



FRAMEMY MIND

BY WENDY WIND





Perspective is everything as two city goers experience an almost parallel day with completely contrasted outcomes.



Frame Of Mind

By

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EXT. CITY - MORNING

The city is rustling with the busy as mid-morning approaches. People walk around, almost mindlessly, all caught up with their own life.

INT. STORE - CONTINUOUS

PESSIMISM (30s), a man wearing sleek business attire walks towards the exit of the building as he puts on his FEDORA.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK: FRONT OF STORE - CONTINUOUS

PESSIMISM steps outside, coming to a temporary halt after exiting the store. He looks around the city in displeasure.

In front of him he notices a HOMELESS WOMAN with an OLD BROWN COAT over her head and chest.

Rats bustle around the city, crawling into the gutters.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)

Rats.

(beat)

Repulsive, vile creatures. They even outnumber the trash in this city.

Pessimism lets out a scoff as he begins to walk the city.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)

"Where are we going?"

(beat)

"What is this little game we play?", is that what *they* think?

He notices an OLD MAN with tattered clothing, peeing on the wall. The Old Man's back turned to Pessimism.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)

Can't imagine much else going on in their brains.

Pessimism stops and makes a face of disgust.

The Old Man turns around, locking eyes with Pessimism. He has the face of a RAT.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)

What *animals* we have become.

Pessimism rolls his neck and upturns his jacket collar, as though shielding himself from the Old Man.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK: IN FRONT OF BAR - MOMENTS LATER

CROWS soar above the city.

PESSIMISM looks more disheveled than a moment ago. He glumly walks the city streets.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
Crows occupy the skies, bringing
with them sickness, fear and a
lingering unease. Bad omens. It's
all these people see.

Two individuals stumble along the sidewalk. A MAN (20s) and WOMAN (20s), clearly in love, playfully shove one another around as they walk.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
Look at them, bumping into one
another as though only they get to
occupy the space around them.

Pessimism glares at the approaching couple. The Woman shoves the Man, who bumps into Pessimism accidentally.

The Man immediately gestures an apology to Pessimism and casually moves on along with his lover.

Pessimism continues to glare at the couple that has already forgotten him. As they move on with their lives, Pessimism lingers with unease.

His gaze drifts to the bar.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
It's enough to make me *need* a
drink.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

The bar door opens as a bell RINGS loudly. The bar door closes shortly after.

PESSIMISM walks past several chairs before taking a seat. A couple chairs down, a BAR PATRON (late 20s) has a single finger up as the BARTENDER (40s) pours him a half-glass.

(CONTINUED)

The Bar Patron has a LAPTOP. He is dressed in a button down shirt with his tie slightly undone. He has bags under his eyes and seems to be displeased.

The Bartender draws his attention to Pessimism who holds up two fingers and points at a liquor bottle on the shelf. The Bartender nods.

He grabs the bottle and proceeds to give him a shot filled to the top of the glass.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
O~h, life's jokes.

Pessimism's glare lingers on the full glass for a moment before looking up at the Bartender.

He tries to protest but the Bartender is already deep into conversation with the other Bar Patron.

Pessimism's gaze is locked onto the Bartender. The Bartender's face has turned into the face of a Rat.

Pessimism's patience wanes.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK: IN FRONT OF BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Garbage blows in the wind from an overturned trash can.

PESSIMISM walks down the sidewalk, furious at his experience at the bar. His clothing is dirtier and he looks more unkempt than before.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
This city's become a wasteland.

Pessimism tramples over all of the trash as he walks. The shot glass from the bar at hand.

He takes a swing of the shot and tosses it off carelessly. The shot glass shatters over the building wall near the toppled over trash can.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
Shattered dreams have become as plentiful and disposable as the trash in the wind.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK: ALLEYWAY - AFTERNOON

PESSIMISM has a look of dispassion on his face as he gazes into a dark alleyway.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
We've come so far...

In the alleyway, two thugs have a distressed VICTIM backed into a corner. The BULKY THUG (30s) cracks the victim over the face with a right hook.

The LITTLE THUG (20s) picks the victim up off the ground for another whoopin'.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
...only to end up back at the
beginning.

Pessimism takes a couple steps forward to get a better look at the brawl.

The two Thugs turn their attention to Pessimism. They both have the faces of rats.

The Bulky Thug holds the half-beat to death Victim in his grip. He gestures to Pessimism to keep on walking.

EXT. CITY PARK - AFTERNOON

Children are running around playing in a park.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
A new Genesis -

PESSIMISM sits at a bench.

A BOY (9) knocks down a GIRL (7) while playing. The girl starts to cry. The Boy stands over her for a moment before running away.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
- with the same old sins.

Pessimism stands up and leaves the park.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER

PESSIMISM walks down the city street, looking defeated and tattered. He is lost in his mind.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
Replay.

FLASHBACK

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK: ALLEYWAY - AFTERNOON

The VICTIM from Pessimism's earlier encounter hosts the look of fear in his eyes. He is fumbling with his wallet.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
Replay.

PESSIMISM looks startled as he watches helplessly.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
Replay.

Pessimism chooses to walk away from the mugging.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

PESSIMISM shakes his head trying to push away the memory.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
Why do we replay the memories in
our minds over and over again?

For the first time he looks more pained than angry. He looks into the distance to see no people around.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
Are we fooling ourselves to believe
we'll find a better future within
our worn out past?

Pessimism takes off an OLD BROWN COAT and slowly sits down on the ground.

He clutches the coat tightly and looks around, taking notice of a rat near the alleyway.

The reality of Pessimism's world view has finally sunk in.

(CONTINUED)

He gets into a fetal position and takes the hood of his coat and puts it over his head.

PESSIMISM (V.O.)
What a numb feeling. To be left
with only where we belong.

The hood covers everything, as though locking Pessimism within a makeshift prison.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK: FRONT OF STORE - MORNING

The hood of an OLD BROWN COAT is taken off of the head of a homeless woman, who is revealed to be OPTIMISM (20s).

She raises her head just in time to notice a RICH MAN wearing a sleek business attire walking away.

She looks down in front of her and notices a \$10 bill.

Her hand slowly drops down to her side. The hand lands on a flower that was resting next to Optimism.

She picks up the flower and puts it behind her ear. With an obviously failed attempt to smile, Optimism stands up.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)
Flowers.
(beat)
Beautiful, quiet beings. If you
look closely, you'll find some at
just about every corner of this
city.

The \$10 bill from the floor is gone. There is a flower noticeably in every corner of the city.

The flowers move peacefully with the wind.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)
"Where are we going?"
(beat)
"What is this little game we play",
is that what *they* feel?

As she takes notice of the beauty surrounding her, she grows a far more genuine smile across her face.

Optimism notices a tattered OLD MAN peeing on the wall. His back is turned to Optimism. She looks to the Old Man, remorseful of what she sees.

(CONTINUED)

Optimism stops and looks to the Old Man with compassion. The Old Man turns his head and locks eyes with her.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)
Can't imagine the pain resting in
their hearts...

He carries the expression of hopelessness across his withered face. His chest glows a bright blue color.

People are walking past the Old Man without drawing any attention to him as he loses his balance and falls over. Not a single person bends down to assist him.

Optimism takes notice of nobody helping the Old Man up. She is disappointed.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)
What *animals* we have become.

Optimism walks up to the Old Man and helps him up on his feet.

She gives the Old Man a caring smile. The Old Man smirks back weakly.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK: IN FRONT OF BAR - MOMENTS LATER

DOVES are flying around the city skies.

OPTIMISM is examining the birds. Her clothing and hair appear to be less tattered than before.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)
Doves inhabit the skies, bringing
with them freedom, love and a
unending melody. Purity. I just
wish more people could see...

Two individuals stumble along the sidewalk. A MAN and WOMAN, clearly in love, playfully shove one another around as they walk.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)
Look at them, blissfully dancing
with one another as they share the
space between them.

Optimism looks at the approaching couple. The Man shoves the Woman, who bumps into Optimism accidentally.

The Woman immediately gestures an apology to Optimism. Optimism accepts the apology.

(CONTINUED)

The Woman has a yellow glow over her chest. Optimism takes off the flower from behind her ear and hands it to the Woman.

The Woman puts the flower behind her ear as the couple move on along blissfully with their day.

Optimism continues to awe over the couple.

A BAR PATRON stumbles out of the bar door. He is intoxicated.

He trips over his own footing and drops the LAPTOP in his hands. It breaks over the concrete.

The Bar Patron is torn apart over his broken laptop. His chest radiates a blue glow.

Optimism looks to the Bar Patron with an eagerness to help.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)

This man looks like he *needs* a drink.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

A GLASS OF WATER is slid across the bar counter by the BARTENDER. The Bartenders chest glowing a yellow color.

OPTIMISM reaches over and grabs the glass of water. She hands it over to the BAR PATRON. The radiating blue light on his chest turns yellow as he drinks.

Optimism proudly watches the Bar Patron chug the glass of water. As he finishes up, she meets him with a caring smile.

Optimism reaches into her pocket and takes out a \$10 bill. She slides it over to the Bartender. The Bartender graciously accepts the tip.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK: IN FRONT OF BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Garbage blows in the wind from an overturned trash can.

OPTIMISM walks down the sidewalk, satisfied with the initiative she took at the bar. Her clothes exude a brilliant sheen, reflective of her positive perspective.

Optimism takes the issue of the trash into her own hands and begins to pick up the trash.

(CONTINUED)

She picks up a few pieces of paper. As she sifts from one piece of paper to another, her smile becomes warmer.

She holds in her hands a kids crumbled up drawing of an Astronaut with the Moon behind them. The drawings says "ONE DAY I WILL WALK ON THE MOON".

She shuffles to the next sheet. On the paper it says "BUCKET LIST" with only one of the items scratched off.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)

This city's full of shattered
dreams.

She continues to pick up the trash from the ground and tries to fix up all of the papers, as though attempting to restore the cities lost dreams.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)

Dreams are not to be disposed of.
They are to be cherished. Watered,
as though they were a flower ready
to blossom.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK: ALLEYWAY - AFTERNOON

OPTIMISM looks hurt as she peers into a dark alleyway.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)

Every new beginning...

In the alleyway, two thugs have a distressed VICTIM backed into a corner. The BULKY THUG (30s) cracks the victim over the face with a right hook.

The LITTLE THUG (20s) picks the victim up off the ground for another whoopin'.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)

...is an opportunity to create a
better outcome.

Optimism takes a couple steps forward to get a better look at the brawl.

The two Thugs turn their attention to Optimism. They both carry a blue glow on their chest.

The Bulky Thug holds the half-beat to death Victim in his grip. He looks to Optimism and gestures for her to keep walking.

Optimism firmly shakes her head 'No'.

EXT. CITY PARK - AFTERNOON

Children are running around playing in a park.

OPTIMISM sits at a bench.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)
A new Genesis -

A BOY (9) knocks down a GIRL (7) while playing. The girl starts to cry. The Boy stands over her for a moment before running away.

Optimism looks on at the children. The Boy runs back to the Girl and kneels down. He rips open a band aid that he brought for her.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)
- with all the usual charities.

Optimism's eyes become glossy, watching the display of kindness before her. She stands up to leave the park.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER

OPTIMISM walks down the city street, looking motivated and stunning. She exudes a richness, inside and out.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)
Replay.

FLASHBACK

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK: ALLEYWAY - AFTERNOON

The BULKY THUG looks over to the LITTLE THUG and gestures for the both of them to take off.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)
Replay.

OPTIMISM runs to the VICTIM as the two Thugs leave.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)
Replay.

She picks up the Victim's wallet off the ground, then proceeds to helping them up.

As Optimism picks them up off the ground, a yellow glow is visible on the Victims chest.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

OPTIMISM nods her head, proudly nodding as she recalls her memory.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)
Why do we replay the memories in
our heads over and over again?

Optimism looks up into the sky. She see's the moon. She happily closes her eyes.

OPTIMISM (V.O.)
Do we linger on them, hoping to
find something new within the old?
(beat)
Isn't the future enough?

Optimism opens her eyes.

She looks off to the corner of the street and sees a man sitting in a fetal position with an OLD BROWN COAT's hood over his head.

The hood covers everything, as though locking the man within a makeshift prison.

Optimism walks over to the man. She slowly removes the hood that is covering his face to reveal PESSIMISM.

Pessimism looks at her with a somber expression. On his chest, Optimism sees an intense blue glow.

She stands up. Pessimism looks up to her.

Optimism stretches her hand out to help him up.

Pessimism hesitates for a moment --

OPTIMISM (V.O.)
What a transcendent feeling. To
have finally found where we belong.

-- then he reaches out to accept her hand.

END.