

THE ANNIVERSARY

Band Together - To Live

*A Film by
Angel Katherine Taormina*

COMING SOON

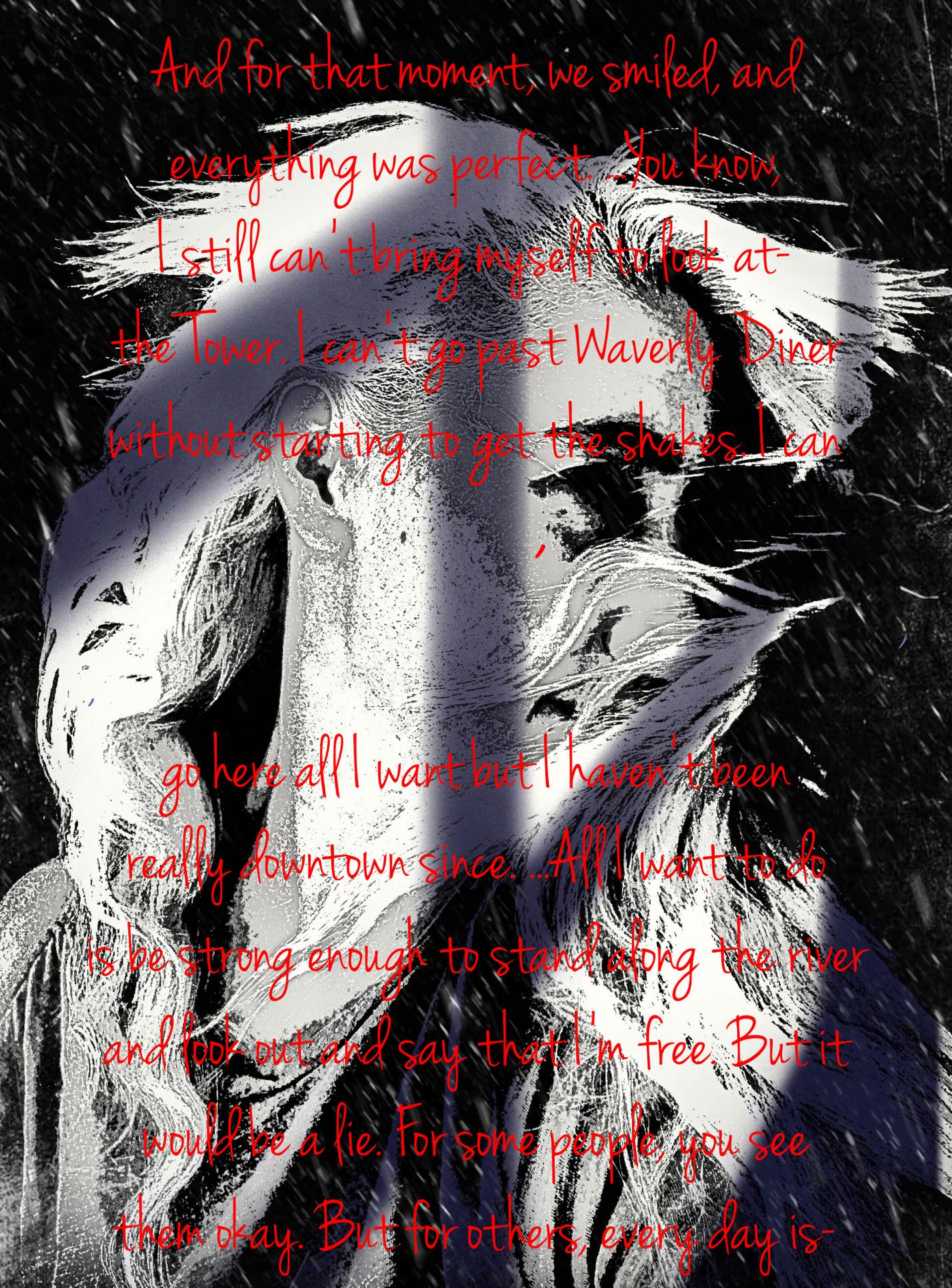
“INTRODUCTION AND DEDICATION

I was born and raised a Manhattanite. I wasn't there on 9/11. I was technically living on Long Island at the time but I was still usually in the City every weekend- and, sometimes, during the week because I'd just started homeschooling. I would have been there, though, if I hadn't scheduled a hair appointment in the City for August 30th instead of September 11th. My dad, who worked on Wall Street at the time and was considering taking an office high up in the North Tower, would have been with me, we would have likely left very early in the morning, and there was a good chance that Dad would have taken me up to Windows on the World before they were fully opened for the day. (He had done it by himself just two weeks earlier and had sat by the window drinking a small container of milk.) Instead, I stayed home and did schoolwork and- I thought- he left late to go to his Wall Street office. When my mother called me in to watch the TV and see what was going on, my first thought was “Oh my God, Dad is buried under 220 stories of concrete.” (I apologize for the crudeness of the thought of my eleven-year-old self.) I asked my mother, “Where's Dad?” only to find out that Dad was on his way home. He'd turned his car around on the way to the train station earlier in the morning because he hadn't been feeling well and so he'd done busywork instead of getting on the train. We were all alive. My own friends had relatives and friends who were there who would never be the same. I had been in those Towers. I had looked out those windows onto my beloved City. I had looked up at our beloved Towers from the Promenade and the train and the streets countless times. They were gone. Everyone's world was turned on its ear. What could I do to help?

This is a story about life. It was created by a blend of a primary fictitious storyline weaving through a composite of everything I saw and heard as I passed fellow New Yorkers on the streets of Manhattan and beyond in the years since 9/11. I never stopped anyone or asked anyone anything. I just saw and heard- watched and listened- from the time I was eleven years old and approaching my twelfth birthday (September 19th 2001), to this current day, and beyond. As we are coming closer to the 20th Anniversary, I decided in March of 2019, in a departure from the other novels I'd written, to put all of the journeys and emotions together through the vessels of creativity and imagination and a fictitious storyline and write this novel. It is a story of the heart. People are smiling again. People are loving again. People have peace again. People are living again. Everybody deserves that freedom. I hope that, when you read this novel, you will find Peace. I don't know all the stories. But every one of them deserves a telling. Every one, twenty years of stories, twenty years of lives- every one of them is beautiful. Every one of them is a hero. You are all loved- dearly, deeply, sincerely, and truly. This is for you. This is for everyone. God Bless you all, and thank you for living your beautiful Life. Live it Free.”

–Quote in 2019 from Angel Katherine Taormina in the introduction and dedication of her novel “The Anniversary”

“My hope is that you will feel this same way when watching the film adaptation of my novel. “Band together... to live” is the tagline of the film. Not only do I want to make a powerhouse of a film, but I also want to share the hope and the healing that I felt reverberating through the steel and stone of a city that can rise again in glory and peace.” –Angel Katherine Taormina (2021)



And for that moment, we smiled, and everything was perfect... You know, I still can't bring myself to look at the Tower. I can't go past Waverly Diner without starting to get the shakes. I can

go here all I want but I haven't been really downtown since. ...All I want to do is be strong enough to stand along the river and look out and say that I'm free. But it would be a lie. For some people, you see them okay. But for others, every day is-

As per Rose Room Productions and IMDb: ““The Anniversary” is the story of Jace Hudson and Valentina Vey- two people who see nothing in themselves and everything in each other and who would have committed suicide years ago were it not for their love for one another- and for the fact that they both found someone just as bad-off as they are. They understand each other due to a very deep form of “survivor’s guilt”. By occupation, they are the biggest stars and power couple in Hollywood. Personally, they are trainwrecks- collateral damage of a certain world event twenty years earlier that had devastating effects on many people. Currently working for the biggest director in the world- Martina Jameson- they are forced to reconnect with reality so that they don’t lose what made their talent special in the first place. In her effort to help them, Martina unknowingly (though it is ultimately for the better) puts them in a position that makes the past rear its ugly head- right as the twentieth anniversary of the tragedy approaches and right in the place where it happened. For them, letting themselves feel again is to realize not just that they are part of a bigger whole but also that what is being given uniquely to them could be an opportunity to help- and an opportunity for healing.”

Angel Katherine Taormina
is
Valentina Vey



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