

Unremembered Loss

For all the news and information from the world of Rathrae, and for the story Unremembered Loss

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Alone? – Part II

Site	Views / Listeners	Loves / Likes	Shares	Comments
archive.org	53	0	0	0
DouglasGClarke.com	58	-	9	0
Facebook	-	3 / 2	1	1
LinkedIn	-	0 / 1	0	0

Well, 53 listens in the first month is a little than the 400 I was hoping for. The question I have to ask myself is how could I have marketed the play better?

One of the issues I ran into to was that it is hard to share audio files. If I had created a video, I could have shared it directly on Facebook. Facebook removed the ability to share audios. Pintrest, Snapchat and Instagram all love videos.

So why not just convert my audio file into a video with just the picture above? The audio file I posted is 10.8MB in size. The video version is 72.7MB in size. That's an amazing 6.7 time larger.

There's something in me that just doesn't want to waste that much bandwidth. It feels like it would be wrong to use up that much of someone's data plan for no good reason. The question is then, is it more of a waste than not having people find the story at all?

I'm going to try some other ways of getting the word out about my audio play this month. Then maybe next month I'll try releasing it as a YouTube video and see if I get any better results.

In the mean time, if you haven't listened to it yet, please do and then share it with someone else.

<http://douglasgclarke.com/wordpress/general/alone>

Giving and Asking

Boy		Girl	
	Why didn't you help me?		What are you afraid of?
Girl		Boy	
	You didn't ask for any?		If I ask for help that means I'm admitting to myself that I need help, and if I don't get it ...
Boy		Girl	
	But you should have seen that I needed help. Wasn't it obvious?		You'll fail?
Girl		Boy	
	Well, I guess. But maybe you wanted to do it on your own. Why didn't you ask for help?		That and it means you don't think I'm worth helping.
Boy		Girl	
	I ... You ... If you ... Because you might not have.		Or that I'm busy.
Girl		Boy	
	Say again.		Right, that whatever you need to do is more important than me.
Boy		Girl	
	If I asked for help and you didn't help me ...		So you want me to help you, without your asking, so you'll know that I value you?
Girl		Boy	
	I would have helped.		Well, when you say it like that, but yes, something like that.
Boy		Girl	
	Are you sure?		And you don't ask because you're afraid?
Girl		Boy	
	What if I didn't?		(pause)
Boy			Sure.
Girl			(pause)
	I ...		And I make it worse by not asking when it would just be nice to get some help and wait until I have to have it, then I'm too afraid to ask.
Girl		Girl	
	Wait. You were afraid to ask for help.		Sorry, I'll try to help more often.
Boy		Boy	
	No!		Me, too. I'll try to ask more often.
Girl			
	Okay. Okay. I didn't mean anything by that.		
Boy			
	I'm sorry. Yes, maybe.		

The Problem with Asking

I listened to a pod cast yesterday which featured a woman (punk musician) who did a TED talk about asking.

She spent four or five years as a street performer. She painted herself white, stood on a platform and acted like a statue. She had a small hat at her feet and when someone would put some money in it she would look at them. She talked about this moment when she connected with some one, her eyes saying thank you for acknowledging me. She said that often she would see a thank you in their eyes – a thank you for seeing them.

Later she got into music. When she was just staring off she spent a lot of time couch surfing – sleeping on someone's couch when she was in town for a couple days. She told a story about visiting a poor area in Florida.

She came to the house and it was obvious that the family was poor, but they welcomed her in. That night the son slept on the couch and the girl slept in bed with her mother so she and another band member could sleep in beds.

She remembers feeling uncomfortable having asked for a place to sleep when this family had so little. That changed in the morning when the mother came to her and thanked her for the honor of staying with them. The mother told her that her music had changed her daughter's life.

She told another story about a fan who came up to her after a concert and handed her a ten dollar bill. He said, "I burned your music from my friends CD. I figured I should give you something for it."

It was then she realized that when everyone can get music for free, that it was time to start thinking differently about the whole idea of selling music.

She started to give her music away for free, and then asked people to give her something if they liked it. She talked about how she sometimes asked a member of an opening band if they wanted to walk around in the audience with a hat to make some extra money.

She said they were often hesitant, but her experience standing on the street prepared her for standing and waiting for fans to show their appreciation.

She spent a lot of time talking about how her music wasn't as much about the music as it was about making that personal connection with another person. She also talked about the trust that was needed to ask other people for help.

She did a Kickstarter campaign to raise money for a new album, because her current producer didn't want to publish another one, since her previous album had only sold 20,000 copies. She set her goal at \$100,000 so she could publish the album herself. Her fans pledged over a million.

She said the other thing that surprised her was that after her success, when she tired raising money for another album, people in the industry told her she shouldn't. People are uncomfortable having other people ask for support.

Well ... all of this got me thinking about my own experiences with asking. I have a hard time asking for help. I'm very much the boy in the story on the previous page.

I think about my writing or my laser cutting. Deep down I want people to tell other people about my work because it will validate how good the work is - how good I am.

I have a boxes of books in my car. Every once in a while I gather up enough courage to carry them into work or on the train and try to "sell" myself. I try to tell people about the stories. Tell them what they're about. Convince them that they're good.

But the times I actually sell a book are when I make a personal connection with people. When I share my experience of writing the book or how it might reflect some of the hard times I've gone through myself.

But I never say, "Would you support me by buying a book." I don't know how to ask someone to support me in my effort to be a writer or artist.

In some ways I'm already doing what this musician does. I've given away my stories in the this newsletter, on my various blogs, and now an audio play. I've made lots of things with my laser cutter and I've given a lot of them away. And every once in a while someone will pay me to do something else for them.

So I haven't asked you for much, but in this, my 87th monthly newsletter can I ask you to please share it with someone you know? Will you please listed to my audio play and give me feed back? Can you find my Facebook post and like it and share it? Can you support me?

Thanks, Douglas G. Clarke