

## Scènes de rêves & cauchemars

• flash • **LOTTIE DAVIES** •



Il arrive souvent que les souvenirs et les rêves se confondent et que le réel fonde dans le cauchemar. Pour preuve, cette série *Memories and Nightmares* de la photographe anglaise [Lottie Davies](#) qui a recueilli les errements de la mémoire et les songes de ses proches, pour reconstituer leur imaginaire.

Elle-même livre ce souvenir d'elle, petite, le jour de la naissance de son frère. Abandonnant le cheval à bascule d'une salle de jeu en se disant : "je reviendrai jouer plus tard", elle crie en courant à l'intérieur de l'hôpital : "J'arrive maman !". Très imagé comme souvenir, alors en image, c'est plus que parlant ! La photographie suivante *Quints* (Quintuplés) qui reconstitue le cauchemar d'une femme de 42 ans mère de deux adolescents vient d'obtenir le 1er Prix du [Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Award 2008](#). Ce prix décerné à la [National Gallery of Portrait de Londres](#) met en évidence chaque année quelques très beaux travaux photographiques contemporains sur le thème du portrait. Le deuxième prix vaut aussi le clic : [Henrik Kerstens](#).

Lottie Davies - son interview :



I have understood that you ask your friends about their memories and nightmares to construct your photographs. Do you ask only your friends or anybody can send you his memory or nightmare ?  
Anyone can, there's a link on my website to make it very simple to send me stories. Do send them in, I hope to include all the stories I've been given in some way, even if I can't shoot them all.

Do you make a choice ? If yes, how do you proceed ?

I do choose, I've been given around fifty so far, and I plan to make photographs from about twelve, so I can only choose a few. Some stories are fantastically visual, others are just too abstract for photographic interpretation - some of them 'give me a picture' straight away, whereas others take a bit longer.

After receiving this souvenir, how do you work ? Is it like a scene to construct ? Do you work with actors ? With props ?

I start with finding the right location, and work from there. I often source the props, clothes and such like myself (I have a very clear idea of what I need, so it's often simplest just to find or make it myself). I work with actors, models, friends, and people who I've met in the street and asked if they would be involved in the project.

What do you like the most in that series ? & why ?

My favourite is 'The Day My Brother Was Born', probably because it's the only one using one of my own personal stories. It was the one which began the idea and started the project, so as well as it being close to me emotionally, I feel it was the beginning of a new path for my work.

Could you please explain the start of this work compared to your photographic work in general ? It seems really new & different ...?!

I think it appears different in style and presentation, but is linked to my more journalistic work in that it is still telling stories. My editorial and journalistic work is about telling the real stories and histories of people as individuals or as a group of people, and I have tried to be as unbiased and true to those stories as I can as an outsider. Similarly, these memory and nightmare stories are other people's experiences and histories which I am interpreting and hoping to represent in a sensitive way. Of course I have taken quite a bit of licence with these, much more so than I would as a writer/photojournalist, but as these are internal experiences I've allowed myself to appropriate imagery and influence from many different places.

You seem happy & optimistic, in your photographs too : Is it important for you ?

I think in photography and in life in general, it's important to try to stay with what you like, what you believe in. It's sometimes very difficult to do that in the face of criticism or difficulty, but even when it's hard, you should try to believe in the worth of what you produce. Being positive can be difficult, especially in these times of financial worry when we are all concerned about how the future will be, but I try my best !

Propos recueillis par L.T.