

CHOI Myoung Sook

And Another Day

A Play



The Characters



WOMAN

FABLE

MAN

REMEMBRANCE

GIRL



FABLE Even on a windless day
the trees have the shape of the wind.

REMEMBRANCE Winds must have blown for ages.

FABLE As if time walked slowly
and suddenly got lost on its way
That's what it looks like,
This island

A woman and a man are facing the sea –
The depths of their gaze are different.

REMEMBRANCE The closer the wave comes, the more it shatters.
Six,
Seven...
eleven,
twelve...

WOMAN When your raft is that far away and I'm left alone,
I look at the sky. While I'm watching the floating clouds slowly changing
their shapes, time passes. When I was little, I saw a flower bud burst into

blossom. I feel the same way, watching the clouds move. It's like peeking into someone's secret. (Laughs at herself) I know it's not a secret that time passes. When it gets dark, I look at the stars too, but they aren't that interesting. Stars are pretty but they're too far away. Besides, they all look the same however long I look at them. The clouds move while the stars are still. They flicker, but I don't know what that means... Anyway, stars are so distant.

MAN But we can find direction by them.
WOMAN Can you read the stars?
MAN Just by myself. I have my own way to identify them.
WOMAN Fascinating.
MAN It's the same as you can make a cup of water by gathering morning dews.
WOMAN It's just a survival skill.
WOMAN The skill that's useful only here.

(WOMAN laughs without sound, and Man focuses on the work he has been doing.)

MAN Today is the sixteenth day...
WOMAN ...
MAN ...since we saw the light. (With emphasis) We went out on the raft for fifteen days, but we never met a ship. When we first saw the light, we thought we were going to see it again within at least ten days. But it was a miscalculation. People might say it's about the time to give up on it. "You saw a thing that wasn't there that night; even if the light was really from a ship, the ship wasn't a liner; there is no possibility that you might see a ship again." So you might want to say we should give up on the light too. But, therefore, we must go out to the sea today. If we don't go, we will definitely get to see the light we saw again tonight, standing here helplessly. (more enthusiastically) From today, the ship passes by every night. From now on, every night! So we have to go out to meet the ship without missing a single night. Do you understand what I am saying?

FABLE The clouds look closer as if they can be touched.

WOMAN It looks really strong.
MAN Of course. We should become stronger. We need to.
WOMAN No, I mean the faith you just showed.
MAN Faith! Right. Have you ever heard that faith is the assurance of things hoped for?
WOMAN Faith is...what?
MAN The assurance of things hoped for.

FABLE And the clouds are quickly changing their shapes.

WOMAN If I wish for something, you think, it will come true. Do you mean that?
MAN If you believe in it.
WOMAN Just believe in it? That's all?
MAN It's not easy to do, but yes.
WOMAN Though it isn't easy, it'd be worth doing if it really works.
MAN No one can give an answer for that.

Faith doesn't come from outside. It all starts from your inside. If you put a condition like "if it really works," you can never start doing it. You just believe in it—without any condition. (more inspired by Woman's sincere response) Listen carefully. Tonight, I will finally meet a ship. I will be found and rescued, and I will come back to this island to get you within twenty four hours. By helicopter, yes, I'll be back by helicopter. Though I don't know where this place is, before two days are up, we'll meet our families. We can have well-cooked rice and grilled marinated meat with cold water, take a good shower, and sleep in a clean, soft bed. How nice, huh?

REMEMBRANCE She seemed to listen to me, like an obedient student.
And I began to carefully prepare to go out to the sea.

WOMAN But... it's not us but you alone.
MAN Excuse me?

REMEMBRANCE Will the paddle work better since I trimmed the grip?
It was dangerous last time because the paddle slipped from my hand
again and again.

MAN Do you think I leave you here when I am rescued? We both
will get to go together in the same helicopter. Don't worry.

FABLE The sea sparkling in the sunset reflects in the man's eyes.

REMEMBRANCE I checked the raft again for any loose parts.
A thorough preparation is a prerequisite for success.

WOMAN Please don't go.

FABLE Her voice scatters in the wind.

WOMAN Please don't go.
MAN What?

REMEMBRANCE She rushed at me.
Even before I noticed, the paddle in my hand was taken and hurled away
into the air.

(MAN picks up the paddle, but WOMAN tries to take it away from him again. They both grab the
paddle and pull it against each other.)

REMEMBRANCE Without knowing the reason, I got into to a competition of who was stronger.

MAN Why are you doing this?
WOMAN Don't go.
MAN Let it go.
WOMAN Please don't go.
MAN Why are you doing this all of a sudden?
WOMAN I tell you not to go.

MAN What are you talking about? I must go.
WOMAN Please don't go. Please.
MAN Let me go.
WOMAN No.
MAN I can't take you with me this time. Trust me. I'll come back.
WOMAN I am not asking you to take me with you.
MAN Then why are you doing this to me?
WOMAN Please don't go today. Just today. Please.
MAN I must go. I must meet a ship.
WOMAN You can't meet a ship. The light wasn't from a ship.
MAN Yes, it was. Please don't do this.
WOMAN I can never let you go today. You can't go.
MAN Stop it please. I have to go to the sea now. You know that.
WOMAN No. You can't go. I can't let you. I can no longer stand being left alone and looking at the clouds and stars. I can't do that anymore. It's too long to be alone. I really can't do this anymore. Please don't go, please!

REMEMBRANCE I was feeling heavy in the chest.
How can I explain myself?

(MAN walks away from her and sits on a sand mound.)

MAN Look at the sea. Look at the end of the horizon. What do you think there is beyond it? There is the sea. And what do you think there is after that? After that, it is, again, the sea. The sea, the sea, the endless ocean! Do you know? Even if you encourage and incite me every day to go, it still isn't easy to go out there on a raft. It's terrifying, truly terrifying. I feel terrified beyond words. Do you have any idea how hard it is to force myself into that infinite terror? Then now you hold me back like this, it's... really too hard for me. (pauses) When you are alone... I know it's hard for you too. But what can we do? How can we meet a ship? Without doing like this, how can we get rescued?

REMEMBRANCE She was quiet like a child being scolded.

MAN Please hang in there a little more. Our patience won't be in vain.

(WOMAN wipes off her tears.)

MAN I know it's hard for you. Even for a man like me, it's hard.
WOMAN One day, I wished you'd just died.
MAN What?
WOMAN Because if you were dead, you wouldn't leave me day after day.
MAN How can you say that?
WOMAN Yeah, it's nonsense, but I'd rather be left alone once than be left behind every single day.
MAN Does everything I'm doing have to mean I'm leaving you?
WOMAN What else?
MAN How can it be I'm leaving you?

WOMAN Of course, it is! You are leaving me the cruelest way. There are only *two* people in a desert island, and *one* of them goes out to the sea. What's crueller than that?

FABLE It is cold even though the cold air doesn't come from anywhere.
The woman shivers as if the nightmare she had last night crossed her mind.

MAN But...

REMEMBRANCE I should talk with her more even if I have to go a little later.

MAN If we do nothing just because it's hard, we'll be stuck in this island forever.

WOMAN It doesn't matter.

MAN Doesn't it matter?

WOMAN If only you don't leave me, I'll be fine.

MAN Are you saying it's okay even if you never get out of here?

WOMAN It's been a long time since I thought of that.

REMEMBRANCE She hasn't thought of that... Why?
Something came to my mind. Perhaps...

MAN Perhaps...

REMEMBRANCE I thought again if my question was relevant.

MAN Do you... I mean... perhaps do you love me?

WOMAN ...

MAN I am just asking.

(WOMAN laughs)

MAN Never mind. I was just wondering.

WOMAN It's funny.

MAN? What's funny?

WOMAN The word you said.

MAN ...

WOMAN "Perhaps"

MAN ...

WOMAN On a crowded street, when someone says "Excuse me," I turn around, thinking "is it me?" That's "Perhaps." When someone smiles in my direction from a distance, I ask myself "Perhaps, is that person smiling at me?" When the guy I'm into tells me he has a crush on someone, I wonder "perhaps, am I the girl he likes?" The word "Perhaps" is for these kinds of situations, isn't it? But on this island... There's no doubt. Do we need the word, "perhaps," between us?

FABLE (counts seconds) One, Two, Three ...
It takes some time for his dazed eyes to become focused.

MAN But even so..., that doesn't mean you automatically fall in love with me.
This is...a different matter.

WOMAN Don't you think it's a matter of course?
MAN How come...? Besides, you've never told me such things.
WOMAN Is it necessary to say that? There are only two of us here.
MAN I know, but...

REMEMBRANCE It was surprising and embarrassing.

WOMAN Don't you love me?
MAN Do I have to?
WOMAN I'm asking if you love me.
MAN I've never thought I did.
WOMAN So?
MAN What else should I say?
WOMAN You've never thought you loved me, so what else have you had in your mind?

REMEMBRANCE She was asking me something too obvious.

MAN I never stop thinking about how to escape from this island.

FABLE Once again, the sea is reflected in the man's eyes.
It feels like a ship from the other side of the earth might appear
in his eyes.

REMEMBRANCE Indescribable feelings held me back from departure.
For some reason, I might have felt regret.

MAN That night, it was...

REMEMBRANCE I stopped talking, hoping she would interrupt me.
But she was quiet.

MAN It was all my fault. I apologize that I did that to you when I didn't even love
you.
WOMAN This island is...a nice place.

REMEMBRANCE Her voice was unusually calm.

WOMAN If you'd done that in another place, if that had happened on a dirty, dark
alley, I'd never have forgiven you. You did that to me without love—I would
definitely have wanted to stick a knife in your back. But I don't know why it's
okay on this island. Even if you did that purely because of your cheesy desire,
it's fine—though I am disappointed.

MAN I swear it was not like that.
WOMAN Then what was it?

REMEMBRANCE I looked back what it was.

MAN I don't want to make an excuse, but if I have to talk about my emotions,
(pauses) I'd say I wanted to be consoled because I was afraid of everything.

WOMAN So did it help you?

FABLE He nods after a moment.
Then couldn't he just stop there?

MAN I have a wife and children. And I have my life's work.

(WOMAN laughs out loud.)

MAN Why are you laughing?

WOMAN That's like a scene from a movie. When a bad guy puts gun to your head, you beg for your life. "Please don't kill me. I have a wife and kids."

MAN You think that's funny?

REMEMBRANCE I felt offended.

WOMAN It seems like I've become some sort of villain—to someone who has a wife and children to feed and *important* work to do.

MAN

WOMAN ...
Oh, that's why you try so hard to escape. I'm not a person like you. I have nothing to do but love you.

MAN What do you mean?

WOMAN As you heard, I don't have anything more to do but love you.

REMEMBRANCE I thought about the meaning.

MAN Do you love me because you have nothing else to do?

WOMAN Correct!

MAN Do you mean it?

WOMAN Yes.

MAN Do you think that's love?

WOMAN Even if you study because you have nothing to do, you're still studying anyway.

MAN If you say so, (stands up) I'm relieved.

WOMAN (raising her voice) I was kidding. It was interesting to see you being so sensitive when I said I loved you because I had nothing to do, so I went further.

MAN Listen to me. I must go back to my family and to my work. Do you understand?

WOMAN What if you can't?

MAN Why do you imagine such a negative scenario?

WOMAN Why is it a "scenario"? We're on a desert island. It's been about two and a half months. You know about time better than me because you obsessively count the days. It may become a year, even ten years.

MAN I have lived by my faith, and I will do the same for the rest of my life.

WOMAN Oh, that faith. So was it by the faith as well that you fell to a desert island?

MAN It doesn't mean I can control my life, but...

WOMAN Was it also by the faith that you have to live alone with a woman like me?

MAN I am not talking about circumstances!

WOMAN Then what?

MAN It's about will, attitude, and belief.
WOMAN Liar! You want your situation to change. How can you say you live by the faith when you are desperately yearning to be rescued?
MAN (calmly) I don't understand. What's wrong with wanting to be rescued and making efforts to be found?

FABLE What he said sounds reasonable and fair.
However many times she thinks it over...
it still does so.

WOMAN Damn you.
MAN ...
WOMAN Damn you!

FABLE The sea has already receded.
On the sea beach,
jagged, rough rocks reveal their ugly shapes.

WOMAN Look at me.

REMEMBRANCE Would I look at her who just insulted me?

WOMAN Look at me please.
MAN No.
WOMAN *Please, Look at me!*
MAN I said no.
WOMAN Why can't you look straight at me?
MAN It's not what I can't do but what I don't do.
WOMAN Why?
MAN I don't need to see you.
WOMAN Can't you do it for me once even if you don't need to?
MAN I don't want to!
WOMAN (turning his face toward her) Please look at me just once!
MAN (forcing her hand away) Why do you behave like this? Why do you make yourself cheap?

REMEMBRANCE When I felt her touch, it was so abhorrent that I got goose bumps.

MAN What on earth did you do before? Have you given up your life? Where were you going?
WOMAN I had a low job! Yes, I gave up my life! I was running away!

FABLE The man goes to the sea on the raft,
paddling hard.
The last glow of the sunset is fading into the dusk.

REMEMBRANCE Was she crying?
No, it didn't seem so.
The dark came fast, and I couldn't see what she was doing.
The day passed like that.

FABLE It was a very dark night
as if the morning would never come again.
In the darkness,
it is always good to let go of everything and sleep.
If someone watches the darkness,
he might feel guilty
as though he witnessed a crime that he shouldn't have.
Because there's no reason for his guilt
he would pity and sympathize the darkness still smudging his body
when the bright morning comes.

FABLE Under the excuse of dazzling sunlight,
the woman closes her eyes.
Then how much time has passed?

MAN Wake up. Drink some coffee.

REMEMBRANCE She got up though she didn't look refreshed.

MAN Sugar, cream, or both? Or black? What would you like?

REMEMBRANCE Under the shade of a tall palm tree,
There was a flimsy table that looked like it was about to fall apart with a
single tap.
We made it together one day.

(WOMAN says nothing but blinks her eyes half-awake.)

MAN That's your response? You're like it's very easy to have a cup of coffee on a
desert island.

WOMAN How disappointing! I thought you'd be so surprised that you would faint.
What are you doing?

(MAN came up to her before she noticed.)

MAN Here's your coffee. Try it. I made is a little strong. (Sticks out his hand
holding an imaginary cup.) Take it. Wow, it smells really good.

WOMAN (blankly looking at him) What are you *doing*?

MAN If you don't want, leave it. I'll drink it myself.

(While MAN carefully brings his imaginary cup to his lips, WOMAN rubs her eyes and stretches
herself.)

WOMAN Have you craved for coffee that much? I was worried that you might be crazy.

FABLE At that moment
the cup in his hand and the aromatic coffee in it

slowly dissolve and vanish into thin air.

MAN Oh boy, I almost drank it...
(suddenly shouts) My coffee is gone because of you. Bring it back to me.
WOMAN Pretending you have something that doesn't exist... is it fun?

FABLE The two of them ignore the fact that the man came back alive from the sea,
as though in agreement.
Even the fresh scratch on his arm doesn't bother them.

REMEMBRANCE She clearly saw my wound
but said nothing.

WOMAN What about the ship? You met it, didn't you?
MAN I said I was going to do that today.
WOMAN You said you'd meet it yesterday.
MAN I said "today."
WOMAN Don't play with words.
MAN I'm not playing with words. We have only *today*, and that's true.
WOMAN Do you even know what you are saying?

REMEMBRANCE I didn't want to get into that kind of argument again.

MAN I don't know, but I don't care.
WOMAN If you don't know the meaning, don't say such a thing so easily.
MAN Don't tell me what to do. I live my day more fiercely than anyone else.
WOMAN You live your day fiercely? Bullshit. You're just wasting your day.
MAN You can think whatever you'd like.

FABLE As the man stays calm, the woman gets angrier.

WOMAN There's no tomorrow. There's *no* such thing called *tomorrow*. You don't even
know this.

MAN Yes, I do.
WOMAN You know? What in the world do you know? Does a person who knows
about it act like this?

MAN What did I do?
WOMAN To *you*, *nothing* here is important. You only care about the things outside.
MAN *Exactly*.

WOMAN That's why you're foolish. Here, you may lose your life in a few hours. Then,
what are they for? What can they do for you?

MAN It's tomorrow that gives me the strength to live today.

WOMAN I said there's *no tomorrow*!

MAN I know.

WOMAN You're an *idiot*. There's no tomorrow, then how can it give you the strength
for today? That doesn't make any sense!

MAN It makes sense to me.

WOMAN Why are you so full of yourself? What's so great about you? What's so *great*
about you that today's never enough for you?

FABLE She feels her insect bites stinging after some sand stuck to them. Sometimes, they are so itchy that she wants to cut them out.

MAN It's not because I'm great but because I'm nothing. Can you just stop crying?

REMEMBRANCE I wanted to drink some water.
What we needed might have been
not today or tomorrow
but just a glass of water.

WOMAN You don't know how fearful tomorrow is to a person who's *really* nothing.
(pauses) The sun rises and sets. Do you know how painful that is to me? It's like feeling a shard of glass moving across your open wound. Time pass like that. But now, that pain is the only true thing left to me.

REMEMBRANCE It was hard to understand what was so painful about her situation.
Did she ever think about mine?
I'd risked my life every day, but I held my tongue.
Yet because I was the only person beside her.
I had to comfort her.

MAN May I ask you something?

FABLE Actually
She has no more energy to fight.
She was too hungry to be all wound up for another round.

(WOMAN nods and loosens up.)

MAN I think airplanes fly...

REMEMBRANCE I will bring up something I've wanted to ask her for some time now.
But she looked like fallen asleep in an instance.

MAN ...fly with dreams.

REMEMBRANCE Is she not listening?

MAN Flying on a plane isn't as easy as riding a car or taking a bus. People should be prepared to spend a large amount of money to get on an airplane. So when they are flying on one, they board it with their dreams. I think you did the same...

REMEMBRANCE I saw a faint smile on her face.
She wasn't sleeping.

MAN What was it? The dream you had with you on the plane.

WOMAN It was the first time...to fly on an airplane.

MAN Really?

WOMAN How provincial.

MAN No. I'm just surprised that you had a plane crash on your very first flight.

WOMAN So am I.

MAN Then the flight was probably more meaningful.

WOMAN Well, I was going to meet someone.

MAN Who?

WOMAN The person I was in love with.

REMEMBRANCE It was an unexpected answer.

MAN Really? Were you actually on your way to see your lover?

WOMAN The one I used to love.

MAN And now?

WOMAN Now, it's you.

MAN How can you change your mind so quickly? It hasn't been that long.

WOMAN What do you mean by that?

MAN You were joking when you said you loved me, weren't you?

WOMAN Why do you take that as a joke?

MAN Let's think about it in common sense. A woman was flying for the first time in her life to meet her lover, but her plane crashed and she fell on a desert island.

WOMAN With a man

MAN Yes, with a man. In that case, does she want to survive and go back to her lover or does she decide to love the guy because she has nothing to do and that man is readily available?

WOMAN It's much easier to love the guy right next to her.

MAN Because it's easier? If you choose the man because it's easy, why did you bother to fly to see your lover at all? Was there no man in your town?

WOMAN I'm not saying I always do that. For now...

(WOMAN can't come up with next words. She is silent for a while.)

WOMAN I'm too shallow, right? No, I'm cheap. (pauses) Is a plane crash common? I have no idea because it was my first time. Does this sort of thing happen often?

MAN It's a rare accident and a terrible disaster.

So we should try hard to overcome.

WOMAN Overcome what?

MAN The misfortune we're facing, this adversity. We must overcome it.

WOMAN Why? Why do we have to do that?

REMEMBRANCE Her question sounded genuine—she really might not comprehend any of that.

I wanted to give her a sincere answer.

MAN Because only after we overcome adversity, we can live the life we've dreamed.

WOMAN (contemplates) To live the life we've dreamed...

MAN You loved a man and dreamed to be with him. Isn't that why you were willing to take the plane despite the distance?

WOMAN Yes. But it didn't come out the way I wished.

MAN If you don't give up on your dream, it'll come true.
 WOMAN No, I don't think it will.
 MAN Why do you give up so quickly?
 WOMAN It's not that I give up. I just got to know about something.
 MAN What is it?
 WOMAN This. Living on a desert island. Have you ever thought about it before? Well, actually I've done it. Wishing to leave annoying things behind and just go to a desert island—who hasn't thought about it at least once? But that's not like this. (feels itchy and starts to scratch her body) Living like this. This isn't what I've wanted. (scratches all over her body and reaches to her scalp—faster and faster) I've never dreamed of this kind of life! Look at this misery! (rubs her body with sands then writhes and rolls on the sands.) In this dreadful place! Not knowing if I'm alive or dead. I've never dreamed of living like this.

(WOMAN becomes like a crazy person. Unable to stand by, MAN grabs her and calms her down.)

WOMAN I...I've tried so hard, I've bitten the bullet just because I wanted to be happy. Now I know. Oh, this is my end.
 MAN No, that's not it. This is just a temporary ordeal.
 WOMAN An ordeal?

FABLE An ordeal?

MAN (seriously) Through an ordeal, we learn something and get trained, and it'll prove its value someday. I think I'm in a test that's the most difficult and severest of my life.

WOMAN What's the test for?
 MAN Definitely for a better life. It could be for becoming a better person.
 WOMAN A better life, a better person.

FABLE A better life, a better person.
 The woman lets the words float in the air and looks at them awhile.

WOMAN You'll be betrayed. (with a bright smile) We both will be betrayed. I'll be rescued by a passing ship despite my wish to live and die in this island, and you'll die here, only dreaming to be rescued.

MAN Are you cursing me?
 WOMAN Why? Can't I? Should I just shut up and take this dirty trick? How come I had to be thrown away to this kind of place? This is not I should live or I should die. Neither I shouldn't live nor I shouldn't die. There's only one option for me. The only choice I'll make by my free will—that I will stay here forever. Even if a ship finds us and rescue, I can say "No, I won't go back. I'll live here." I can choose that. But it's not my choice whether or not I get rescued. This misfortune that came to me—I'll befriend her. Keeping a distance with her, waiting for a chance to get away from her someday—it's dishonorable! This misfortune is the only one who's been standing by me all along. I shouldn't abandon her. Let's say good fortune miraculously comes to me some day. Can I toss out misfortune like an old shoe? The good fortune will ask "Why

do you not welcome me? Why do you not thank me?" Then I'll say like this.
"Do I know you?"

(MAN stays quiet for a while then nods, absorbed in his own thought.)

MAN Nice. Very nice, but don't do that. You think like that because you've gone through too much. When you feel your life has betrayed you, you stop expecting anything in it. When there's no expectation, there's no hurt. That's convenient because all you have to do is just to stay in your situation. Seeing your loved ones die or leave, experiencing a deadly failure, and suffering from an unavoidable disaster... All these will encourage you to give up and lie down where you are. Perhaps, that's natural.

REMEMBRANCE I talked to her as a friend without any criticism.

FABLE Yet the woman can't see him through the eyes of a friend.
On a desert island,
a friend is almost a luxury.

WOMAN I really think...you love me too.

MAN When you think like that, you can justify your giving up.

WOMAN I'm not that calculating.

MAN It's a human instinct. It weakens your will. Do you know all humans have this kind of instinct? No, not only to humans. This instinct is cosmic—it makes you feel weary and sink down. Then you want to just collapse and become nothing. It is the most powerful. We must fight against it.

WOMAN You love me, don't you?

MAN No, I don't. My answer won't change no matter how many times you ask.

WOMAN Why? Why can't you love me?

MAN It's not that I can't love you. I just don't...

WOMAN (yelling) Stop playing games. Just tell me. Say it.

MAN It's too easy!

WOMAN ...

MAN It's too easy—on this island, love can happen when I just say it. (pauses) I say I love you, and I hold you, make love with you... these only need my instincts.

FABLE Why can't love be easy?

Why should people refuse things easy?

The woman can't think about those any more.

Because of hunger,
her brain seems to stop working.

REMEMBRANCE Though we talked much, nothing remained.

Everything was erased
as though a smashing wave had wiped it all away.

(WOMAN, playing with sands, picks out one grain from her palm.)

WOMAN A glittering golden sand. (stretches out her arm) Take it.

(MAN takes the golden sand and licks it.)

MAN 'Cause I am hungry. (stands up) I'll go fishing.

REMEMBRANCE Sometimes,
miserable routine
that means nothing but repetition
saves a collapsing life.
This is much more so when searching for food in a desert island
—it could bring a dramatic change
like a couple's having sex after an argument.
But what is a dramatic change on a desert island?
Just eating is dramatic enough.
This was true there.
And another day passed like that.

FABLE And, again, a few more days go by.
On this island, the track of time is often lost.
It is hard to know how many days have passed.
Time is quite indifferent.
It just passes by.

(No one can be seen, but beastlike cries reverberate through the whole island.)

WOMAN's Voice Did you die? Are you dead? Answer me! Did you really die?
Why don't you come? Why can't you come? Don't you even know a day
passed? You fool! How come you don't know that? Are you really dead, uh? If
you weren't dead, you would always come back. Answer me! If you are dead,
then have your ghost answer me! You must be dead! You died! You
miserable man, You're really dead. Dying in the sea, couldn't you even
become a ghost? Did sharks rip apart your spirit too? Oh, you moron! Alright!
Very well! Well done! You fell over yourself to survive and go out to the sea,
but you just got yourself killed. That serves you right! I told you—that you
would die. See? You are betrayed! Oh, boy, how unfair it is! You left behind
your wife and kids and things to do, but no one can even retrieve your
corpse! You sank. You're gone. Don't you get it? Can't you wake up? Do you
still want to go to the sea again? Answer me! Answer me! You bastard! You
fool! You stupid man! You idiot! Do you really want to die? If you don't, come
back now! Hurry! Hurry up! Listen. You listen to me! If you don't come back
right now, you'll be dead. I, I'll go out to the sea and ... I'll *kill* you! I mean it...
I'll really kill you! You got it?

(A sound like the last moaning of a wild dog)

WOMAN's Voice I really mean it. I'm going to kill you with my hands. I will! Bastard! You jerk!
You bastard...! I will... definitely... kill... kill you... You make your decision. If
you don't wanna die... hurry... If you don't... hurry...

FABLE Complete silence

and complete darkness.
The monotony of the waves is terrifying.

FABLE The beach is filled with the burning heat.
The shadow of the palm tree is not long.
Someone is sitting against the tree by the flimsy table.
He is the man.
The man
still alive.
Under the table
a few coconuts
and the woman.
She lies exhausted like a banana peel.

WOMAN Am I dying?
MAN No.
WOMAN I feel like I am...
MAN Even I didn't die, then why would you?

(WOMAN twists in pain then vomits.)

MAN Good job. Throw it all up.

(WOMAN moans slowly subsides, and she takes a long, deep breathe.)

MAN Sleep. Get some sleep.

REMEMBRANCE My body sank down to somewhere unfathomable .
She slept quite a long time.
Meanwhile, I caught a fish and built a fire.
The shadow of the palm tree lengthened; the sky grew dark;
and the surface of the sea glittered.
The smell of broiling fish permeates the air.
The fire flames were beautiful. They were so mystical that I felt hazy.

WOMAN We...
MAN Oh, you woke up.
WOMAN ...both died...and...
MAN How are you feeling?
WOMAN ...are we in heaven?
MAN Perhaps. (pauses) Isn't this similar to before we died?
WOMAN It won't be bad if death is like this.

(MAN and WOMAN stare at the flames in silence.)

MAN I thought I wasn't afraid of dying but afraid of not living my life to the fullest.
WOMAN ...
MAN But I was wrong.

WOMAN ...
MAN In the complete darkness, where you can't see anything, there was nothing but fear—*only* fear that filled up the darkness. It was so tenacious... that I wished to die.

WOMAN ...
MAN How terrifying it was! My wish to die was even stronger than my wish to survive.
Oh, I really didn't know what to do. I kept thinking "Oh, someone, please shoot me in the head." That was my only wish.

WOMAN ...
MAN I'd never wished to die before no matter how painful my situation was. It was the first time.

WOMAN How could you survive?
MAN It's embarrassing to say, but I was crying because I was so scared. Then... I saw a light.

REMEMBRANCE I saw a light.

WOMAN A light?

FABLE A light?

MAN I think it might have been a hallucination, but anyway, at that moment, I clearly saw the light. I thought it was a ship as soon as I saw it. I paddled with all my strength, and I don't remember anything after that. I really poured all my energy into paddling.

WOMAN What happened then?
MAN When I woke up, I was here.
WOMAN That's amazing.
MAN I'm telling you what I remember but...
WOMAN Wasn't it a dream?
MAN It might have. I thought about that too.
WOMAN Then?
MAN Well... if it was a dream, where did it begin and end?
It's certainly not a dream that I came back here and I'm alive, but...

FABLE The woman draws some nameless shapes in the sands with a twig.

WOMAN Do you wish it were a dream?
MAN What?
WOMAN The light you saw.
MAN What does it matter if I wish it were a dream.
WOMAN It matters with your faith.
MAN My faith?
WOMAN You'd believed the light we saw a month ago was a ship, and you did the same with the light this time. But if that light was really a ship, how could you return to this island?

MAN ...
WOMAN If it was a ship, you should already have been rescued.
MAN ...

REMEMBRANCE My head was crowded with so many thoughts.

MAN You're right.
WOMAN Was the light...the one you'd seen before?
MAN Well...
WOMAN Think about it.

REMEMBRANCE On any account, I couldn't help but think it was the same light.

MAN I think it was pretty similar.
WOMAN Was it?
MAN Yes, it was. (pauses) Then what are we saying?
WOMAN ...
MAN The light I saw last night wasn't a ship, so the one I'd seen before was not a ship either. Correct?

FABLE For the first time,
 the man challenged his own faith.
 That must have been a big change to him but
 his dashing demeanor hides how he feels about it.

MAN Okay, let's think about it again from the beginning. It was in the middle of night. We both couldn't fall asleep so went up to the hill. You found the light first and asked me what it was. When I looked at it, it was some...round... round shape of light on the horizon, moving that way. Is that right?

WOMAN Yes.
MAN Ah!

REMEMBRANCE Something came into my mind.

MAN That night, we had no stars! When we saw the light for the first time, there were no stars, and last night when I was drifting on the sea, I couldn't see any either. So I could hardly find my direction. The light came only on the starless nights. What do you think?

WOMAN Did the stars...fall into the sea and became the light?
MAN Please be serious. (pauses) The light, if it wasn't a ship, what do you think it was?
WOMAN Why do you ask me?
MAN Just think about it.
WOMAN I'm not interested.

FABLE It's not the time she should feel shy,
 but she *does*.
 Yet the man's mind has no room to notice her shyness.

WOMAN If you are that curious, you could wait and check every starless night. (takes a bite of the fish) It's good. Have some.

REMEMBRANCE I ate the fish, but I didn't notice any taste.

And I couldn't sleep at all that night.
Despite all these,
that day passed.

After that, days followed, all of which I don't even want to recall.
I didn't even care whether it was day or night.
But no matter how hard I ignored time,
I couldn't escape from its law.

(Nights and days alternate, and a night comes.)

MAN What are you doing still up?
WOMAN I just can't sleep. And you?
MAN You know, I used to stay up on the raft during these hours, and that has
 become my habit.

FABLE The woman is about to ask if he wants to go out to the sea again,
 but she holds back.

MAN Why do people come to the sea when they feel burdened?
WOMAN Well...
MAN (as if talking to himself) Probably because they don't know the sea.
WOMAN What do you think the sea is?
MAN Death.

FABLE A similar word
 had just come into the woman's mind before he spoke.

MAN Death...as the exchange for hope

FABLE But for some reason, she can't stand he says such a word.

WOMAN What happened to it?
MAN To what?
WOMAN (interrogating him) Your faith.
MAN ...
WOMAN (presses on him harder) The assurance of things hoped for!
MAN ...I'd better get some sleep. 'Night.

REMEMBRANCE I was exhausted.
 As if I'd lived out my life, at that time,
 I only felt exhausted.

FABLE Around this time,
 perhaps, the woman has been waiting for the light.
 She does that only occasionally
 because she doesn't have strong faith in it.
 No one would notice she waits for the light
 since all she does is to look at the dark sea at night.

Perhaps,
someone will understand that
when a wish is too strong
it stays hidden as though it is not a wish.

REMEMBRANCE Then one day she disappeared.
No, I *'thought'* she had disappeared.

FABLE She is in the sea,
half her body submerged.

REMEMBRANCE Had she ever been that far out before?

(WOMAN tries to spear a fish but comes up empty-handed each time.)

MAN (curtly) You watch them first and then try.
WOMAN Watch? What do I watch?
MAN Which is fast and which is slow.
WOMAN (looking in the water) The fast ones and the slow ones?
MAN You'll see.
WOMAN Come on, just tell me.

FABLE The man looks at her hands carefully for the first time.

REMEMBRANCE I had never seen hands with that many scars before.

MAN the small ones are fast and the big ones are slow.
WOMAN OK. What else? What else should I know?
MAN They can't go backwards.
WOMAN Backwards? Fish can't swim backwards? Wow, I didn't know that. So, they
can swim forwards and... what about going to the side?
MAN They turn.
WOMAN (trying to mimic a fish) Going forward, turning to the side, and?
MAN And what?
WOMAN Tell me more. How do I spear it?
MAN (grudgingly) You anticipate how they'll move.
WOMAN How they move? How do you anticipate that?
MAN You need to calculate how far the fish will go in the time between when you
aim, and when the spear hits it.
WOMAN (aside) Is that possible? How do you do that? It sounds difficult. Well,
anyway-then? I calculate the distance and then what?
MAN Then what what? You hit the target.
WOMAN Oh, I see... By the way, do I throw the spear or stab with it?
MAN You hold the spear and stab the fish.
WOMAN Wouldn't it be faster to throw it?
MAN (abruptly raising his voice) Would you make sense? Do you want to catch
the fish, or play hide and seek with them?
WOMAN OK, OK. I'll stab them. (aside) Why is he angry?

REMEMBRANCE It looks like she really was going to fish.

(WOMAN readies position herself to stab.)

FABLE She is slow and clumsy with her spear.

REMEMBRANCE It was boring.

(WOMAN grunts as she stabs the water, the spear slipping again and again.
She pants when she retrieves it, and yells when she goes to aim.)

REMEMBRANCE Those sounds she made... they got on my nerves.

FABLE The man's eyes have already been closed, but the woman's eyes have become more intent.

REMEMBRANCE I should at least tell her to take a break.

(WOMAN sticks the water with her spear.)

WOMAN Ah! I almost got one. Anyway, I've gotten faster, haven't I?

REMEMBRANCE That was true – she had become faster. It seemed she might even catch one sooner or later.

MAN (observing her) Well, look at you.

WOMAN What?

MAN Why are you doing this all of a sudden?

WOMAN No reason. I just want to catch some fish.

MAN You want to fish..., why?

WOMAN Well... I want to eat some more.

(MAN chuckles, then bursts into laughter)

WOMAN Why are you laughing?

MAN You don't think I am reliable any more, do you?

WOMAN What? What do you mean?

MAN You're trying to fish because you think you'd eventually die if you relied on a man like me, aren't you?

WOMAN Do you think that I've ever relied on you?

REMEMBRANCE (brooding) Did I think... she'd ever relied on me?

MAN Now I see you are quite the hypocrite. Weren't you not doing anything because you relied on me?

WOMAN Oh! You took my doing nothing *that way*.

Why don't you listen? I was clear that I would live and die on this island.

MAN Then what is this for?

WOMAN I told you, I'd like to have some more fish. Why are you arguing with me?

You're acting like your pride has been wounded. But then, I guess...
didn't it turn out your faith is useless?
MAN You made it that way.
WOMAN I did? How?
MAN Haven't you been desperately pushing me away from my faith?
WOMAN Well, Yes! Because it sounded foolish.
But it wasn't *me* that made it disappear. How would I be able to do that?
MAN You manipulated me. It was you who convinced me that the light wasn't a
ship. How can you prove that, even though you have no idea what it is.
WOMAN That's what you think? Alright, go! Go out to sea! I won't stop you, so do
whatever you want. *Go!*
MAN Great! We agree! No matter what you said, I was going to leave anyway. Did
you think I would be happy wasting my life on this fucking island? I would
rather be swept away by the waves than live with a woman like you!
There's nothing more pathetic than staying here fishing with that stupid
spear forever!

FABLE The spear hit the ground right in front of the man's foot.

WOMAN Leave right now! And don't ever come back.
Even *if* you meet a ship and get rescued.
The moment you step out of that helicopter gloating, my spear will be in
your foot. Got it?

(MAN pulls the spear out of the ground and points it at her.
Then he step by step approaches her)

FABLE Like a lion that has finally found his prey
after losing all his cubs at the end of a long starvation –
his face was sad
and dreadful.

(WOMAN steps back)

REMEMBRANCE Her lips were dry.
Hot, rough, and exhausted, the two breaths mixed.
We tangled up collapsing onto the sand.
We could no longer stand the moment without joining our bodies.

FABLE The woman, for the first time, can feel that the man loves her.
But her heart aches more than ever.
His love was...
despair.

FABLE How many days have passed?
The scenery of the beach has changed a little.
Can this be called 'civilization'?
A rope tied between the trees, fish hanging from it at even intervals.

REMEMBRANCE We had some sort of seaweed there to dry as well, preserving it for later.
I had used spare moments to twist vines and thin branches together to make
the ropes.
She came back after she hadn't shown up for a long while.

MAN Well hey there, where have you been?
WOMAN I went to take some pictures...

REMEMBRANCE Her joke was silly.

WOMAN ... of this island, here and there. I've gotten rather attached to it.

MAN

WOMAN Do you like having your picture taken?

MAN Not really.

WOMAN But there are some occasions that call for it.

MAN In those cases, I acquiesce.

WOMAN Then, let's take a picture of us.

REMEMBRANCE She kept dragging out her dull joke.

WOMAN What's left if we don't have a photo?

MAN Well, you might manufacture a camera last night, eh?

WOMAN I know other way to take a picture.

MAN Oh yeah?

WOMAN A camera was invented as imitation of the human eye, right? Clicking a
shutter is the same as blinking your eyes. All we have to do... is blink.

(MAN laugh indulgently)

WOMAN Are you laughing at me? It really works!

MAN Hey, you were cynical when I tried to drink my coffee.

WOMAN This is different. It's real.

(MAN laugh again)

WOMAN Okay, I'm taking your picture. One, two...

MAN (instinctively turning his face away) Please don't.

WOMAN (laughs) See? This is real.

(MAN laughs with her)

FABLE Blink!

WOMAN There, I did it. I took your picture.

MAN You look pretty now.

WOMAN Really? Then, could you take my picture?

REMEMBRANCE Bliiii-ink!

MAN OK.
WOMAN Are you going to keep it?
MAN I should. (pauses)
It was like a graduation photo.
WOMAN Graduation... it could be.
MAN Aren't you scared?
WOMAN About what?
MAN Our voyage.

FABLE A great wave surges in the distance.
as though wanting to emphasize the word, 'voyage'
and make it more present.

MAN I've been waiting for a chance to express how grateful I am to you. After you learn to fish, we were able to stockpile food, with what we've saved so far, we could probably survive for a week at sea. It's clear that surplus truly does give rise to civilization. Thanks to you, our new plan has a better chance of success.

REMEMBRANCE Is the absence of her response due to anxiety?

MAN (gaze fixed on a distance point far out to sea) One week... yeah, we could last at least a week. If a big storm doesn't come, we would definitely meet a ship sooner or later, right?

WOMAN ...
MAN You still feel scared, don't you?
But once you are out on the water, it isn't that scary. All you'll think about is rowing as hard as you can.

WOMAN ...
MAN Oh, but I won't ask you to row. Don't worry about it. I can handle it.
You just take good care of yourself so you don't get dehydrated.

WOMAN ...
MAN Finally, it's tomorrow. Now, the raft is fixed and we're all set.
What do you think? You're ready too, aren't you?

WOMAN ...
MAN I just hope that the wind will be on our side.
Actually it doesn't matter if we don't sail straight. Sail to leeward, wherever the wind leads us...

REMEMBRANCE Blah, blah, blah.

WOMAN ...

REMEMBRANCE It was embarrassing to keep talking without getting a response.

WOMAN A few days ago...

REMEMBRANCE That's how she opened her mouth. With "A few days ago."

MAN A few days ago, and...?

(Again, WOMAN forgets words for a while.)

WOMAN A GLOWINGWHALE came.
MAN What?
WOMAN A GLOWINGWHALE came.
MAN What came?
WOMAN A GLOWINGWHALE.
MAN A glowing whale? A whale that glows?
WOMAN The GLOWINGWHALE keeps its light inside. It doesn't glow outwardly, but
 it's filled with light. You can see its insides are brimming with light.
MAN Where did you see this?
WOMAN (after a while) In a dream.

FABLE She answers that it was a dream.

MAN Ah, in a dream.

REMEMBRANCE It was because she answered it had been a dream.

WOMAN But how did I know its name, GLOWINGWHALE? As soon as I saw it, I knew
 it was a GLOWINGWHALE.

REMEMBRANCE Because of that...

WOMAN It was night,
 the GLOWINGWHALE came,
 and I rode on it.
 We started swimming and then...
 Suddenly I was rising in to the sky.
 It was so scared that I couldn't breathe. My eyes shut with fear. But the
 GLOWINGWHALE keep flying higher and higher. I thought "Oh, something
 must be done. I'd rather dive into the sea," and opened my eyes.
 I saw another GLOWINGWHALE. But then,
 no, not just 'another': there were many,
 all flying together.

REMEMBRANCE Because of that, the only thing I could think was that, as always, it's boring to
 listen to someone else's dream.

WOMAN Why did I see it in a dream?

REMEMBRANCE Besides I couldn't get what she was talking about.

WOMAN It came to *you* as a real thing. So why did it come to *me* in a dream?

REMEMBRANCE I couldn't even understand what she was asking.

WOMAN It's unfair.

REMEMBRANCE What does she think is unfair?

WOMAN I mean the light.
MAN The light?

REMEMBRANCE The light. That's it. The damned light.

FABLE He had almost finished untangling the thread of her words.

MAN So what you're saying, is that the light we'd seen together, and I saw again,
was..., (waits for answer, then continues)
a GLOWINGWHALE?

REMEMBRANCE Perhaps, it was that moment.
At that moment I could've cried because
I had a chance to say anything after I'd called it by its name,
the GLOWINGWHALE.
But I just let that moment pass by.

MAN (a piece of a smile on his face) A GLOWINGWHALE...
Well, you can say that. It's a good sign. Perhaps, doesn't it mean the
GLOWINGWHALE wants to guide us in our voyage?

WOMAN It was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen in my life.
That's why I couldn't get off even though I was frightened.

MAN (holding her) Thank you for your auspicious dream.

WOMAN Yes, it was a dream. It wasn't real but a dream.
I don't know if it was a good dream. But...
(gently extracting herself from his arm)
Even if someone else has left behind his old, ragged despair,
I can't take it as my own.
Let alone if it's a dream.

REMEMBRANCE All of a sudden it felt like she'd become a stranger.

WOMAN It is *my* dream.

REMEMBRANCE Something was going wrong.

WOMAN I'm meant to follow her.
MAN Follow? Where?
WOMAN Goodbye.
You go to the end – Make sure that you don't tire yourself out.
Because I'd like to know what's at the end of the path you take.

MAN What are you talking about now?

WOMAN I will tell you, too, what is at the end of my path.

MAN What *are* you *talking* about? You said it was a dream! Wake up!

WOMAN I mean, if, by any chance, we happen to meet again someday.

MAN You told me it was a dream! A dream is just a dream! GLOWING-
WHALE doesn't exist.

WOMAN She is coming. I'm leaving with the GLOWINGWHALE.

MAN Are you crazy? We decided to leave together tomorrow!
Please be patient for one more night. Trust me. Why do you keep talking
nonsense?

WOMAN I won't be ashamed that I loved you.

MAN This is real. We are leaving together by the raft. That's what is real!

REMEMBRANCE As though
 hiding behind a veil,
 she crouched.
 Winds were blowing.
 Though it was my delusion,
 I felt anxious from the image of her turning into a fossil.

MAN Answer me. You're going with me, right?

FABLE The woman only hears the voices of the winds
 and of the waves.

MAN Answer me – That you'll go with me!

REMEMBRANCE Music that came from nowhere...

FABLE ...is slowly collecting.
 To the woman's ankles, knees, chest... up to her chin,

REMEMBRANCE ...the music rises
 like water.

MAN Please come with me. Okay? Please say we'll go together! Don't believe in
that kind of dream!
Never again will we be this terrified and frightened. This is the first and last
time. Let's go together! We're certain to make it! We *will* make it! Not in a
dream but for real!
Now, answer me – That you are going with me!

FABLE The music is waving.
 Into the invisible and inaudible music...

REMEMBRANCE The woman sank completely.
 She couldn't hear anything, no matter how hard I cried out.

FABLE Like this : when these two are in a space where they are strangely
 disconnected,
 the dark comes, rushing
 like the bliss of an excited groom who can't delay.

REMEMBRANCE I never would have believed
 there was such deep, bottomless darkness.

Yet, even though nobody could believe me,
because the night was that dark,
too dark,
no one was able to recognize their own existence.
And.....

FABLE The GLOWINGWHALE is coming.

REMEMBRANCE The GLOWINGWHALE came.
With the GLOWINGWHALE...

FABLE Together with the GLOWINGWHALE
the woman leaves.

REMEMBRANCE She left, together.
The image was as if...

FABLE As if she is walking into the light.

REMEMBRANCE A womb of light.
Tremendous.

FABLE Into a womb,

REMEMBRANCE A womb of light,

FABLE Walking into the womb of light.

REMEMBRANCE The woman was walking into it.

(REMEMBRANCE and MAN, and FABLE and WOMAN all disappeared.)

REMEMBRANCE's VOICE

This is how,
though to some,
it now sounds like a made-up story that won't be forgotten,
the day...
.....
passed.

(REMEMBRANCE appears again)

REMEMBRANCE If we take a picture
of a person's face every day of his life,
and if we hang those tens of thousands of photos
on the inner wall of a tallest high-rise tower,
we may file up to the top of its winding staircase
and race down with indescribable fear in our hearts
not understanding how and where his face truly changed.

Where does everyone go in such haste?
In the city center filled with people,
all of a sudden these photos crossed my mind
Then I caught my reflection in a shop window.
I *am* very old.
When I turned to continue on my way -

(GIRL passes by REMEMBRANCE)

REMEMBRANCE Excuse me!
GIRL Yes?

(GIRL turns around.
Her eyes meet his.
She is a young and beautiful.)

REMEMBRANCE (aside) Her clear, dark eyes
bring me back the fear I had on the vast sea.
GIRL Perhaps, did you mean me?

(REMEMBRANCE hesitates.)

GIRL How can I help you?
REMEMBRANCE May I ask you a question?
GIRL Please do.
REMEMBRANCE Perhaps..., have you ever seen a GLOWINGWHALE?

(GIRL's eyes get bigger and she smiles charmingly.)

GIRL A glowing whale? Is that a whale that glows?
REMEMBRANCE (excited) Yes! You know the GLOWINGWHALE! Didn't you follow the
GLOWINGWHALE? No, didn't you go into the GLOWINGWHALE?

(GIRL smiles more brightly as if she thinks this is all very interesting)

REMEMBRANCE It was a very, extremely dark night, without a star!

REMEMBRANCE (aside) Suddenly, I realize I am talking nonsense.

REMEMBRANCE Well, perhaps..., in a dream...

(GIRL bursts out laughing as if he were a baby being cute.)

GIRL I'd like to see it, even if only in a dream. I wish I had, but I haven't.
Well, then.

(GIRL bobs her head and walks away
For a long time, REMEMBRANCE looks at the spot where she disappeared.)

REMEMBRANCE I stood here a very long time.

So long that I forgot I'd met a beautiful young woman.
And in this way, here, another day
is passing.

-The End-



*Translated from the Korean by Jooweon Park
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