

One/Zero/One
[room]

Written by Winston Wolf

FADE IN:

INT. ROOM

An overhead fluorescent light : on.

No windows.

Bare unpainted walls.

One fake plant, far left corner.

A piece of furniture, one person :

JACK, a young twenty-something with unwashed hair, wrinkled clothes, seated in the center of a white leather couch.

Hazy Jack stares :

A large glass wall ten feet ahead.

On the other side of the glass wall, the rest of the room.

Almost an identical match:

The couch is black.

Plastic plant is a darker green.

Nobody on the couch.

From the right side of Jack's half of the room:

WILL (20s) stumbles in, scared.

Jack, emotionless.

Will, opposite of Jack in hygiene appearance, looks back from where he entered.

Will opens his mouth in protest, he holds his words.

Swallows his own spit. Fear.

There is no visible door.

Jack glares ahead. Will, unsure what to do.

Sits on the right armrest. Thinks.

Will cranes his neck over, sees part of the light reflect off the glass.

Surveys Jack over who is stiff as a statue.

Will's gaze goes back to the view on the other side of the room.

Stands up, gets closer to the glass..

Turns to observe the fake plant on their side.

WILL

Okay. One's more green than the other. Or is it just the way the light's hitting it?

No response from Jack.

WILL

Hey, I got one for you. Is it day or night? Folks who snatched me up, they drugged me up, I passed out.

Jack : silent.

WILL

Girl in a gas mask wakes me up, pushes me in here. Pretty strong too, she has some guns on her.

Will waves his hand in front of Jack. No reaction. Offers his hand in friendship.

WILL

I'm Will. Will Teiger. Kind of like 'Tiger'. Like "T- Iger" Tiger. Get it? Okay. Nevermind. Not important.

Jack non-responsive. Will glances back to the glass divider wall. He assesses it east, west, north south.

Heads back to the right side of the room, inspects for seams.

JACK

You don't see the door on this side because they don't want you to see the door on this side.

Will smiles, glances quick to Jack- Jack's attention still focused on the same unseen point.

WILL

What?

JACK

You didn't hear the door close because then you would know that there is a door there.

WILL

There is...was a door, they just pushed me through it. It's there. Has to be there.

JACK

They took the door away. There is no door.

WILL

Alright. Since we're on the subject, who are they?

Will trots over to the glass divider.

JACK

Whoever they are, they are watching me on the other side of this glass wall.

WILL

Like a two way mirror?

JACK

Except that the mirror isn't a mirror. It's a glass wall and you can see the other side of the room.

Will taps on the glass. Knocks on it.

WILL

Other side?

JACK

They are watching.

WILL

There a small video camera over there somewhere? There is nobody on the other side.

Jack points ahead.

JACK

They are there.

WILL

I'm sorry, man. I... Don't see anyone or anything on the other side of this glass wall.

JACK

That's what they want you to see,
is what you don't see.

WILL

Come again?

JACK

They selected us, put us in this
room with no doors, no windows.

WILL

You got a name?

JACK

They are watching me, now they are
watching you. All you can do is
watch back.

Will motions for Jack to scoot over. After a moment and no
success, Will wiggles his way in the left corner of the
couch.

JACK

Jack Marks.

WILL

"Jack Marks". Okay. Jack. Place
don't stink, so while we can't see
the doors, there has to be one.

JACK

Only what they allow to see and
when they want you to see them.

WILL

"They" "They". You know who "they"
are?

JACK

They are the Party. The woman who
kidnapped you belongs to the Party.

WILL

Is she watching us?

JACK

They're all watching.

WILL

How long you been in here, Jack? In
this room?

JACK

Two hours.

WILL

Looks more like two days. Okay. We know there should be a door somewhere to the right.

JACK

Yes. But there isn't.

WILL

They have to give you something to eat and drink, let you go the toilet. That door is there.

JACK

They give you fish, They give you chips. White paste, soft bread. Water from the tuna can.

WILL

How about the john?

JACK

You're suggesting I drink my -

WILL

No, no, hopefully it doesn't come to that. What I mean is, if there's a bathroom there's a faucet.

Mimics turning on a faucet.

WILL

Turn it on, bend down, crank your neck, open wide on the side. Just don't bump your head.

JACK

If they allow it to be seen, if it is there at all.

WILL

Okay. Let's get our ducks in a row and in the pond. They are watching us on the other side of this glass.

JACK

Yes.

WILL

They are The Party.

JACK

Yes.

WILL

And this is an experiment which you volunteered for and I did not.

JACK

We were selected.

WILL

I stand corrected. Are you ever going to look me in the eye when I say something?

JACK

I don't want to take my eyes off them.

WILL

I don't know what you're seeing but I don't see - oh, man, I'm sorry, I should have - they drugged me!

JACK

If you say so. They may have led you to think you were drugged.

WILL

Maybe. Maybe not. But it just occurred to me. They gave you the same junk, maybe a higher dosage.

JACK

If that's what they wanted me to think. It's not.

WILL

Oh, God. That's what they... Oh, God! They aren't coming back, get me jacked up on some crazy juice.

Gets off the couch, paces around.

WILL

That's what they are going to do, right? Juice me up?

JACK

Maybe they already did. They are in control. War is peace, peace of mind they say.

WILL

They doped us up, didn't they? What did they give us?

JACK

They give us what we need. What they think we need. They know what is best for us.

Jack stands up, reaches out. Walks right through the glass barrier, leaves Will. Will follows, but bumps into the glass.

Holds his nose.

TWO WOMEN (both mid 20s) in gas masks whose name tags read LOVE and BLISS on their uniforms Grab Jack by both arms.

Turn him around, seat him on the couch.

Bliss waves a warning finger.

BLISS

You were not supposed to do that!

Love waltzes over to the glass divider, passes through it like it was never there, smacks Will across the face.

LOVE

This is going to hurt me more than you.

Love digs in a pocket, produces a white tablet, shoves it down Will's throat.

BLISS

What do you see!

Bliss backs away, no sign of Love and Will. They both have vanished. The couch is black and the fake plant a darker green.

JACK

I see nothing.

BLISS

Nothing! You see nothing! I'll tell you what you see Jack Mark. You see what we want you to see.

JACK

I see nothing!

BLISS

You see us. You're not supposed to see us. You are not well. You are not supposed to hear us.

JACK

I want to come back! I want to go home.

BLISS

You are home Jack. You are in your own mental prison. Now do you see us? Do you hear us!

JACK

I know you're here. Somewhere.

BLISS

This exercise cannot fail. It is very important that you follow the rules.

JACK

I'm sorry. I wasn't thinking.

BLISS

Don't you want to get better?

JACK

Yes, of course I do.

BLISS

Party says, in room O-Z-O, you must be cleared and cleaned of all bad thought. You are being studied.

JACK

I just want it to stop.

BLISS

Only when you want it to. We don't take the blame for everything. Wouldn't make sense. Are you ready?

Jack nods.

BLISS

Crank your neck, wide on the side. Watch your head.

She forces a mouthful of pills down his throat.

FADE OUT.

