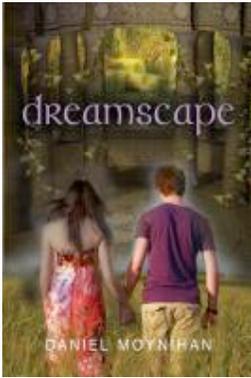


dreamscape

DANIEL MOYNIHAN



David Murphy is having recurring dreams of a heavenly place. Eventually, a young woman appears in his dream who is having the same experience. They resolve to try to find each other somehow during their waking hours on earth. Will they be able to overcome the challenges of finding each other and, if so, what will be the consequences for them and those around them?

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Daniel Moynihan

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Second Edition

1

David awoke. The obnoxious clanging alarm clock was doing its job on a typical Thursday October workday. He slammed the off button with a combined sense of annoyance and deep disappointment. “Are you kidding...that was just a dream?” he said aloud to himself. He sat up quickly and reviewed the thoughts that were still vivid in his mind. It seemed so real...certainly like it was more than a dream. However, it had to be a dream...what else could it has been?

Sitting up, he reflected how he had never imagined or dreamed of a more beautiful place. In one direction, he saw rolling greenish fields as far as he could see. He thought how the green of the meadow was not like any shade of the color that he knew, for it was a much brighter green and more vivid. There were multiple types of vegetation ranging from small fluorescent bushes to huge redwood type trees, but most of them were also in a color and shape beyond anything he had ever seen. There were flowers made of vibrating fauna, which were beyond the word “beautiful”. The sky had vibrant flashes of colors that seemed to be dancing to a joyous tune. He could remember there were a variety of fragrances more pleasing than he had ever known. David recalled how the flowers and trees themselves seemed to dance and sway to the beautiful music emanating from within them.

He climbed out of bed and felt the sting of the cold hardwood floor. The city, he thought to himself, I saw a city! He remembered that from the edge of the rolling meadow he could see in the distance what looked like a great golden metropolis. He was awestruck. It was huge by any standard he could think of. *What was this place?* He thought to himself if he had to describe the elements of the dream to anyone else, he did not have the vocabulary to do so. David shook his head and spoke aloud to himself. “Boy, if that was a dream, it was nothing like I’ve ever had. Lord, is this of you?”

He continued to dwell on the dream as he showered and prepared for another day of work. “It seemed so real,” he muttered to himself. David poured shampoo in his hand. Rubbing it deeply into his thick brown hair, he realized that elements of the dream were starting to fade. *Maybe it was just your run of the mill dream*, he thought to himself. *I am starting to forget the details already, which usually happens with dreams.* While getting dressed, David realized all he knew was that he had dreamed of a place more beautiful than he ever imagined, but retaining it fully was not possible. It suddenly occurred to him that he wished he had stayed there forever, which brought a brief pang of guilt. He recognized that at 27-years-old he had a good life with a great job as an assistant service manager at the local Ford dealership.

As he drove to work David thought about last night’s Bible Study. Pastor Ron was talking about Heaven and Hell. He expounded on how where we stand with Jesus is the sole determining factor of our destination. The always well-spoken Pastor gave descriptions on what each was like according to what the Scriptures reveal. David thought this study was quite a coincidence as he had just read several books about Heaven over the past two months after his grandfather had passed away. David pulled into his parking spot at the dealership and laughed aloud. “Well duh, that’s the reason for the dream. I have been reading so much about Heaven. Now with these books and Grandpa dying, and then the study last night, that is where this dream came from. It certainly seemed heavenly to me.”

Opening the car door, he took a deep breath of the crisp autumn air. “Thank you Lord for such a beautiful day.” Walking into the dealership, he was amazed at how his brain could conjure up a dream like that. *So much we don’t know about the human mind.* It was 7:30 A.M. now and customers were already lining up their cars outside of the four bay doors. He heard a familiar voice.

“Hey buddy, good study last night, huh?” Ryan McReynolds was opening the bay doors to let the customers in.

David looked at Ryan. He felt extremely blessed that a fellow Christian from his own church worked at the same place. He realized not many people could say that. While walking over to help his friend unlock the bay doors, David again felt the guilt of wishing he had stayed in the realistic heavenly dream. Flashing back, he remembered how unlike David, Ryan had not grown up in a Christian home. Ryan grew up in a home where his parents loved him but there had been no exposure to God. Ryan's parents were agnostics. They had both come from dead Protestant denominations whereby church had become a total inconvenience. Ryan's dad put forth many questions about the Christian faith while growing up but few of them were answered. As a result, when Ryan was on his own he ditched any kind of church scene and became indifferent. Soon he fell in with the wrong crowd and became involved in alcohol and drug use.

David could remember how when Ryan was 17 he was invited to a Friday night youth group at a Baptist Church. The speaker was not much older than he was and spoke with power and confidence regarding the things of God. Ryan had never heard anything like it. When he went up to question the young speaker after the service, the young youth pastor had no problem answering some of the questions about Christianity which, like his father when he was younger, had plagued Ryan as well. Ryan continued to come to the Friday night meetings and before long had committed his life to Christ. He never looked back. In time, his testimony and ability to answer questions about his faith so moved his parents that they were converted as well.

"Yeah boss man, it was a good study—maybe too good," David said.

"What do you mean by that?" asked Ryan.

"I had a real powerful dream last night....like I was in heaven or something."

Ryan laughed and said, "Well, you know what they say, sometimes when you are going to sleep and are dwelling on

something that is what you dream about. That's why I stopped watching late night horror flicks when I was a kid—too many nightmares.”

“I suppose you're right. I didn't get a chance to ask you at church. How was your afternoon with Michelle?” asked David.

“Well, pretty good. We started looking at furniture, which is more fun for her than for me. We have to get cracking on this stuff, our wedding is only a few months away.”

“Quit complaining. You somehow were able to get the beautiful worship leader at the church to fall in love with you. I would think picking out furniture with her and thinking about your future together would be fun.”

“Maybe it will be for you someday but for me, it isn't that interesting. A table is a table,” said Ryan.

David picked up his morning clipboard and laughed. “You know, you hit a home run by finding Michelle. She loves the Lord and is a wonderful person, not to mention a knockout. I should be so blessed.”

“You will be. You have had your chances. You seem to be so particular. I thought for sure you had found the right one with Jennifer last year.”

David folded his arms and glared at his friend. “Ryan, we've talked about that. Just because you introduced her to me, you thought it was going to work. I told you it didn't feel right.”

“If you say so. I thought she was perfect for you.”

“That's why you will never run a matchmaking service.”

David walked behind his service desk. *Uh, not my favorite conversation*, he thought to himself. He again started to dwell on the fact that he could not seem to find a relationship that would work. Many people his age had no trouble finding the right girl but they just

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did not want to settle down yet. He knew he was the opposite. He wanted a wife and family. He felt he was ready for it. The problem was he could not find the right girl. Was Ryan right? Was he just too old-fashioned and meticulous? He shook his head. *I have to depend on the Lord to help me find the right one in His timing. Lord, please help me to know when you are doing that. Don't let me miss it.* He was suddenly jarred back to the moment at hand as the first customer pulled through Bay Number 1 and dropped his keys on David's desk.

2

“Wow, what a long day,” David muttered as he came through the door of his apartment and flung his keys on the table. He looked at the kitchen wall clock. It was 10:30 P.M. *Well, two kids came to Christ at the youth service, so that makes it all worth it,* he thought to himself. Time for a quick shower and off to sleep.

David climbed into bed and opened his Bible to Chapter 40 of Jeremiah. I hope Pastor Ron teaches on this some time. *This book is a tough one,* he thought to himself. After ten minutes of reading, he closed the book and put it on his nightstand. He stretched his head back on the pillow and pondered last night’s dream. He thought that maybe if he dwelled on it as he fell asleep he would go back to the same place again. Suddenly, he found he was walking in a misty garden on the edge of the same rolling green meadow. *I remember this,* he thought to himself. *I am back. I remember this!*

David realized that although he felt no wind, once again the beautiful shade of greenish vegetation was flowing and waving like a dancing wheat field. *Wait a minute, not only am I back, I can remember I dreamt this...I am in a dream, but I actually realize it. I can vaguely remember who I am.* He stopped and cocked his head sideways and smiled. “The music, I’ve never heard anything like it,” he spoke aloud. He observed that once again the music was coming from the various flowers. Some of the flowers were of unknown, multiple colors. Even the shades of colors he had seen before were much more vibrant and seemed to have several shades rippling through them. He could hear the roar of what sounded like a waterfall. *Where is that waterfall sound coming from?* To his right he could see what looked like the start of a forest a small distance away. It seemed to be coming from there. *I need to explore that.*

He came to the end of the meadow and once again saw the great city in the distance. It was luminescent gold in color. The size was

beyond anything he could imagine even though it seemed like it was a hundred miles or more away. Somehow, he could see the exterior of it quite clearly despite the distance. It looked like the city was walled as some of the great castles on earth had been during the Middle Ages. It also seemed to be shining or glowing. He could see what looked like several gates, each of which was side-lined by great pillars with majestic colorful pearls on top. He instinctively started walking towards the city. It seemed like he was not getting anywhere. David thought of one of his video games where there was landscape on the border but you could only go just so far and progress no further.

“You are not permitted to enter the city yet,” a voice spoke behind him. David could not tell if it was spoken or simply impressed upon his mind. He turned to see a majestic creature standing before him. Although humanoid in appearance, it was clear to David that this was not a human being. The fierce yet smiling creature was at least 8 feet tall and was holding what looked to be some kind of musical instrument. He was arrayed in a bluish white robe with gold sashes. David was awestruck by the sight. “Are you an angel? Is this Heaven?” The ‘angel’ just smiled and walked away playing his instrument. The sound of the angel’s melody merged with the music that was coming from the trees and flowers. David thought how it was like a breathtaking beautiful symphony.

The ‘angel’ was walking in the direction of the forest he had seen earlier. Again, he could hear the roar of the waterfall beyond it. He turned back towards the site of the majestic city. *I am so drawn to it. It is so amazing—so beautiful!*

All it once he was jarred by a noise. He found himself sitting up in his bed. The telephone was ringing. “Uh, hello?” David stammered into the phone.

David heard Ryan’s voice. “Hey, do we still have a racquetball game this morning at six at the club before work? I forgot to confirm it with you last night.”

“What time is it?” asked David.

“Five thirty. Did I wake you up?”

“It’s okay. I was so beat I forgot to set my alarm. Yes, I called the club yesterday and confirmed racquetball. We are on at six. See you then.”

Like the day before he thought about what he had just dreamed. He realized he had indeed returned to the place he had dreamt of before. He sensed the exact images were once again fading in his human brain, but he could remember that he had seen the same flowers, meadow, and forest in the distance. He had seen a Being of some sort who was very large and intimidating who had smiled and talked to him. And, he had once again seen that magnificent city. *What was this place?*

David grabbed his Bible. “That city—I remember something in Revelation. Let’s see. Yes. Revelation 21 talks about a glorious city in heaven.”

David thought about what he read and whispered to himself. “Wow. Can’t be sure, but that sounds like what I saw. Certainly, I saw quite a few gates, the whole place shone like jewels, and it was huge. But I was so far away I can’t really vouch for the size.”

He looked upward. “Lord, I don’t know what I am seeing, but I feel impressed that it is some sort of heavenly vision. Is it because my grandpa died and I miss him so? If this is of you, then please let me know what I need to learn or what this is all about. If this is just my fleshly self missing my grandpa then let it fade. He is certainly better off with you where you are.”

He got up to get ready for his racquetball match. *Let’s face it, he thought to himself. I don’t know what is happening here. Maybe Ryan is right. I have been studying heaven so much and I have been thinking about Grandpa being there; it must be that my mind is just*

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filling in the blanks. That's all this is. I just wished the phone had not rung. I want to stay there.

3

David pulled into his driveway and thought how he could not believe a whole week had gone by. He had enjoyed Pastor Ron's talk to the youth group. *That was a great diversion*, he thought to himself. Now that he was home, his mind came back to the dreams. He could not believe how they had been going on for over a week. He pulled the keys out of the ignition and looked up into the night sky. "Lord, what is happening? How can I keep dreaming of the same place every night? What is your purpose in this?" David admitted to himself that he loved and continued to be fascinated by the dreams, and yet he was troubled at not understanding the meaning of it all.

He walked into the house still deep in thought. *I should have talked to Pastor Ron tonight about all this...He was just so busy with those kids after his talk...I just could not interrupt that. Anyway, maybe these dreams will stop.* "But again Lord, what is the purpose?" he asked aloud. As he got ready for bed, he dwelt on the pattern for each dream. He would arrive at the misty garden near the meadow. He would be absorbed each time by the magnificence and grandeur of what he was experiencing. Although he always remembered being there before, each experience seemed brand new. It was never boring. Each time he would hear the great waterfall beyond the forest, but he could not seem to leave the beauty he was in. More than once, he would again try to walk toward the great city but he would remember the unidentified Being's comment that it was not time for him to go there and he would stop. *If I go back, I need to go find that waterfall.*

David climbed into bed. *I am too tired to read*, he thought to himself as he closed his eyes. Drifting off to sleep, he arrived as before in the middle of the misty garden bordered by the great rolling meadow and the great forest. This time, his attention was immediately drawn to the forest. He could once again hear the sound of the waterfall. David felt motivated to walk towards it. He entered the

forest area he had seen from a distance before and found a beautifully manicured trail.

“Unbelievable,” he said aloud. David moved gingerly on what looked like a path of golden wood shavings. He could see that the trees of the forest ranged broadly in size. Some looked like small pine trees with crystal-type needles of various colors. The large trees made him think of the redwoods he seen on a visit to Petaluma, California. These trees, however, all had a perfect shape. Unlike the forests he had been to there were no dead trees to be seen anywhere. Everything was alive, vibrant and seemingly pulsating with music just like the flowers. The scent of the combined foliage was exhilarating. He continued along the great path toward the sound of the thundering waters. He walked for what seemed to be a great length. Along the way, several mysterious great Beings similar to the one who had once spoke to him walked past him giving him friendly but amused smirks as if they knew something he did not. Soon he knew he was getting close to the waterfall. The beautiful but almost deafening roar was getting much louder.

David walked into a clearing. He was awestruck as he saw the great waterfall. *This has to be Heaven*, he thought, *it just has to be!* The falls looked to be several hundred feet high. The water was a deep luminous royal blue with flickers of silver. It emptied into a pond and flowed to a river that went to the opposite side of the forest. As when he had seen the beautiful landscapes before, he could only just stand there and take in the beauty of this magnificent sight.

David turned and looked towards the other side of the pond. Standing there was a young woman. He observed that this was not one of the strange Beings he had been seeing here. This appeared to be a normal-sized woman. She was not glowing like the Beings he had seen. Wearing what looked to be a long red dress, she was dressed in clothing that was not strange to him like the garb the others were wearing.

David started walking towards her. The young woman was perhaps 50 feet away from him. Suddenly she turned and saw him standing there. David noted that she stunningly beautiful. She was tall and tan-skinned with long black hair. She stared at him with a quizzical, confused look on her face. Suddenly but slowly she started to vanish. There was a shimmering light and she was gone. “What happened?” said David aloud.

“I believe you would say she woke up.” He turned and saw one of the eight-foot Beings smiling at him. He recognized the Being as being the same one that had told him how he could not progress towards the great city.

“Can you tell me what happened? How did she just disappear like that?”

The Being smiled and said, “Walk with me,” and proceeded to walk down the forest path that led back to the meadow. “As you have suspected, you are having a vision about what you would call the heavenly realm. This portion is one of the very outskirts; actually, the very least of what His Kingdom has to offer.”

“This is the least part of Heaven?” David exclaimed. “This is so fantastic I never want to leave. I can’t imagine anything more beautiful than this place!”

The angel continued, “By standards on your fallen world this is indeed more beautiful than anything you have ever seen. However, I tell you truthfully the sights and glories to be seen are far greater than this. Did not the Master say that ‘Eye has not seen nor ear has heard the things God has prepared for those that love Him?’”

David stopped walking. “If I’m in Heaven, can I see Him? Can I please see Jesus?”

The angel gave him a warm smile. “He is well pleased that this is one of the first things you wish to do now that you realize where you

are. However, the time is not yet for that. For truly if you saw Him, you would surely all the more not want to leave.”

“So you know who I am and how I keep dreaming of this place?” David asked.

“I have known you for all of your 27 years.”

“Are you a Guardian Angel?”

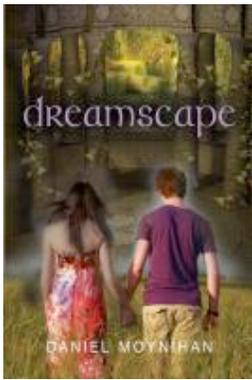
“I am an Angel of the Lord. I am there with you when it is necessary to be so.”

David looked into the fierce and yet peaceful face of the angel. “I have seen others like you here, but now seeing this girl by the water, can you tell me who she is?”

“She is from the fallen world like you. She is here for many reasons. You have prayed to meet her.”

“Her specifically? I didn’t recognize her. I don’t know who she is!”

“You have prayed for one like her. She has prayed for one like you. That is all you need to know right now. There are other prayers being considered in this situation as well. You have counted on the Master’s Blood Sacrifice on His Cross to save you. You are one of His children. He has many ways of answering the prayers of His Elect. Do not be like the many on your fallen world that negate His Power by their unbelief.”



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