

THE LIGHT

Clara immersed herself the Enlightenment's legacy. How could reason lead to the delusions of the self? The individual could give way to self-indulgence. This seemed to be Sade's argument. The pursuit of pleasure, the unrestrained adherence to the pleasure principle, could be a manifestation of reasonable self-interest. Was the libertine philosophy, with its emphasis on the sovereignty of individual desire, an application of reason to argue for the precedence of one's primal instincts?

Did Reunion allow for such profound conversations. Were the bounds of reason and pleasure constrained by societal norms, or was there a space for intellectual exploration that questioned the very foundations of these beliefs?

"If you explore, can you enhance your desires?"

Beneath the veneer of civility, there were these petty rivalries. These hidden undercurrents bubbled to the surface.

"What were the boundaries of reason?"

"Sade's scenes are totally scripted."

"This is the foundation of unbridled individualism. You get others to go along."

"Is there any other way to see this?"

Clara believed that it was a revolutionary act to explore her desires. But she was losing her philosophical commitment.

"Simply because you evade the dominant culture does not mean that you escape the worst aspects of cruelty."

"We accept the cruelty."

"This is all that I want."

Was Sade all about this exhaustive inventory? Nothing could escape this scrutiny of individual desire.

"You really think that you are creating your own biology."

"Where are the unbridled desires going?"

"You don't know until you try."

Clara held on to her revolutionary consciousness.

"Individual desires lead to tyranny."

Did seduction lead to the exploitation of the individual? Was it a method to hide the intentions of the oppressor?

"Are you creating your own prison?"

"There are bad people, and they are circling everywhere."

The patrons of Reunion had, over time, lost their class consciousness. The once clear understanding of societal structures and the interconnectedness of their roles had faded into the background. In its place, a hedonistic ethos had taken root. The focus on the self, on the pursuit of pleasure, had eroded the collective spirit that once bound them together.

These were not simply intellectual exercises. This described the actual behavior of the people at Reunion.

"This goes beyond personal experiences."

"You will have to live it."

“Are you exploring new options?”

“You cannot contain the whole world.”

“What else do you have here?”

“I am holding my breath.”

“Among amateurs.”

“You only have one life to give.”

“There are so many aspects of each scenario.”

“Honey, I need to get you away from these people.”

“Admit it: the pleasure principle is everything.”

“What do they all expect?”

“She will discipline all of them.”

“What does reason need to be viewed in such a restrictive manner?”

“What do you want?”

“I want to work harder.”

“Are you building the machine?”

“I am defending our beliefs.”

“How does that work?”

“This is now part of our professional life. It affects who we are.”

“Can you explain that?”

“I am trying.”

“I can work harder if I have an incentive.”

“It will wear you down.”

“I have had enough of what I need.”

“That is not good for you.”

As Clara navigated her own professional landscape, she observed the disintegration of a shared sense of purpose. Colleagues, once driven by a common vision, now seemed consumed by the desire for personal satisfaction. The workplace had become a stage for the exhibition of individual desires, with little regard for the greater good.

“We all have our rewards. That is all that matters.”

“That will not do anything for you.”

“What are you bringing to the workplace?”

“I have a lot of desire?”

“Are you kidding?”

“What do we share?”

“Instant gratification and the pursuit of fleeting pleasures.”

“Love the moment.”

“It is way more than that.”

“In the throes of passion, what will you get.”

“Total devotion.”

“You are a prince.”

“I need to go back to work.”

Would it even be possible to achieve some kind of reawakening?

“You like what you have.”

“I am contemplating the total now.”

“That is all that matters.”

“What will take you there? What is the secret?”

“I want a promise.”

“Forget promise. Immerse yourself in the moment.”

“You are creeping me out.”

“That is the philosophy.”

“We are pushing everything to the edge.”

“I need to understand.”

“Can he ever?”

“Some believe.”

“See it for what it is.”

“Take me to the promised land.”

“What is actually promised?”

“I have everything that I need.”

“Does pleasure imply some fundamental denial.”

“Where does that go?”

“Freak stuff.”

“How can any of that work?”

“You cannot restore what was never there.”

Edmund argued for the need to embrace the the polymorphous perversity. This went beyond the principles of ethics.

“There comes a moment when we give completely to this excitement.”

“What else are we hoping for?”

“I want to settle down.”

“That may not happen.”

“Too much noise in my head.”

“You are not part of the show.”

“I am the show.”

“Creep.”

“Why do we all get distracted?”

“Immediate satisfaction will destroy us.”

“There are others ways to see this.”

“I need to finish before I have begun.”

“What are the consequences of succumbing to the immediate pleasures?”

“You do not recognize what you are actually seeing.”

Edmund catalogued the perversity. This added to his pursuit.

“How long should I hang on?”

“You are deep in the middle of this shit.”

“There is no focus for our desires. We want everything that is available.”

“That will tear you apart.”

“I accept it.”

“This could not be worse.”

“Accpet the pull of desire.”

“It is all about this abstraction. You believe that the body guides you. But you are driven by this abstract formulation.”

“I am the one.”

“Take it from here.”

“You escape from the norms, but a whole new set of norms impose themselves.”

"Edmund, how can reason truly prevail in this sea of polymorphous perversity? Your ideals seem detached from the gritty reality of our existence here. Are you not disillusioned by the impracticality of it all?"

“You are giving me a show. I will take it to the end.”

“DO YOU LOVE ME, FUCKER?”

“No one can reach that point.”

“Rels can.”

“I have what I truly need.”

“Dusk, you will need to give them fashion advice.”

“The body is being taken from me.”

“We need to go.”

“It is always like that.”

"Your idealism is a luxury we can ill-afford. Reunion thrives on the now, on the tangible pleasures it offers. How can your philosophical ideas withstand the intoxicating allure of the present moment?"

“We are too deep in our shit.”

“The triad.”

“Do not let it stop.”

“This is the beginning of self-reflection.”

“Some crazy stuff is going to happen.”

“Stop yourself.”

“I will.”

“I saw who you were.”

The Polyanna tone that once colored these conversations gave way to a more realistic portrayal of personal differences. Eliot and Edmund, representatives of conflicting ideologies, found themselves in the middle of a philosophical battle. The complexities of Reunion's atmosphere highlighted the inherent challenges in reconciling reason with immediate gratification.

Edmund surrendered to the allure of Reunion's polymorphous perversity, and he immersed himself in a night of unending pleasure. The very ideals he once championed now seemed distant as he surrendered to the immediate rewards of the moment.

The following day, he went looking for Clara, the staunch defender of reason, to share the details of his revelry. As he described the hedonistic escapade with a glint in his eyes, Clara's frustration mounted, and her disappointment became obvious.

“Edmund, “is this who you've become? The philosopher who once championed reason and enlightenment, now a victim of his own perversions.

“This isn't just about one night, Edmund. It's about the erosion of the principles that once

defined us. I hardly recognize you anymore. Do you even understand the consequences of your actions?"

Clara, refusing to succumb to a romanticized view of their philosophical discussions, confronted Edmund with a stark ultimatum. "Edmund, you need to choose. Are you the philosopher committed to reason, or are you now defined by the fleeting pleasures of the night? I won't stand by and watch the unraveling of everything we once believed in."

"Clara, there's a beauty in surrendering to the polymorphous perversity of the moment. It's liberating, a departure from the rigid constraints of reason. There's a raw authenticity in embracing the moment, unrestrained by the burdens of intellectual idealism."

"Edmund, you are making it up as you go along."

Dusk stated, "Edmund, there's a redemptive quality in aesthetics. The atmosphere create the basis to explore these emotions. Each pleasure becomes an invitation to liberation and self-discovery."

Vivian approached her: "You look like a model."

The notion of being compared to a model ignited a sense of validation. In the dimly lit ambiance of Reunion, Dusk felt a subtle transformation within herself. Did she have enough power to assert herself?

At the same time, Clara tried to understand Edmund's perspective; he continued to defend the liberation he found in pleasure. "Clara, there's a sense of freedom in embracing desires without deep thought. This is not a rejection of intellect but an affirmation of the untamed aspects of human nature. We should give in to these impulses."

"You sound like a psychotic killer."

Edmund smiled.

Edmund, trapped by the addictive allure of his new life, found himself trapped in a cycle that blurred the lines between reality and illusion. The superficial aesthetics and the relentless pursuit of vibrant imagery became a form of addiction, a quest for validation that left him yearning for more.

Dusk, who had undergone her own transformation, saw Edmund's struggle from a different perspective. Her newfound resilience, rooted in authentic self-expression and aesthetic exploration, became a counterpoint to Edmund's addiction to the image. Dusk's worldview emphasized the importance of embracing one's true identity and finding strength in the genuine, unfiltered aspects of life.

Edmund, inspired by Dusk's vision, began to distance himself from the addictive pursuit of an idealized image. He sought solace in the authenticity of genuine connections, exploring the depths of human experience beyond the superficial aesthetics that had once held him captive. This shift marked a pivotal moment in his journey, a breaking free from the illusory chains that had bound him to Reunion's fabricated realities.

Stephen Fisher, the protagonist of the Groundswell series, emerged as a student of the pleasure principle. He delved into the intricacies of desire, recognizing its transformative power but he was wary of its political limitations. Steven grappled with the dichotomy between personal liberation and the societal constraints.

Lancer, working for the government, operated in the shadows, attempting to control the ideological currents that flowed through Reunion. Lancer's clandestine efforts to influence the

thoughts and desires of the patrons added a layer of suspense.

Kenny Crucial, the musician, icon, and cultural warrior, found solace in the hidden rhythms. His melodies resonated with the pulse of an ancient understanding, an anthem of liberation that transcended the confines of reason. The melodies became a manifesto, a call to arms for those who sought refuge from the polymorphous perversity of the night.

Matthew became a silent observer. He wanted to provide a more accurate depiction of the club.

Rels defied the gravitational pull of the scene and charted her own path. Unlike the characters entangled in the cyclic allure of desire, Rels found empowerment in creating a life separate from Reunion,

Despite the physical appeal that Rels radiated, it was the mystery within her gaze that left an indelible impression. Her presence at Reunion wasn't solely defined by her look but by the enigmatic quality that seemed to invite people to contemplate her mysteries.

“I cannot exist everywhere.”

“Where do you prosper?”

“In curiosity.”

“Why am I different?”

“I am not looking for satisfaction. I want total immersion in pleasure.”

“That was not Rels.”

“Why are you bothering her?”

“She likes me.”

“This is not how things are meant to be.”

“Who will help?”

“You need to deny yourself.”

“Freedom will be our undoing.”

“Who is the tyrant?”

“It is never like it seems.”

The Enlightenment proceeded from the idea that a person could know the whole world.

“What am I missing?”

“Do not be so greedy?”

“I am in a fog.”

“Accept it.”

“Why does logic not provide the basis for ethics?”

“You can use logic to argue for evil ends.”

“What difference does it make?”

“Take what you can?”

Rels wanted to move beneath the surface. But she felt too immersed in the appeals of desire.

“I am so deep that I have no control.”

“I will get to you later.”

“You need to go. You are bothering me.”

“I have explored too many variations.”

“Doughnuts.”

“Give in to the now.

Rels found fulfillment in authenticity and self-reliance. Her occasional visits to Reunion were not borne out of a need for escape or validation, but rather a deliberate choice to engage with the establishment on her own terms.

“Do you have any resources to fight it?”

Rels stood as a striking figure—an enigma of allure and mystery. Her physique, fit and slim, bore the testament of a life lived on her own terms. A subtle grace accompanied her movements, and her form held a captivating appeal that effortlessly drew the gaze of those around her.

High cheekbones framed her face, casting shadows that accentuated the enigmatic aura she exuded. Her eyes, pools of depth that seemed to hold untold stories, gazed upon the world with a quiet intensity, revealing both strength and vulnerability. High cheekbones framed her face, casting shadows that accentuated the enigmatic aura she exuded. Her eyes, pools of depth that seemed to hold untold stories, gazed upon the world with a quiet intensity, revealing both strength and vulnerability.

“It all needs to happen in the now.”

“What does that mean?”

“That sounds like Edmund.”

“How can Dusk interpret this development?”

“She is preoccupied.”

“We are all weak.”

“Let me tell you what I want.”

“There are numerous variations.”

“Take whatever is available.”

“That is too much going on at one time.”

“She will destroy you.”

“Dusk, who are they talking about.”

“I need to go.”

“I always feel that I am on the verge. Then I wake up from the dream.”

“Rels cannot help you now.”

“Who needs that help?”

“It is mostly hanging out.”

“What are we doing to change?”

“We are doing nothing new.”

“How does that even work?”

“You start with bones.”

“That is a big baby.”

“Different story.”

“Eat the fish.”

“What is that about?”

“Why will that work for me?”

“You took away the only thing that can matter.”

“You cannot do this on your own.”

“I do not have the cash.”
“And this will be good.”
“What else is there?”
“A cash settlement.”
“What else is there here?”
“Do not hurt me?”
“I bet all my money.”
“You made bad decision.”
“Build from this understanding.”
“We have nothing.”
“You cannot create this in your head.”
“We have closed shop.”
“I want a hot dog.”
“That is not going to do it.”
“You have cleared the field.”
“She is wild.”
“All about yourself.”
“What else is there?”
“Eat this.”
“That is good for you.”
“I cannot do this on my own.”
“Who is this?”
“We cannot say.”
“The puppet masters.”
“Who is left?”
“She is trying her best.”
“This is only about time.”
“I reacted prematurely with the words and the gestures.”
“I am not involved.”
“Dusk cannot clear this up.”
“Why am I here?”
“Turn all the lights on.”
“There is too much philosophy.”
“Take the hit.”
“You destroyed the continuity.”
“Admit what you cannot do.”
“These are the rules.”
“Ask your adviser.”
“We are projecting.”
“I do not even want that.”
“WANT ME, FUCKER.”
“What is that about?”
“That does not function.”

“We had a plan.”
“Why is it all so different?”
“Tomorrow will suck.”
“Rels will save us.”
“Is that my role?”
“Now, you see it.”
“Now, you don’t.”
“You do not have a chance here.”
“You clear the field.”
“This is going to be brilliant.”
“What do I want?”
“I see what I do no want.”
“This is not a good folk tale.”
“This is not all about cruelty.”
“Someone needs to kill the wolf.”
“Save the wolf.”
“The wolf is a person.”
“Your people. Your vehicles.”
“I am not seeing any of this.”
“I get it. She makes you feel more in control.”
“Watching a five car pile-up.”
“Who is the driver?”
“She is asleep at the wheel.”
“Come back, and explain thing to me.”
“I ran out of gas.”
“And you show that you are the idiot that we know you are.”
“Damn.”
“Give him your time.”
“I need to watch my pet.”
“Who are these people?”
“Participants in the seminar.”
“What is the next theme?”
“It is alway about bad habits.”
“You changed your hair.”
“This is not that complex.”
“You messed with my world, so I came to yours.”
“I don’t want to comment. I only want to watch.”
“It turns you on.”
“I don’t care.”
“I don’t care.”
“Rels will make it all okay.”
“And she might not show.”
“There is a lot involved.”

“There is a lot of pain.”
“You can deal with it.”
“That is his act.”
“Dusk needs to say something.”
“Later. I am in the middle of a deal.”
“You create this unstable architecture. And it is going to collapse.”
“I do not have that many ideas.”
“I know.”
“Get in the rhythm.”
“I am trying to escape.”
“I know who is going to interfere.”
“This is some noisy shit.”
“You can see it from the inside. You can see it from the out.”
“Close your eyes.”
“Why?”
“You are overdetermining the situation.”
“You should have quit.”
“There is good money in this.”
“You do not have an alternative.”
“It is all over.”
“I need to be somewhere.”
“Are you kidding me?”
“This is a whole lot of everything.”
“Or nothing.”
“What do you want to tell me.”
“I can complete this at home.”
“Do you have a body guard.”
“What are you asking me?”
“It is not that kind of story.”
“You can have so much more.”
“I can go home and fall asleep.”
“Clean conscience.”
“Where are the bodies buried?”
“Tell me, Lucretia.”
“This is wilder than I can know.”
“What are the parts.”
“It cannot last.”
“I is not meant to last.”
“Too much planning.”
“It is almost all over.”
“I need to get with someone, who is good.”
“Are you good?”
“You have no idea.”

“She has no idea.”
“There is no idea.”
“Why have you been clinging to reason?”
“I am trying to help you.”
“Rels has all this covered.”
“I need to complete all this at home.”
“It will all break down.”
“Who is responsible?”
“Show yourself.”
“I need to review.”
“Chantal, Clara, or Xander.”
“Rels and Dusk.”
“Dusk is preoccupied.”
“He is making new friends.”
“This is our time.”
“Jump in.”
“Why does that matter?”
“That does not matter.”
“I do not want to see that.”
“He could be rival.”
“I need to take care of that.”