

DREAM STATES

A Grounded Sci-Fi Feature

by

Margaret M. MacDonald





Dream of the possibilities

When a PhD student researching dreams joins her professor's enigmatic sleep study, the participants begin to dream of events in their own futures, while she unlocks an ability to control the future through her dreams.



THE STORY

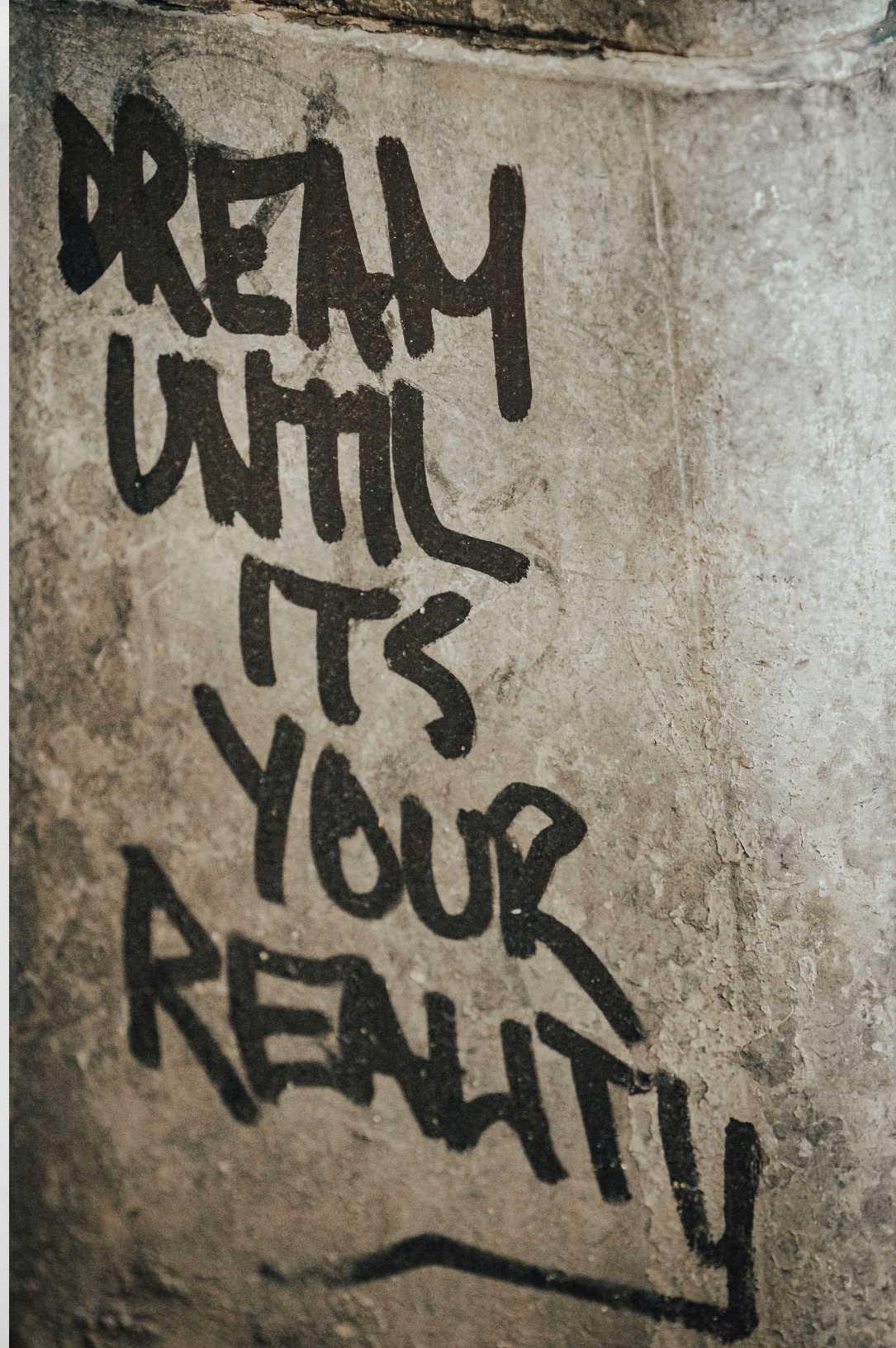
Thea, a PhD student researching the cause and purpose of dreams, immerses her daily and nightly life in her studies. She researches, writes about, and can't stop talking about her desire to discover new horizons in the world of dreams. Her obsessive tendencies aside, it's her frequent discussions with her charismatic professor, Graham, that prove to be the biggest sticking point for her boyfriend, Dave, especially since Thea has chosen her own dreams as the subject of her thesis. Despite the occasional joke at her expense, Dave tries to support Thea's endeavours by taking on most of their shared expenses, but his tendency to "juggle" eventually puts them in financial dire straits. Thea's hunt for a job soon leads to a lucrative opportunity for them both to be subjects in Graham's enigmatic side project, a study of first and second sleep.

In addition to a strict adherence of sleeping in two shifts, the study also requires total avoidance of any type of exposure to electricity from sunset to sunrise, much to Dave's chagrin. Graham's mysterious lab, endorsed by an unknown organization, and the fat paycheck promised to everyone involved, also peaks Dave's suspicions. But the eclectic handful of other study participants prove to be vivid dreamers, much to Thea's excitement. With Graham's encouragement, she immerses herself even deeper into the world of dreaming, including a promise to unlock the meaning the other participants dreams, while Dave remains on the doubtful sidelines. Soon, Dave becomes unable to subscribe to the strict guidelines of the study and admits he only every participated in order to keep an eye on Thea and Graham. With Dave kicked out of the study, and Thea's life, she becomes even closer to Graham.

Soon after, the entire sleep study group makes a startling discovery, they have each dreamt of events in their own lives just before they occurred. Graham and Thea secretly team up in an attempt to understand what might be happening to the group, and soon end up sharing far more than just each others findings. Even after Dave returns to warn her of the foreboding discoveries he has made about Graham's past, Thea refuses to stray the path she has forged with him. As the sexual chemistry between Thea and Graham grows, the line between Thea's dream world and the real world begins to blur.

As prophetic dreaming continues amongst the participants Thea and Graham delve even further into their shared secret studies. The group's dreams become more vivid and Thea's dreams soon prove to be more than just predictive. By controlling what occurred in her dream, she is also able to alter events in the real world.

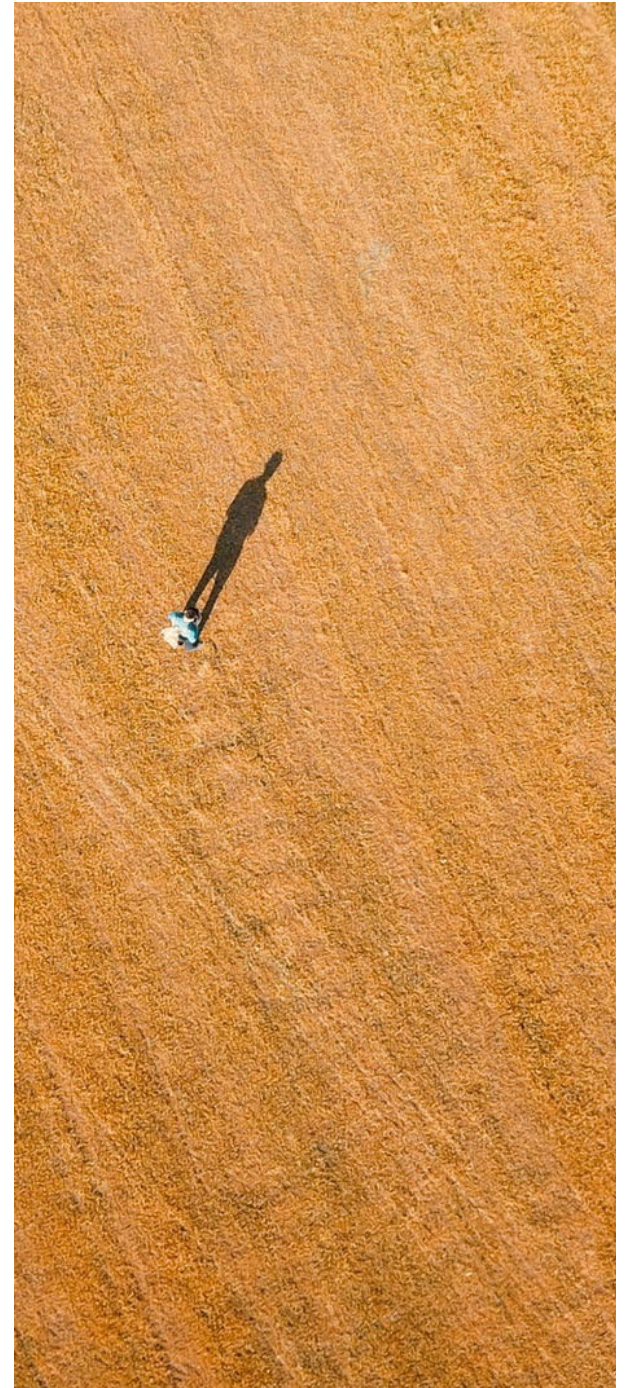
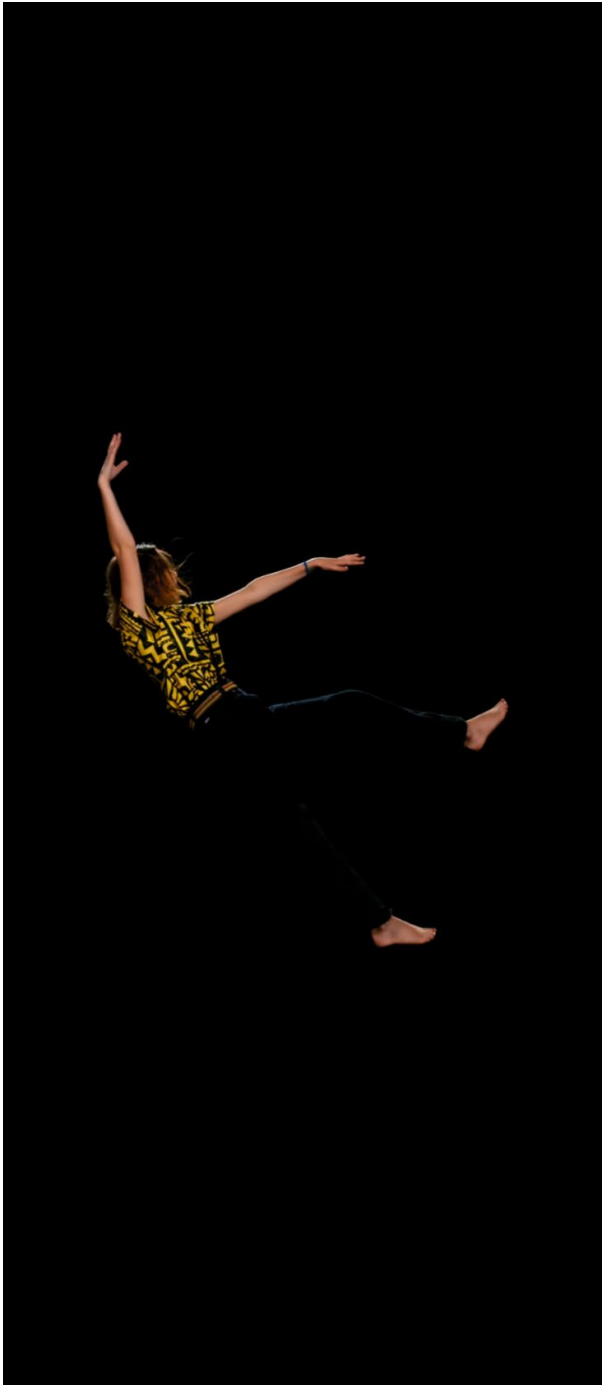
Driven to discover how Thea has unlocked an unheard of ability to alter the fabric of reality, Graham keeps her in the lab after dismissing the others. But when Graham's real intents for the study, and for Thea, finally emerge, Thea's dreams prove to be far more powerful than she ever thought possible.



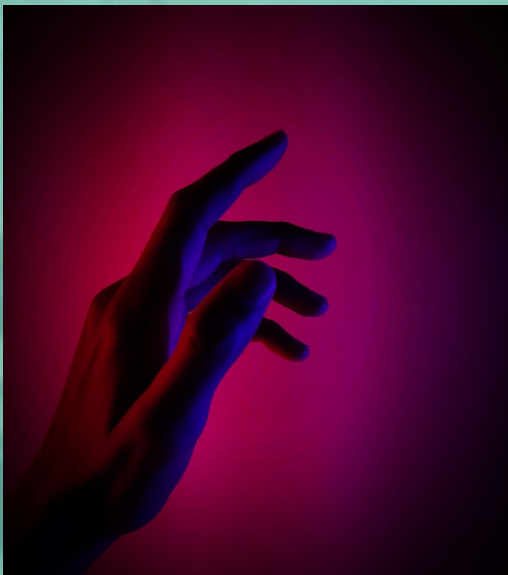
WHY TELL THIS STORY

Dream States is inspired by my tendency to have extremely vivid dreams and my minor obsession with the mysteries of the mind. As part of a cathartic response to the #metoo movement, the story became a metaphor for my own experience overcoming an abusive relationship. *Dream States*, though wrapped in an exciting sci-fi package, portrays this experience with a depth of realism and honesty that will resonate with anyone who been on the same journey.

Dream States is about the discovery of ones power. My hope is that by watching Thea embrace her inner strength and overcome her abuser, audiences who are struggling with their own vulnerability will find the confidence to do the same.







THEA

Thea is a powerhouse of thought behind childlike features that often keep her from being taken seriously. Her intellectual pursuits usually outweigh all other interests. She is both selfish and giving, intelligent and naïve, funny and serious. She's a sweet geek, the kind of woman you'd enjoy hanging out with, until she goes off on an academic tangent. Her flaws and vulnerabilities are traits that she shares with so many of us, who are eager and ambitious, but often blind to what lies beneath the surface.

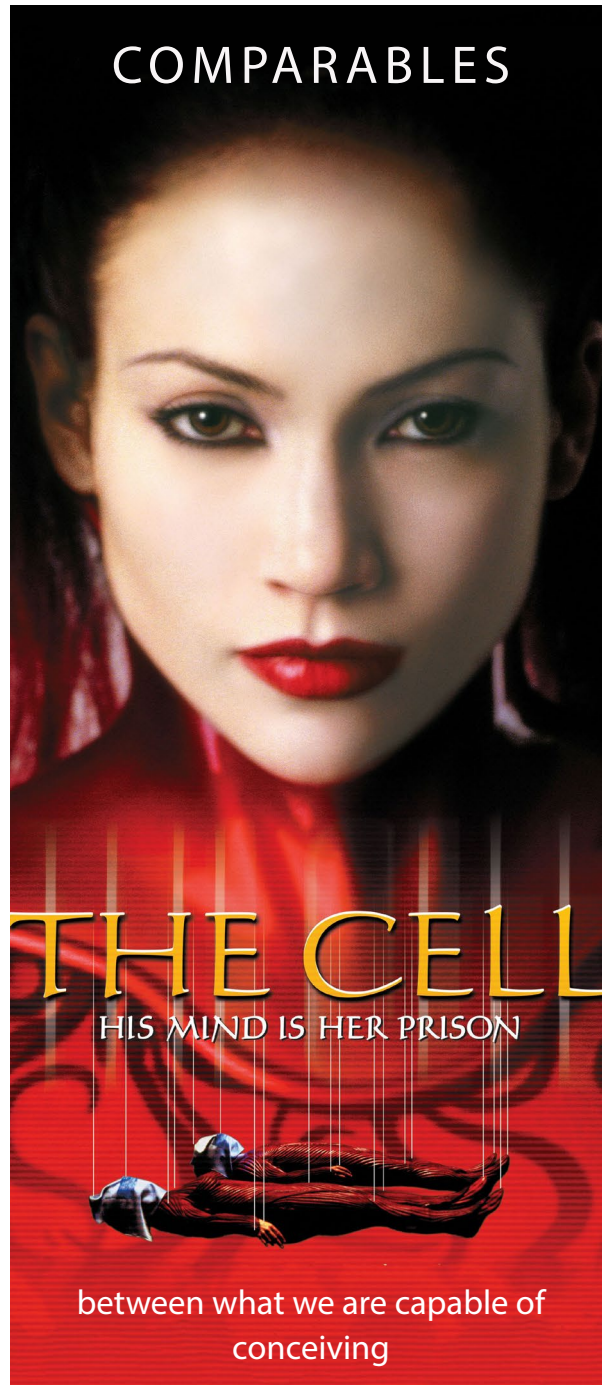
GRAHAM

Graham is an intelligent, confident, charismatic, enigma. He's a master of neuroscience, and has a dark fascination with the science of sleep. He's naturally drawn to Thea's insight and energy, because they mirror his own obsessive tendencies. He knows how to work a room, how to talk to anybody, and how to tell them exactly what they want to hear. His respect for intelligence doesn't translate to empathy, though he's good at pretending that it does if it helps him get what he wants.

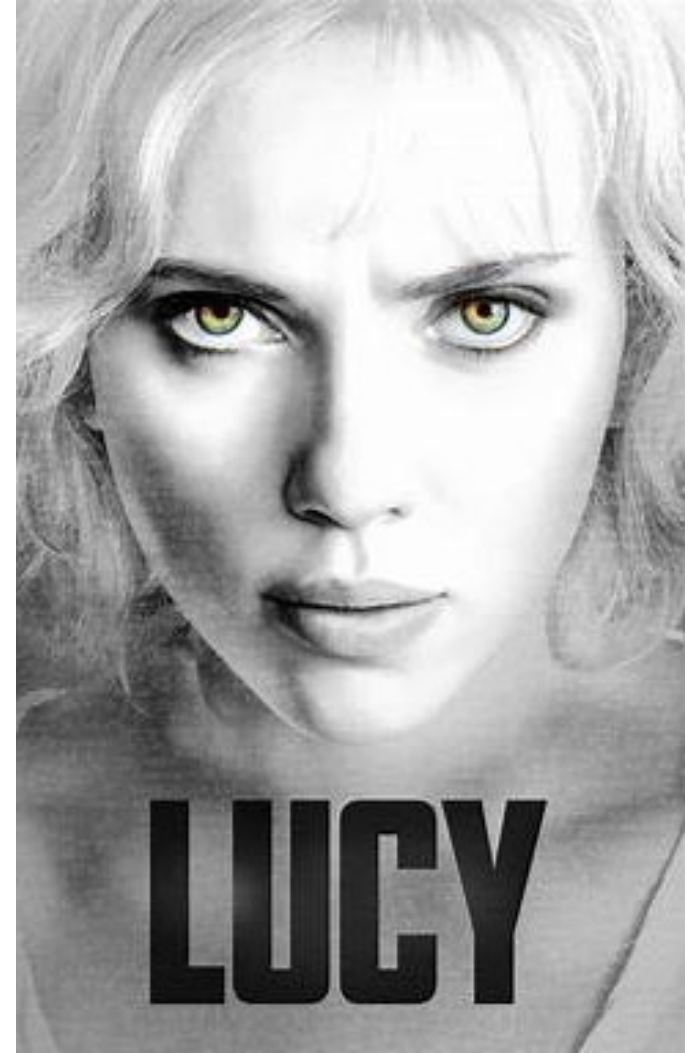




Dream States explores the blurry boundary



between what we are capable of
conceiving



and what we are capable of achieving

WRITER MARGARET M. MACDONALD



Having lived and worked in Los Angeles, New York and Sydney, my twenty years of experience spans several roles in filmmaking and the arts. A background in production design has helped me to hone a uniquely visual voice, which conveys a tangible sense of place, inviting readers into the story world.

My body of written work includes twelve features, three series and a novel trilogy. I have written on spec, on assignment, and adapted my own material to suit production and publication. I have also directed four short films and am working toward directing my first feature. I've been lucky enough to earn a few laurels along the way, and hope to earn more in the future.

I love telling stories that are character driven, and enjoy the challenge of infusing them with a mix of genres and a twist of the fantastic. I am passionate about creating films which transport people into other worlds, and help to make this one a little more extraordinary.

An underwater scene with clear blue water and light rays filtering through from the surface. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, and there are many small, bright particles or bubbles scattered throughout, creating a shimmering effect. The light rays are most prominent near the top of the frame, where they create a bright, hazy area. The overall atmosphere is serene and peaceful.

Thank You

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