

**Heliographs**

by

Stephanie Nemazee

Stephanie Nemazee © 2009

Stephanie Nemazee  
2207 Baseline Rd. apt 8  
Boulder, CO 80302  
(858) 775-0972

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN- NIGHT

A woman, STELLA, sits alone at a small table next to a window where snow can be seen falling outside. A DIM LIGHT shines above her head.

She is wearing an old dressing gown, her hair is unkempt and she looks tired and pale, it is evident that she has been crying.

Stella is holding a small child's shirt and rubs it between her fingers as she stares at it hopelessly. There is something printed on the shirt, but we cannot see what it is.

A CREEK in the floorboards O.S. makes Stella jump and diverts her attention away from the child's garment to the doorway ahead and to the right of her.

It is her husband, JAMES, in his pajamas. He gives her a weary smile.

Stella slumps back to her original position at the table as James walks over and takes a seat next to her.

He looks tired too and, after a moment, speaks quietly to her.

JAMES

(looking down at his hands)  
It could have been worse.

Stella looks up at him, an expression of disbelief on her face.

James looks embarrassed, tears form in his eyes.

HUSBAND

(voice quavering)  
She just got too warm (beat) and she  
fell asleep in the snow (beat) she just  
fell asleep.

James puts his face in his hands and breathes heavily, holding back sobs.

Stella stares at him for a few moments, then turns her attention back to the shirt in her hands. It has a picture of a smiling daisy on the front and the words "You are my sunshine" inscribed below.

INT. BEDROOM- NIGHT

James has already gotten into bed and appears to be sleeping.

Stella stands in the doorway of the bedroom unable to go any farther. She stares across the room at nothing, a blank expression on her face.

INT. CHILD'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

Moon beams reveal toys scattered on the floor.

Stella lies back onto her child's unmade bed and stares up at a static mobile of fabric elephants, giraffes, and lions. After a moment she turns onto her side, clutching the blankets to her chest.

She sobs heavily into a pillow for a moment before sleep overcomes her. She begins to dream.

EXT. (DREAM) A SNOWY PLAIN- DAY

The sun is shielded by a thin layer of cloud donning the entire plain in an eerie golden light.

We cut to a mid shot of a GIRL'S bare legs trudging through the snow. On her feet she wears old tattered snow boots.

We track with her for a while, maintaining the mid shot of her boots and legs.

Zooming out, we can see that she is about twenty years old and wearing a pale summer dress made of thin material. Her hair is long and windblown, her cheeks flushed pink from the cold.

She appears to know where she is going, though direction through the vast expanse of the snowy plain is undeterminable.

After a few moments, a child's brightly colored winter jacket and gloves are seen lying in the snow a few feet away.

The girl treads around it without looking down. She stares straight ahead with cold, steel-blue eyes.

More articles of clothing appear. They look like a colorful trail against the barren white landscape.

In the trail of clothes are a sweater, scarf, hat, and eventually snow pants, socks and boots.

Tracks appear in the snow. They are the tracks of a small child's bare feet.

The girl stops.

She looks down at the footprints and crouches closer to the ground. The look on her face is one of benevolence.

The girl presses a hand, raw with cold, onto one of the footprints. It melts away, leaving an aura of bright golden light in its place.

The girl stands, and as she does so, we see that all of the other child's footprints as far as we can see have lit up too.

She follows the lights.

EXT. (DREAM) SNOWY HILL- DAY

The girl has stopped again, this time at the base of a hill. She stares up it and from her P.O.V. we can see that the glowing tracks stop half way up the slope.

The girl runs up the hill.

EXT. (DREAM) HALF-WAY UP THE HILL- DAY

Where the footprints end, someone has dug a burrow into the snow.

The girl approaches the burrow and reaches down into it, melting the snow and bathing it in light as before.

From the burrow she pulls Stella's daughter, RUBY.

She is about three years old, alert, and despite the cold, has a healthy, warm appearance.

She is wearing the shirt with the smiling daisy.

EXT. (DREAM) BASE OF THE HILL- DAY

Instead of a vast plain of snow, there is instead a very short distance from the base of the hill to a suburban road lined with civilian, law enforcement, and emergency vehicles.

Houses can be seen about half a mile off from the other side of the road.

In the snow are the boot tracks of many adult people.

The girl, still holding Ruby stops walking toward the road and turns to look back up the hill.

It is now covered with over a dozen people all wandering in different directions.

Many are calling out Ruby's name.

Among the people there are Stella and James.

Their faces are wracked with fear. They are both crying.

STELLA

(desperate and terrified)

Ruby! Ruby! Oh, please (beat) where are you?

Stella turns her tear stained face back down the hill.

She spots the girl holding Ruby at the bottom near the road.

Stella looks stunned and tries to scream and run towards them but there is no sound, and she cannot move.

Behind her, the other searchers have vanished along with their footprints.

C.U. on the girl and Ruby, they are both smiling up at Stella.

Ruby waves at her.

C.U. on Stella still trying to call out to Ruby and the girl. Her tears and silent screams now appear to be out of frustration rather than grief.

She stops trying to get to Ruby and falls back into the snow.

Her breathing is heavy and she looks defeated.

Ruby is still smiling at her.

Stella stares back, this time instead of trying to reach Ruby, she smiles tearfully and waves.

C.U. on Ruby's face. A smile is still on her lips.

INT. RUBY'S BEDROOM- DAWN

Out of Ruby's window we can see that the snow has stopped and sunlight streams into the room.

Stella opens her eyes.

They are still swollen from crying, but her facial expression is calm.

She gets out of Ruby's bed pausing for a moment in the doorway.

INT. KITCHEN- MORNING

The sun is shining brightly through the kitchen window, illuminating the kitchen in golden light.

Stella is sitting at the kitchen table again. Her expression is still calm and her face has more color and composure than last night.

She is holding Ruby's daisy shirt. She traces the yellow circle that is the daisy's smiling face with her index finger.

A brief smile flits across her face.

Stella folds the shirt.

INT. RUBY'S BEDROOM- MORNING

The sun shines into the bedroom and we can see that Stella has made Ruby's bed.

Toys have been picked off the floor and now lie motionless in a basket near the window.

The mobile moves slightly.

On the dresser next to a framed picture of Ruby with Stella and James lies the daisy shirt.

C.U. on the smiling daisy and the words "You are my sunshine".

FADE OUT.