

INTRODUCTION

Always remember: the reason you initially started working was there was something inside yourself that you felt if you could manifest it, you would understand more about yourself and how you coexist with the rest of society.

DAVID BOWIE

WHEN WE FIRST EMBARKED ON OUR VENTURE AS CREATIVE collaborators, our main impetus (beyond the camaraderie it offered) was to reinvigorate the artistic sense of play we've sometimes felt we had to sacrifice as creative professionals.

The acclaim of artistic success is a wonderfully double-edged sword. The momentum it brings involves contrary factors — the need to continually summon product that satisfies audience expectations, versus the internal, creative quest of the self. Often, arbitrary deadlines leave little breathing space for the alchemy of inspiration to manifest. At best, this can prompt a fevered, desperate call to action and minimal room for experimentation. At worst, it can feel stultifying and oppressive.

Thematically and characteristically, *Death and the Maiden* provided us with a perfect way station that evoked both our artistic canons. It was also a safe haven where we could comfortably traverse our respective lighter and darker territories, without the potential

brickbats of judgment and loss of patronage.

When we were approached about the prospect of devising a creative journal together, we wanted to invoke that same spirit and offer a personal setting for insight, self-exploration, meditation, inspiration, and the liberating safety of play, without the modern-day, fast-paced pressures of social-media overshare. Because great ideas are realized in the simplest of spaces — the virgin pages of a sketch journal.

Seeded throughout this little book are works from our own *Death and the Maiden* opus, as well as quotes to embolden your inner heroes and heroines for the journey. There are fun exercises to reawaken the childlike wonder you may have lost. And crucially, this journal invites you to conjure your own creative wellspring, stir the sparks of your sleeping subconscious, and animate the flesh of even your darkest dreaming.

Happy manifesting.

David and Jasmine





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“Experiences are the chemicals of life with which the philosopher experiments.”

— MANLY P. HALL







