

“Can You Imagine?”

By: Lauren Foster

Can you imagine
Dreaming without falling asleep?
I mean insomnia is a vicious, nocturnal animal
So, who needs sleep?
Who would understand the world I see?
Swimming in Lake Placids
Challenging bloodthirsty alligators trying to swim away from my paranoia-
I mean, insomnia
Sinking into the deep swamp with alligator blood at the ends of my mouth
Transforming into a reptile
Transforming into a half human, half fish
Becoming one with the ocean
Bouncing on Dumbo octopi

Can you imagine
An elephant who learned how to fly squirting ink from its trunk?
Can you imagine writing Oscar-winning poetry in months?
Can you imagine?
Can you imagine
Feeling numb but still crying?
Can you imagine feeling dumb for trying?
Can you imagine being in this headspace?
Of course...you can't
Because you can sleep and stay asleep
Because you can fear fear and not disappear into a void meant for sour ears
You can hear the good, bad, in between, and not be fazed
Can you imagine falling short on some days?

Can you imagine
Falling asleep just to run away?
Just to escape
An imprint left on the page yet leaving without a trace
I pace on the heavy wooden floor
Opening doors just to see nothing but trees infested with bees
Stinging my tonsils so I cannot speak
Can you imagine
Sitting on a grassy hillside as the world decimates itself?

Can you imagine having a conversation with your future kids about not looking too
“suspicious?”

About remaining calm when one word or action can take your life

Can you imagine life at night?

The people who don't choose to struggle

The people who make their own hustle

The people who get ostracized by these so-called “sanctified” idols who seemed like superheroes
when they were kids

I wish you could read minds

I wish we could enlarge small minds so they can see the bigger picture

Can you imagine life under the bleachers?

Can you imagine life having certified teachers?

Can you imagine?

Can you imagine

Slipping underneath blankets and finding a multiverse?

Multiple dimensions

A parallel me and you with actual good intentions

Good intentions like having a future

Having me be vulnerable

Having me be actually comfortable

Can you imagine having love as a phobia?

Of course...you can't

Because you can still dream and still have it as a reality

Walking in my shoes you'd see I'd rather keep dreams as dreams

It's better to keep dreams dancing on pillowcases

It's better to keep dreams secure as tears fall down on your many faces

It's better to cut off the engine...

Can you imagine?

Can you imagine

Dreaming without falling asleep?

Of course...you can't

And you probably never will