

Butterfly

By

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FADE IN:

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INT. BALCONY - DAY

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INSECTS

Bzzz bzzz bzzz bzzz bzzz.

The floor is littered with crayons, doodles of bugs and toys. On the left side of the room are clothes hanging out to dry on racks. On the right side lay potted plants and plastic containers. The plastic containers house insects and the lids of the containers are riddled with holes for the insects to breathe through. A kid is lying on his tummy, resting his chin on his palm and kicking his legs as if he is swimming freestyle. He is curiously observing his insects. There are crickets, beetles, moths and a praying mantis.

ADULT ANDY(V.O.)

When I was a kid, I kept my insects in plastic containers in my balcony. I spent a lot of time in my balcony, playing with toys, doodling and just observing my critters. They were a racket those bugs of mine but I grew accustomed to the noises they made and soon those noises merely faded into the background.

Something catches the kid's attention. He lifts his chin off his palm, stops his kicking and his eyes are wide open. He walks up to the plastic containers, picks up the one containing a praying mantis and brings the lid of the container close to his ears. He does this to hear his praying mantis better through the breathing holes in the lid. The praying mantis' posture is indifferent but it is making a "bzz" sound.

ADULT ANDY(V.O.)

It happened subconsciously, but one day, I found myself able to understand what my insects were saying. It started off with a word. A word that was repeated time and again. An attempt to spell the word would be inconceivable because it is an insect word. But I can give you an idea of what it meant. Simply put, it was a word and a phrase at the same time. A word-phrase. And it meant "the cocoon is safe, but let me butterfly".

(CONTINUED)

The kid draws back and looks at the mantis. He then looks at the other insects, who, like the mantis, are not looking at him directly but are still going "bzz". The kid looks back at the mantis, which is now looking directly at him. The kid places the mantis' container on the edge of the balcony's window. He does the same for the other containers, lining them up. He then opens the lid of each container one by one and the insects fly away. The kid looks at the flying insects, not really knowing what he is doing but at the same time, kind of impressed by the insects flying off.

ADULT ANDY(V.O.)

And so, as the unquestioning kid that I was, I opened all the plastic containers housing my insects and let them butterfly. All of them flew away, save for one. It was Sonic, my rhinoceros beetle.

The kid notices Sonic.

KID ANDY

Why are you not flying away, Sonic?

SONIC

That's not my name. Anyway the world out there is cruel and unpredictable and will tear me apart.

The kid looks out of the balcony and sees a park where children are playing catch, an old couple is sitting on a bench and a lady is walking her dog. It is a sunny day with blue skies and puffy clouds.

KID ANDY

It's not like that.

SONIC

Look, son. Take it from a 2 year old. It's safer here.

ADULT ANDY (V.O.)

That's many insect years.

SONIC

Plus, I don't need to look for my own food. And I have...I had friends to chill with.

KID ANDY

I know! You are scared. Pok Pok! Chicken! Haha!

SONIC  
 (intense)  
 Shut your face, kid.

The kid is stunned by the beetle's intensity. The kid places the lid over Sonic's container and puts the container near the potted plants at the corner. He goes on to clear the other containers of their contents, washes them and places the empty containers next to Sonic's container.

SONIC  
 Hmm...A little exercise will be good.

Sonic climbs up a stick in his container.

SONIC  
 Woah!

Sonic loses his balance and falls on his back.

SONIC  
 Ah crap.

Sonic struggles to flip himself up. Kid Andy is smashing an Ultraman Monster through a tower of Uno Stackos.

2 INT. BALCONY - NIGHT 2

Sonic is still on his back. His legs move around abit. ANDY'S MUM is holding Kid Andy's hand, walking him out of the balcony.

ANDY'S MUM  
 Ooh. Then what did he say?

KID ANDY  
 He said he was scared. So I put him back in the container...

3 INT. BALCONY - MIDNIGHT 3

Sonic lays motionless on his back, snoring.

4 INT. BALCONY - MORNING 4

Kid Andy picks up Sonic's container and shakes it. Sonic is finally flipped onto his torso again.

SONIC  
 Woah! Oh. Thanks, sonny. Been a while, huh?

ADULT ANDY(V.O.)

It had only been one evening.

SONIC

You know, I have been thinking. How I never went a go. How much I missed out. How little time I have left.

KID ANDY

Are you passing away, Sonic?

SONIC

Yes, son. But before I go I want to see the world for what it's worth.

Sonic looks out the window and sees kites dancing in a clear blue sky.

SONIC

Let this old bug, steeped in regret, free.

KID ANDY

Erm. OK!

The kid places Sonic's container on the window ledge and removes its lid. Sonic climbs up to the highest part of a stick.

SONIC

This is it. So long kiddo. You know, in my fantasies, I would lock horns with another male and win an epic contest for a gorgeous female. Then die 'cause I aggravated my wounds whilst mating? Ha.

Sonic opens his armored wings, unfolds his regular wings and begins to fly out of the balcony window.

KID ANDY

Bye, Sonic!

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EXT. BALCONY - DAY

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Sonic flies slowly and wobbly at first, then he straightens up. He experiments with his speed, gradually going faster and faster. He then snakes left and right slightly. Pretty soon he is doing all sorts of flips and somersaults in the air.

(CONTINUED)

SONIC  
WOOOOHOOOOOOO!!!!!!

Sonic finishes a somersault and then pauses in mid-air for a moment. He takes a few long and deep breaths.

SONIC  
The cocoon is safe...but let me  
butterfl-ACK!

A shot of Sonic with frantically flapping wings. Then the same shot of Sonic but this time with an X-ray view of his chest. His heart is spasming violently and then it suddenly stops. Revert to normal shot of Sonic, who is not moving at all. He hangs in mid-air for a while, before dropping like a fly. A traumatized KID ANDY looks on at what just happened. A tear rolls down his eye.

ADULT ANDY(V.O.)  
I stopped catching bugs ever since  
that day. And when I see a bug not  
buzzing around like it should, I  
tell it to butterfly the hell away.

FADE OUT.

**THE END**