

The Unacceptable Reality

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In an Albanian magazine I've read that, "life is a zoo in a jungle." In a book written by Erich Fromm, Man For Himself I read that a person is the only animal whose existence is an equation which he should solve and can't escape from it. We are all a kind of creature that changes as much as it can to adapt with life and to survive. Do you believe that? Even though sometimes I don't like accepting this reality, I do believe it. Many other people think that they never change. I believe that people change in many ways; like their personality, appearance, character, thoughts, and friendships. Any of these can cause a Revolution. I have read in many Albanian books that a person is like a chameleon. So, this seems to prove that we change every time it's necessary, even if we don't know it. David (Bud) adapted to his "new" lifestyle, with his "new" friends and family, which made him resemble a chameleon. He did that to survive and lived an "unfamiliar" life. The revolution that came from Jenn is simple to recreate in our lives because it wasn't a major change.

In Erich Fromm's book, I've read that Pleasure & Happiness are like a thought, which can be true or false, and in the beginning of "Pleasantville" we see that Bud's happiness is "false." The happy family in Pleasantville's reality was true until Betty found another kind of "true" pleasure/happiness. In David's life, his parents were divorced and happiness was only a guest in their home. In our life, even though we don't like accepting it, not everything that we do is permitted. Doing what we like is freedom, but it can cause community unrest. Bud and the cook, his friend, painted a public nude portrait on the police station wall. Was this an act of freedom? Actually, I'd like to call it a kind of revolution.

A few days ago I read the quote, "Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain." That reminds me of when Bud was "dancing" with his girlfriend in Lover's Lane while it was raining. Albert Einstein once said, "You have to learn the rules of the game, and then you have to play better than anyone else." Bud knew the rules of his *secret game*; living in Pleasantville, which allowed him to *win the game*. The same was for Jenn, too. They replaced the main actors in the Pleasantville show and as they *learned* the rules of the game while *playing* they played better than anyone else. They appeared to belong to that life and that world.

Sometimes, we have to forget what we want, in order to remember what we deserve. However, Betty (Bud's mom) found what she wanted. She found a new way of being happy and then she made her revolution. Everyone else there, including George, because of their self-expression, began to change into color partly. This meant that everything is in our hands. As with everything, happiness depends upon us. John Mayer said, "so scared of getting older, I'm only good at being young." This unchangeable reality, as with many other things in life, is out of our hands. This is real life - the real world, where we're born to grow up and learn the Golden Rules while trying to be better. We are all wise enough to start a revolution in ourselves and around us. Don't be afraid to move on, to accept this unacceptable reality, even in those times when it seems abnormal.