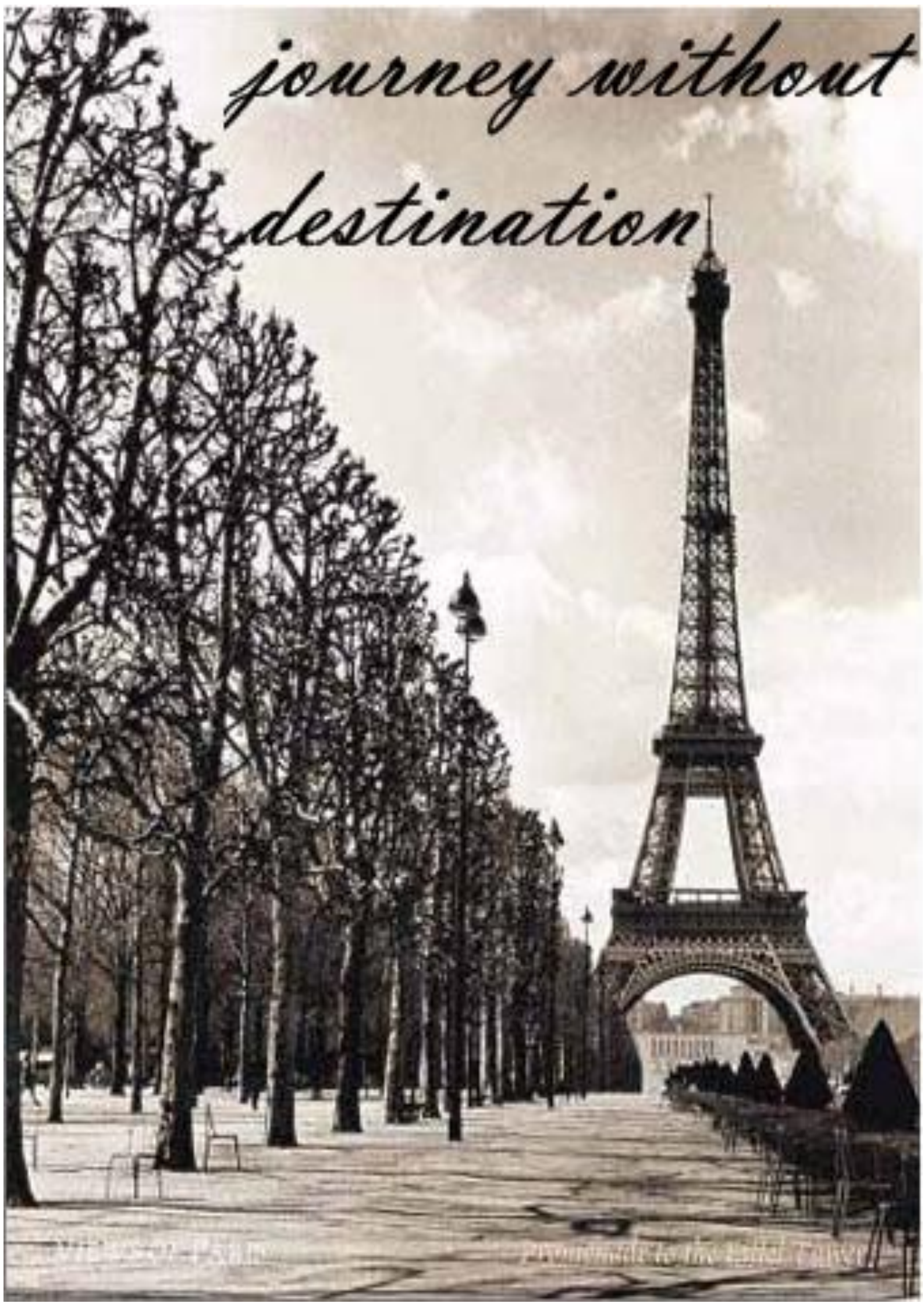


*journey without
destination*



Journey without destination

The story began when I was in High School. She was the most beautiful person I had ever seen. But I lost her. She had to go to France because she wanted to continue her studies abroad.

I saw her again in one train, traveling to Paris. When she walked in I felt something breaking my heart. She was amazing! She was wearing an orange hat and a scarf that matched her green eyes. But I noticed she was staring at someone else. I knew him but didn't want him to see my face. He was tall, had blue eyes and blond-brown hair. I couldn't compare myself to him. I realized they were falling in love with each other. That moment the doors opened and they walked out. I understood that I lost it all in one station, because I had lost her. He took her away from me but I knew I couldn't live without her.

But you know enough with me. Let's talk about her and her unexpected future. She was walking to her aunt house, with a suitcase. When she reached the house her aunt and uncle ran towards her and hugged her. But she was still thinking about that young and mysterious man. He couldn't forget her either.

The young man went home. His Fiume Carmen was waiting for him. He didn't love her. His father had forced to him to be with her without his willing. "If only I had met her a few months ago" the young girl he saw at the train station. Carmen thought about Natalie, the young girl he saw on the train. Carmen though loved him though. But they had nothing in common. The days were passing by and they hadn't seen each other. At least till that day.

It was the 14th of January 1931 and it was a cold windy morning. Natalie decided to go shopping in Paris. Jean Paul went out to buy fresh bread. When he closed the door he stopped because he heard another door closing. He couldn't believe in his eyes. At the opposite house he saw Natalie attested she was the girl who had stolen his heart. Without wasting a moment he followed her. Natalie was walking, when she suddenly realized someone was behind her. When she turned around and saw his face, her heart started beating too fast. Jean Paul had finally found the person who he kept him awake all these nights.

- What's your name? he asked her

- Natalie Dimou. She replied. What's yours?

- Jean Paul Derpie. I'm from France. And I suppose you're from Greece.

-Well, yes....

-You won't ask me what I'm doing here?

-Ok! What are you doing here? Natalie asked with a wide smile in her mouth.

-I live here, opposite your house.

-What? We live so close and I haven't seen you since.....

-So you remember!!! I wanted so much to tell you that I think about you a lot.

Natalie was puzzled. She couldn't believe that Jean Paul was feeling the same as she did. But the big clock in the square rang. It was 2 o'clock and she had to return home. She said goodbye to him. Jean Paul promised her that they would meet soon.

As she was going home she felt that he was the one. She was looking for. She didn't care about anything else. She looked up at the Eifel tower and dreamt about her future life, with him. Dreams don't always come. She couldn't imagine that this morning would end up with different end which would probably destroy her dreams. A bit later everything seemed perfect till dinner time with her aunt and her uncle. They sat at the table. Her aunt Lilly brought chicken a la cream. Her uncle asked her why Natalie was so happy! Natalie said that, that day was absolutely gorgeous. Her aunt went on to say that they were invited by the family that across the street to their son's wedding.

-Oh really, how many children do they have? asked Natalie.

-Three. Go see the invitation.

-Oh, aunt. I'm so excited because it will be my first time to attend seeing a French wedding. After dinner Natalie went to bed. She was looking out of the window at the stars that had covered the sky with their light. Next morning she woke up and had breakfast. At the table she saw a letter a little bit different from the others.

- Is this the invitation? She asked

-Yes, isn't it beautiful aunt Lilly said.

Natalie slowly opened it. Suddenly she pressed the glass of water she was holding so much that it cracked in her hands. Her world was collapsing in front of her eyes. She couldn't believe it! Jean Paul Derpie and Carmen Dero were getting married. She ran to the bathroom and locked herself in. Without a second thought. She didn't know what to do. She took the razor blade and cut her veins. The pain from this cutting was nothing compared to her heart breaking.

After a while aunt Lilly was worried, so she called Natalie but she was nowhere. She knocked the door bathroom, because she could see the light on, inside but no one answered. Why? Her Uncle George came home. He saw Lilly upset. She told him that she was worried. He forced the door open and they found Natalie lying on the floor with a razor blade. They immediately transferred her to the hospital. Doctors

said that she lost so much blood that she had to stay there for a least one week. Lilly went home to pack some clothes for Natalie. Jean Paul saw her though the of his house and he went outside. He asked her what was going on, because she was crying. She told him about the incident and furthermore that there was something really strange about it.

- What do you mean? He asked

- That she cut her veins straight after she took your invitation. Do you know something about it?

- No, no I hardly know her.

Jean Paul left without saying goodbye to Lilly. He was upset that Natalie had found out that he was engaged. He didn't love Carmen when he saw Natalie he knew what he was looking for in life. After this news Jean Paul was devastated. Carmen was continually asking him what was going on but Jean Paul was deeply thinking about Natalie.

Three days later he took his cat and rushed to the hospital without caring about the others. But there was a problem. What would George and Lilly say? He suddenly had an idea. He bought a uniform that nurses were wearing. He walked in. He had a friend there who knew about Natalie and Jean Paul. He asked him to help him, and that's what happened. Jean Paul went to the cloak room to change and he then reached Natalie's room. It was her horst day in the hospital and his last chance to prove his love to her. When she first saw him she didn't recognize him. But she was feeling that Jean Paul was that man. He sat beside that hospital bed and explained her everything. Full of emotions Natalie refused to believe him but her heart didn't let her him. She just hugged him as if life was nothing without him. She was crying when he put his hand in hers and promised her that they would never be apart again. Natalie knew that this wasn't going to happen but she needed so much to feel his love.

- But what are you going to do with Carmen? She asked him.

Jean Paul without any hesitation said that Natalie was his priority and told her to pack her things and leave with him. Natalie smiled. She didn't think about where they could because love is a spontaneous felling. They were going on a journey without destination.

They traveled for many hours and went to a small village somewhere in France. They secretly got married. One year later they learnt that uncle George was sick. Unfortunately their journey had to end. They returned to Paris. They both explained everything to their families. They understood the young couple because they had also fallen in love in the past. Jean Paul thought that he should apologize to Carmen but she had already left. Three months later Uncle George recovered. Natalie and Jean Paul were living in their own house. That day, it was 30 of May of 1933 Natalie felt again that nothing could destroy her happiness and she was right, but not for many

long. Seven years later, one morning in 1940, Jean Paul woke up next to Natalie and kissed her and his child without waking up it, and he went to work. Natalie woke up and prepared breakfast for her and their child Fando. He was one year old. It was a beautiful scene and all seem perfect. Later that day Jean Paul returned home. Fando was at Lilly house and Natalie felt really happy that she saw her husband again. He went to the kitchen and hugged her.

- Oh, how much I love you! He told her.

- Me too, she replied and hugged him.

They sat at the table and started eating. At that moment the doorbell rang. Natalie opened the door and show a tall and imposing man looking at her. He was wearing a military uniform. She understood that he hadn't come there for something pleasant. He come in and sat next to Jean Paul. With a solemn voice he said "I think I have to tell you something really bad" Natalie understood what was going on. But what was so important?

- We have war Jean Paul, this man said. Not particularly us but generally Europe with German. I have to take you with me. Pack your cloths and present your self at the train platform in two hours. You fight at the front line.

Natalie was shocked. Tears rolled down her cheeks and Jean Paul hit his hand on the table. He left the room without saying anything that. Because he knew that there was nothing he could say. Natalie packed some clothes and they left together. When they reached the train station Jean Paul said goodbye with a kiss. Natalie grabbed his hand and hugged him. The train whistled and the foreman told everybody to go on board. Teardrops were falling down. Women were crying and children were chasing the train. This scene was like taken out of a thriller. Smokes were covering the place and soon the train was out of sight Natalie, believed that her husband would come back. They had given an oath that they would meet in the same place.

She returned home giving Fando a promise that dad would come back. Days passed by, and so did months and years and the oath was fading away day by day. And Jean Paul was absent. But he was thinking about his family. Suddenly a rumor shocked him. He was told that all his neighbors had died because of the hunger, so he thought that Natalie and Fando were dead. He felt that he hadn't reason to live, anymore. And in all his sadness he saw me. I think he recognized me.

I walked towards him. I could not leave him alone at this moment. I hugged him. After all he was my brother. We loved the same women, he had her. I didn't. A fit of danger broke out. We had to fight. At that moment I felt something penetrating my chest. A bullet had hit me. I couldn't move. Jean Paul stopped. He offered to carry me but I couldn't delay him more. I said goodbye for Natalie. I only regret not saying goodbye to Natalie. Heaven is good place. I found what I was looking for. I knew everything about the world. And I found and that Natalie was alive but Jean Paul didn't know it. He thought she was dead but nothing was true. So did him. But he holds no evidence to prove it. When the war ended Jean Paul didn't want to go home.

He thought that everything wouldn't remind him of his family so. He moved to another town and after years he met a woman that had many things in common Natalie. It was his only chance to feel that Natalie was close to him again. They got married and that woman named Niki was his new wife. It was May of 1961 and he decided to utilize his change to chase his dreams. He wrote a poem about love. He saw Natalie in it. Two months later he became really famous. A managing company asked him to promote his poem all over the country and as a result to promote it. Jean Paul agreed and his journey started.

Natalie was sitting in the kitchen and thinking about Jean Paul when she turned the radio. She heard something that would make her wish. Jean Paul was dead. News were saying: "A new writer is coming to our city Jean Paul Derpie leaving behind his wife, ready to promote his poem". She couldn't believe her ears. Jean Paul was alive but also married. She was mourning not about her lost husband any more but about the time that had lost waiting for him. She started looking for information about Jean Paul by starting at the big open market. This place was close to the train station.

As she was walking to her destination a train stopped at the platform. The passengers were getting off when she suddenly saw a face that was familiar to her. It was still handsome but a little bit wrinkled. It was Jean Paul. She felt something penetrating, her heart. It was the same feeling that she had when she first met him. Of course he recognized her right away. He thought it was one of the illusions that he had been having all these years. They were staring at each other when they ran and hugged each other. Even though Natalie knew he had started a new life away from her, she refused to let him go. He asked what was going on and he told her the entire story with every little detail. After that Jean Paul felt a pain in his heart and fell on the ground. Natalie called an ambulance.

In the hospital the doctor told him that he had only one week to live. Natalie started weeping. She had just found him and she would lose him again. When they left Jean Paul went to see Fando. They stayed together for six days. On the seventh they went to the train station. Jean Paul was already too tired to walk. They decided to keep their promise to never be apart. They took a decision that would change their lives. When they saw the train coming they jumped off the platform into the gap. It was the end of their lives but not for their love. Everything they had lived was like a journey without destination.

The End....



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