought LOMO Lubitel 166 Universal that I had seen pictures of for ages. When developing my first rolls I found that everything was relatively "soft" or "out of focus." I was a dismayed and decided the camera wasn't worth much - maybe I had just gotten a dud that had been in the elements for 40+ years. It makes sense it wouldn't be great. I took a few more pictures with it and found that it gave a surprising, but beautiful, creamy-dreamy bokeh swirl. I couldn't quite nail focus, but after a few tries I realized that if the lens is fully open, the swirl will come. And in the first (of hopefully few) photographic metaphor, opening up to life is allowing great things to come. Part of that opening up is working with other people. I've been in bands and knew how to collaborate in that space - sometimes good, sometimes bad, but I was especially worried to work with someone on a new creative endeavor. Luckily, Amanda was someone who was extremely supportive of me, as she is with everyone - and she mentioned being willing to help me practice taking pictures of people. So when the swirl came in, she was the first person I talked to about collaboration. When taking the first pictures of this project, along with some conventional ones, we both were unsure about what to do, but through some shared trust, we did some good work. **But** that shared trust, though, I think, has something to do with the title of this project. When reviewing the first images, I immediately thought of shoegaze and indie pop - being consumed by sound aurally and being consumed by the environment visually. Which also shares some elements with similarly noisy indie pop, a favorite of mine. I put together a playlist that I thought was the sound manifestation of the images. One song was "Red Sleeping Beauty" by McCarthy, the best Communist indie pop band of all time. It also happens to be that Amanda has red hair, we're both flavors of socialists, and we first met through political organizing. The trust of comradeship is interesting - it doesn't always pan out, but it's reassuring knowing that you both have a working definition of exploitation.



So what's this? It's a curated playlist of pictures and songs that complement one another, along with choice lyrics from those songs. The images come first in this instance - the person lost in the natural world at times can be comforting and disconcerting. Being consumed or welcomed by the ancestral hold of trees - holding you in the light or degrading to plant matter. Regardless, it's home. These images represent leaning into strengths, into trust, and into faith of the natural world that exists. While that world is simultaneously the victim of colonization and imperialism, with the staunch fist of capitalism grinding most of us to the point of gasping for breath. A better world is possible though looking for hope and strength and working together to support one another. At the end of the day though, it's some pretty pictures and good tunes to listen to while looking at them. I'd like to give a special thanks to Amber Wood for her support, feedback, and critique in the development of this project.

I'm Amanda S.. The cliché "jack of all trades, master of none" is one I've always vibed with. Who really needs to be a master anyway? "No gods, no masters" is more my style and I have way too many hats to wear and interests to explore to master anything just yet. I'm a preschool teacher, an artist, a plant lover, a s*x worker, a mother, a friend, a partner. I'm probably a whole lot of other things too but we only have so much time in a day. I'm thankful for the opportunity to wear so many in this one life we get. One of the hats I wear is an occasional live model and everyday online s*x worker and it still feels wild that anyone wants to take my picture or look at them. I primarily photograph myself for my work, but I've also enjoyed the opportunity to work with a few photographers over the last few years. I am so grateful I got the chance to work with Andrew. He's someone I've always respected, even in occasional comradely disagreement, and that I have always wanted to know a bit better personally. He's kind and thoughtful and when he chooses to speak, I promise you want to listen. I've loved watching his exploration into photography over the last few months. It's been inspiring in the way I am always inspired by those who follow their passions and share them with the world. It takes guts and some chaotic determination to get better at something just because you love it. I loved our collaboration together. Looking at them, I can't help but get nostalgic for my childhood summers. Hazy and green, sweaty and sparkly, shadows in the woods, rocks and water cool on my skin, flashes of sunshine through the leaves. I had so much fun playing in the woods and being open to whatever the result would be. I trusted Andrew's creative brain and we had an adventure in the woods taking pretty pictures. I hope maybe these pictures (and the accompanying playlist!) will evoke your own little fuzzy daydream.

You can find me on Instagram @mandasteg (by friend request only)
My online sex work can be found at <https://onlyfans.com/banditqueen>

Scan, or search for "My Red Dream is Everything" on Spotify to follow along

All square images taken with LOMO Lubitel 166 Universal on Kodak Tri-X 400 or Kodak Gold 200, except cover image taken with Mamiya C220 on Kodak Portra 400
All rectangular images taken with Olympus OM-1n on Kodak T-Max 100 or Kodak Gold 200
All color images developed and scanned by Memphis Film Lab
All black and white images developed and scanned by Andrew with the help of Manifest Drawing Center in Cincinnati, OH



FAMINE ASYLUM



Existence hurts existence

SOMETIMES



Turn my Head



Intro Sound

MY WANDERING DAYS ARE OVER



The space between

your bed and wardrobe

with the louvre doors



PALE SPECTRE

Where is the moon tonight?



It is like an enormous light

PARIS



let me dream

LOOMER



t
i
P
t
o
e
d
o
w
n
t
o
t
h
e
l
o
n
e
l
y
P
l
a
c
e
s

WHERE DAMAGE ISN'T ALREADY DONE



still we have different names



FRENCH NAVY



I wanted to control it



But love, I couldn't
hold it

TO HERE KNOWS WHEN



move
move
move
move
move
move
move



move
move
move
move
move
move
move

LORELEI



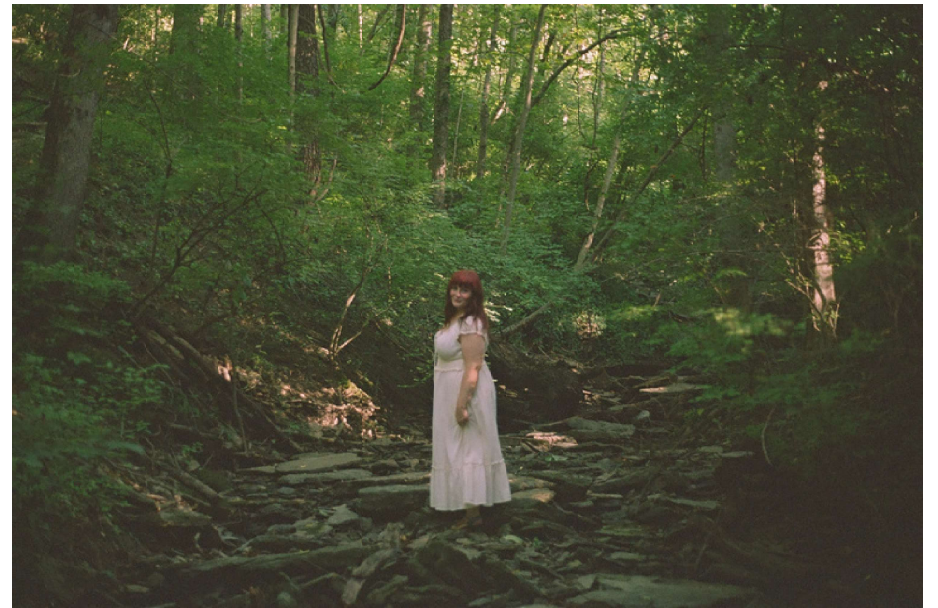
And we
can go



Without
a doubt

WILLIAM'S HEART

You'll say honesty has made me cruel



I say you're soft and you're made of wool

You are made of wool

ME AND THE BEES

Find
Find
Find

Someplace
Someplace
Someplace

Good
Good
Good

To
To
To



Hide

CHERRY-COLOURED FUNK



Down
far
behind
this
[redacted]
fabulous
my
turn
rules



behind
from
down
love
our
find
can
we
Still

RED SLEEPING BEAUTY



While there's still a war to win



My red dream is

E
V
E
R
Y
T
H
I
N
G

They [redacted] Won't [redacted] Wake [redacted] Me

SUGAR HICCUP



Heavens curtsy and bow sugar hiccup makes a pig soar and swoon sugar



sugar hiccup makes the earth tough and tumble

hiccup heavens curtsy and bow makes a pig soar

and swoon now sugar hiccup or she reels sugar hiccup hiccup now sugar

FALLING OUT OF LOVE WITH YOU



Every hour kills a flower

EVERYONE ELSE IS AHEAD FAR AHEAD



(just give me a hand to get me thru the day, show me your sympathy and I think I'll then be ok)