

Seed: Exploration of ideals and death.

OVER HERE

The voice is SADIE, a young white woman.

SADIE (VO)
My name is Sadie, and I'm a ghost.

FADE IN:

EXT. CITY APARTMENT BUILDING ROOF - NIGHT

Sadie sits with her feet dangling over the edge. Light snow falls. Circling from her back to front reveals a muscular, shaved-bald androgynous Chinese person (WU), dressed too lightly, behind her.

WU
(speaks in layered voices)
What are you doing, Sadie?

SADIE
(angry)
What the hell does it look like I'm doin', Wu?

WU
(slight smile)
What have you been doing, Sadie?

SADIE
(tears start to fall)
Don't you know? You always seem to. I've been doin' what we talked about. It's hard. Really hard.

WU
I know.

SADIE (VO)
Wu's been my only friend over here. I think he's an angel, but he won't say. He showed up after . . . after I died. Well, not right after.

Maybe I should start earlier. So you understand what happened a little better.

INT. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY (FLASHBACK SEQUENCE)

High school co-ed gymnasts are at practice. Sadie stretches on a mat. Next to her another young lady (AMY) does the same. They watch a young black man (GERALD) on the rings.

AMY

One of the benefits of being on this team, I'd have to say.

SADIE

(embarrassed)

That's not why I'm here.

AMY

(mischievous)

But he IS hot. And you DO like him.

Sadie nods and smiles, and both women laugh. Gerald finishes his practice routine and dismounts. He wipes sweat off his face and looks over at the women, smiling as they look away.

INT. SCHOOL HALLS - LATER

Practice is over, and gymnasts head out. Gerald, dressed and cleaned up, approaches Sadie and Amy as they talk.

GERALD

(nervous)

Hi, Amy. Uh . . . hey, Sadie.

AMY

Hi!

SADIE

Hey, Gerald.

GERALD

So, Sadie, uh, you think we could, like, go out? Or something? Maybe?

Amy smiles and nudges Sadie.

SADIE

(smiles)

Yep.

MONTAGE - GERALD AND SADIE

SADIE (VO)

He asked like there was a chance I'd say no. So crazy. Gerald was willing to go with me to art museums. Bring me flowers and stuff like that. He'd call at two in the mornin' on a Friday, after we'd just been out 'til twelve.

- A) Sadie and Gerald at an art museum. She describes the works to him. He poses like an angel in one of the paintings. They leave the museum, holding hands. Leaves fall from the autumn trees under a cloudy sky.
- B) In an orange VW Bug, Gerald arrives a Sadie's house in the evening. He's dressed warmly, and the trees are bare. He has flowers. An older woman (Sadie's MAMA) smokes on the porch. She hugs Gerald and lets him in the house.
- C) At night, Gerald and Sadie drive up to her house in the VW. The porch light is on, but the house dark. They're dressed for spring. Leaves are back on the trees.

INT. SADIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sadie sleeps in a room decorated, partly, for a younger girl. The clock reads 2:01 AM. Her smart phone vibrates, and she awakens and answers it.

SADIE

Hi. What's up? It's late . . . or early.

GERALD (on phone)

I just wanted to hear your voice.

SADIE

Here it is.

GERALD

Did you know I love you?

SADIE

I figured it out. Ditto.

CONTINUED

GERALD
(laughs)
Nice!

SADIE
(playful)
I mean, I love you, too.

GERALD
No school. Wanna go to the lake tomorrow?

SADIE
How 'bout now?

GERALD
Miss DeWitt! What would your parents say?

SADIE
Nothin', because I won't wake 'em up by trying to find my suit. I'll have to do without. You in, or what, Mister Carver?

The conversation continues under the voiceover.

SADIE (VO)
Thinkin' about it still makes my insides melt. It got so we couldn't stand bein' apart for too long. So, we moved into a one bedroom in the city. You know, old as dirt, hardwood floors, doubled as a bug motel.

Gerald took an electrician's apprenticeship, claimin' he was savin' for school. I was in community college, studyin' art, about ready to transfer to university. My job at the art-supply shop down the street from the apartment filled the cash gaps financial aid didn't.

My parents didn't approve, really, but they loved me enough to keep that to themselves.

EXT. SADIE'S PARENTS' HOUSE - DAY

Sadie drives up in the orange VW. Her MAMA smokes as she sits on the porch. Mama stands as Sadie walks up. They hug.

MAMA

(taking the cigarette out halfway through)
Hi, baby girl. How's that handsome beau of yours?
Why didn't he come?

SADIE

He's fine, mama. Overtime on a corporate job.
Where's daddy?

MAMA

Sadie, it's Sunday. Where do you think that
man is?

INT. SADIE'S PARENTS' LIVING ROOM - SAME

Sadie smiles as she walks in the house. Her DADDY sleeps in an old recliner in the front room. He's wearing clothes no one would wear outside the house. A football game plays on the TV. Sadie picks up the remote and changes the channel.

DADDY

(waking)
Hey, I was watchin' that. Change it back.

SADIE

Through your eyelids?

Sadie smiles and changes the channel back. Then she jumps in the recliner. Daddy hugs her, and she kisses him on the cheek.

DADDY

You're too big and I'm too old for sharin' this
chair. Or is it the other way around?

SADIE

(smiles)
Neither. Especially those parts about me.
Maybe not those parts about you, though, now that
I think about it.

CONTINUED

Sadie pats her dad's belly. She moves to the couch. They sit silently for a time.

DADDY
Sadie, somethin's been worrying me.

SADIE
What?

DADDY
(hesitant)
You've been with Gerald a good while now. You know I love you, and I'm happy with him as long as you are.

SADIE
(frowns)
Jeez, daddy. I thought we were past this.

DADDY
Now, don't start in on me.

SADIE
Daddy!

DADDY
Listen. I can see where this is goin' with you two. I was young once, and I'm just worried for you, is all. And maybe for my gran'kids. Not everyone is like your ol' dad.

SADIE
This isn't when you were young, daddy. Mama loves Gerald, too.

DADDY
I know. I know. Gerald's good to you. I know. Just be careful, darlin'.

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - NIGHT

SADIE (VO)

I hate funerals. Too sad. Everyone knew I wanted to be cremated, at least. I was too messed up for an open casket anyway.

Sadie stands in the aisle among the pews, invisible to everyone else. Amy and Gerald are sitting beside each other, near Mama. Daddy speaks at the podium. A picture of Sadie stands nearby, behind a low-cost urn on a table.

DADDY

Thank you, Amy, for lovin' Sadie since you were little. And I want to thank Gerald for lovin' Sadie, too, and making her happy. You've earned a place in my heart, man, and I'm sorry . . .

(his voice breaks)

I'm just sorry.

Gerald cries. Tears fall down Sadie's cheeks as she walks to the podium in front of her father. Mama clenches her jaw.

DADDY

(continuing)

I love you, Sadie. You'll always be . . . daddy's little girl.

SADIE

I love you back, daddy.

Sadie kisses him on the cheek. He looks through her, and shivers. A tear rolls down the same cheek.

Sadie walks down the aisle. She looks at Amy holding Gerald. The empty exit is beyond her.

AMY

(looking up, whispering)

Now you're free.

SADIE

This isn't right. There's gotta be more.

Sadie looks toward the exit, and Wu stands there. She turns to see what he's looking at, not understanding it's her.

CONTINUED

WU

Sadie.

Shocked, Sadie turns quickly toward him. She takes a step back.

SADIE

Who are you?

WU

You are lost, and I am here to help you find your way. Think of me as your guide. A friend.

SADIE

Why? Are you an angel? Why now?

WU

(kindly)

I am Wu. I have come because you are correct. This is not right. Sadie, there is more than this.

SADIE

You heard that? I thought dying was supposed to be all tunnels of light and dead relatives.

WU

For those who are ready, something like that, yes. Are you willing to begin? Will you come with me now?

He holds out his hand. Sadie cautiously takes it.

SADIE (VO)

Something about Wu made me feel, I don't know, like he was a life preserver and I'd just realized I was drownin'. Angel or devil, it didn't matter. I needed him.

EXT. CITY - LATER

Sadie and Wu walk along an empty sidewalk.

SADIE

Why am I here, Wu? I don't want to be here.

CONTINUED

WU

(points to empty space)

You want to be there. But you cannot.

SADIE

I said I don't want to be here.

I know I can't go back.

WU

But you do not want to leave, either, do you?
If you did, you would already be gone.

SADIE

Is this hell?

WU

As close as you might willingly come in the way
you mean the word. It is one you created.

(introspective)

Hell is always of our own making.

SADIE

(cries)

I didn't! I just wanted to live, and now I can't!
Those bastards who did this to me, I want to kill
them! I want Gerald to hold me again! I want
everything to be all right!

Sadie pounds on Wu's chest as hard as she can. He doesn't move.
He embraces her as she gives up and nearly collapses.

WU

Nothing will ever be the same, Sadie. To find
your way from this place, this hell, you have to
let it go. This universe is ultimately just, as
everyone comes to know in the end.

Tears fall from Wu's eyes onto Sadie's head. Sadie notices.

SADIE

(recovering)

I don't want to leave him.

I can't leave him. Not alone.

CONTINUED

WU
So do not.

SADIE
I won't.

FADE TO BLACK

SADIE (VO)
So, I didn't. I haven't.

FADE IN (BACK TO THE PRESENT)

INT. GERALD'S APARTMENT - DUSK

Sadie looks through a window at the sunset. She sits on a radiator between the kitchen and living room.

Amy opens the door with a key. She's dressed for warmer weather and carries groceries. Without noticing Sadie, she starts New Age music on a computer in the living room. Humming in tune, she starts to prepare food in the kitchen. Sadie watches.

SADIE (VO)
Gerald and Amy started hangin' out a lot after I bit it. There was somethin' there, though, like a wall between 'em. It made Amy sit on one end of the couch when Gerald was on the other, and they'd watch TV. Over here, it looked like a wall of fog. It blocked the connection they were tryin' to make.

It was me.

For a long time, I couldn't help it. He was mine, and I couldn't give him up. I'd watch them, and I'd cry. But I knew I could trust her to make him smile, and he . . . he'd make her sing.

SADIE (CONTINUES, VO)

So, I resolved to let it be. To remove me as much as I could. Slowly, it worked. Slower, the hurt faded. Then, my love for them both took its place. After that, there was this tug--a longing to be someplace else.

Sadie jumps up on the table, squats in front of Amy, and caresses Amy's face. Amy stops working but doesn't look up. Her pentacle necklace dangles near the food.

SADIE

Take care of each other. I've gotta go.

AMY

(looks up, through Sadie)
Sadie?

SADIE

Yep.

Amy goes to the window and watches the fading sunset. Gerald enters and walks over to her. They embrace, and Amy holds on.

SADIE

(blows a kiss)
Goodbye my loves.

Sadie flies up through the ceiling.

EXT. CITY APARTMENT BUILDING ROOF - NIGHT

Sadie sits with her feet dangling over the edge. She looks down at the leaf-covered trees. Wu steps up behind her. Sadie doesn't look at him.

WU

What are you doing, Sadie?

SADIE

Looking at the trees. They have light in them.

WU

I know.

CONTINUED

SADIE

I've let them go. Amy and Gerald.

WU

I know that, too. It is time for you to go.

SADIE

Where? What about you?

Sadie stands up and turns to Wu. His form radiates light until it's blinding.

WU

You'll see. And we shall meet again when you are ready to take up a duty similar to mine. Take care of you until then.

FADE TO WHITE

SADIE (VO)

This light engulfs me, fills me, becomes me.
Always was me.
I am Sadie Allison Dewitt.
I am me.
I am.
I.