

ROALD DAHL ON FILM

My Dream Factory

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Once upon a time, there was a city in which people didn't have emotions and dreams. Laughter had never been heard in that city. People saw everything in black and white. In that land, there was one factory ran by a mysterious, strange man. There was a rumor in town that factory was cursed. Parents even forbid their children to walk in the nearest streets and the kids would scream and run if they saw that poor, old man.

As always, there is an exception in this story. A young boy named Nicolas. Oh, that young, curious child. He lived in the loft of an old skyscraper and his room window looked out on the bleak factory. One and the same scene every day. In the early dawn, a man would open the heavy gates of the factory, went inside and he wouldn't exit until 10 o'clock at night. The man didn't know that he was being watched by Nicolas through the window. Or, maybe, he was aware of that.

One night something strange happened. The man didn't come out on time. The curious boy stayed awake the whole night hoping that he would see the man walking out soon. He was always fond of that strange man. As hours passed by, Nicolas was more and more tired. At the same moment when he decided to go to bed, he saw something unusual. He couldn't believe his own eyes.

Out of the large chimney of that grey factory a colorful smoke spouted. Can you imagine his surprise when he saw, for the first time in his life, those beautiful colours? He pinched himself just to be sure that he wasn't dreaming. Even after that the smoke was still there. Suddenly, the smoke disappeared. The boy waited for a couple of minutes and went to bed. That night he dreamed of the most beautiful places, big castles, blue sky and flowers. The next morning he told his friends what had happened and, of course, they didn't believe him. They thought that he was crazy.

Upcoming days were the same as usual. During the day, he would live his everyday life expecting the night to see the colourful smoke and enjoy his own magical world. One morning, Nicolas decided to solve the mystery of that cursed factory and those magnificent images projected in his head. He

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was up early waiting for the man to enter and then he sneaked into the creepy factory.

Firstly, he was walking through a long, dark, narrow corridor. A dozen of portraits were hung on the wall along the hallway. He was so scared. He started to run until he found a heavy iron door. He became desperate because he knew that he wasn't strong enough to open the door. Anyhow, he tried. Surprisingly, the door was easily opened. Strong light dazzled him and Nicolas was astonished. All that he had ever dreamed of was lying in front of him. He ran inside exploring a new world.

It was unbelievable that his dreams became true. He was lying on the grass looking at the bright blue sky. All of a sudden, the tall black figure blocked his view. That was the owner of the factory. Nicolas was scared for his own life. Out of the blue, the man started to laugh and sat down next to him.

"I've been waiting for this day so long" the man said. "I was sure that you, Nicolas, will have the courage to pass through my gate searching for your dreams."

"How do you know my name?" the boy asked.

The man laughed out loud and said "My dear boy, I know everything. I know that you were watching me every day. I know what you saw that night when you dreamed that dream, I know that the magical world is real and it belongs only to you."

Nicolas was confused. When he wanted to ask for the explanation, the man vanished. When he tried to go back, there was no way out anymore. Nicolas stayed captured living his own dream.

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