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MAN IN THE MIRROR

By

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Short Story

SCREENPLAY

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FADE IN

Thurgood McIntire was just an average high school teenager about to attend his first year in high school.

INT. THURGOOD'S HOUSE.DAY

MRS.MCINTIRE

Thurgood,you're going to be just fine in school.

THURGOOD

Mom,it's just that there's so many students there.

MRS.MCINTIRE

I know baby.But just stay focus.

THURGOOD

I will mom.

EXT.OUTSIDE.DAY

Thurgood left for school. While walking down the street he heard a voice from behind.

VOICE

Hey kid. Wait up.

Thurgood turned around to see four guys approaching him. He turned back around and started running towards school.

STRANGER

We'll get you next time kid.

EXT/INT.SCHOOL.DAY

Thurgood made it to school. He ran inside. Out of breath. He bumped into one of the high school football players.

FOOTBALL PLAYER

Hey, what the...

The football player was tall and big. He was walking with his crew. He looked down at Thurgood.

FOOTBALL PLAYER
What's your hurry, shrimp?

THURGOOD
I'm sorry.

A crowd was forming.

FOOTBALL PLAYER
The shrimp's sorry.

THURGOOD
I don't want any trouble.

FOOTBALL PLAYER
But you found trouble.

The football player picked up Thurgood and shook him until his glasses fell off. He then through Thurgood up against the locker. Thurgood fell on top of his glasses and bent the frame. He put them back on. They were crooked. The other kids started laughing at him. Thurgood picked up his book bag and walked to his locker to finish putting up his items, then he walked to his class. When he entered his classroom, right away his teacher had started on him.

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY

TEACHER
Thurgood McIntire. That is you, right?

THURGOOD
Yes, sir.

TEACHER
You're already starting on my bad side. You're going to make it up after school by staying here and study for forty five minutes.

THURGOOD

But sir. It was the school
football player that held
me up. He was picking on
me.

TEACHER

Stop your complaining and
sit over there.

Thurgood sat down while the rest of the students snickered at
him. Lunchtime had arrived. Thurgood went into the washroom to
wash his hands.

INT.WASHROOM.DAY

While washing his hands he heard a voice.

MAN IN THE MIRROR

Thurgood.

Thurgood looked around.

MAN IN THE MIRROR

Over here, stupid.

Thurgood turned towards the mirror and saw his reflection, but his
reflection wasn't moving with him.

MAN IN THE MIRROR

That's right. I'm you.

THURGOOD

How can you do that?

MAN IN THE MIRROR

I'm in a different universe
than yours. We sort of
crossed over. My universe
is parallel to yours,
except we're stronger and
slightly opposite. I was
watching you and since we
are the same I decided to
give you an opportunity to
become all that you always
wanted to be.

THURGOOD
I don't believe this.

Thurgood left the washroom and realized that he was late for lunch. It was time to go to his next class.

THURGOOD
Now I've missed lunch. I
must be going crazy.

When Thurgood was about to leave the washroom the football players had entered.

ROBERT
Hey. It's the shrimp.

Robert is the captain of the football team.

THURGOOD
Oh no. Not again.

ROBERT
Get him, boys.

They picked up Thurgood and carried him over to the toilet. Then ducked his head inside. One of the other football players had flushed the toilet. They lifted him up and water was dripping all down on his clothes.

ROBERT
So long, shrimp.

The football players all left the washroom. Thurgood knew that he was going to be late for his next class but he just had to clean himself up. He washed his hands.

MAN IN THE MIRROR
You're going to take that?
All you have to do is place
your hand up against the
mirror and I'll switch with
you for a while and you'll
be able to watch everything
that I do. This will be your
chance to get even with them.
I can gain back your respect.

Trust me.

THURGOOD
Ok.I'll do it.

Thurgood placed his hand up against the mirror.

THURGOOD
Ohhhh!

Thurgood was pulled inside of the mirror and the image was coming out of it.

THURGOOD
Where am I?

THURGOOD TWO
You're in my world. Go
have some fun. You'll
find it a lot different
that yours. I'll keep in
touch.

Thurgood turned around and left to explore his new universe.
Meanwhile the image that had taken over Thurgood's life has also
taken his name.

THURGOOD TWO
Now I'm Thurgood. I think
I'll try out for football.

INT/EXT.FOODBALL FIELD.DAY

Thurgood Two decided to skip class and go outside where the
football team were practicing. He walked over to the coach.

THURGOOD TWO
Hey mister.

The coach turned around.

COACH
What do you want?

THURGOOD TWO
I want to join the team.

COACH

So you want to join the team. Have you ever played football before?

THURGOOD TWO

I've kicked the ball around a few times.

COACH

How tall are you?

THURGOOD TWO

Tall enough to beat anyone of your boys.

COACH

You're mighty sure of Yourself aren't you?

THURGOOD TWO

Enough to know that every time I get the ball I will score a touchdown.

COACH

Ok my cocky friend. Go get Yourself a uniform.

THURGOOD TWO

That's ok. I won't get dirty. I'll play like this.

COACH

Follow me.

The coach blew his whistle and the team had stopped practicing.

ROBERT

Hey it's the shrimp and he's with the coach.

The football team walked over to the coach.

ROBERT

What gives, Coach?

COACH

I have someone here that
wants to join the team.
Robert, I want you to give
him the ball and the rest
of you are to keep him
from getting a touchdown.

ROBERT

But coach, we'll kill him.
I know this kid and he's
not football material.

COACH

I know that, but he insist
that he can make a touchdown
every time he gets the ball.

Thurgood Two smiled at the team.

ROBERT

We'll wipe that smile off
of your face.

ANOTHER FOOTBALL PLAYER

Hey coach. Isn't he going
to wear any padding?

THURGOOD TWO

Don't worry about me. I
don't need any.

COACH

You really are cocky.

The bell had rung and the students started running towards the
practice field to get a glimpse of the football team. Robert's
girlfriend, Carla, was with her friends. They all
sat on the bleachers.

CARLA

Why is that boy without a
uniform?

JENNY

Isn't that the boy the

team was picking on?"

CARLA

That is him. Why is he
joining the team?

He's going to get hurt. I know it.

Some of the other students were watching Carla and Jenny standing
up nervous.

JOEY

What's the matter?

JENNY

That kid's going to get
killed on the field.

VOICE IN CROWD

Killed?

More kids started joining in on the scene.

ANOTHER VOICE

What's happening?

JOEY

There's a kid about to
Commit suicide on the
football field.

Now all of the bleachers were filling up. The football players
took their positions. Thurgood Two stood at his spot. The ball was
snapped to Robert. Robert threw the ball to Thurgood Two, who
caught it and started running. He went in and out between each
player. Soon there was no one near him and he ran for the
touchdown. He through the ball at the ground and placed both of
his hands on his hip. Then stood there.

COACH

I don't believe this. You
mean none of you could
stop him?

The players all looked at the ground while Thurgood Two walked
towards them.

COACH

This time I want you to
snap the ball to Thurgood.
Thurgood, I want you to run
straight up the middle
and lets see if you clowns
can stop him this time.

Robert looked at Thurgood Two.

ROBERT

You're dead meat now,
shrimp.

THURGOOD TWO

When this is over, it's you
me, chump.

Robert was shocked to hear such confidence coming out of that
kid.

COACH

Ok, positions.

Robert gave the signals and at the right time the ball was
snapped back to Robert who handed the ball right back to Thurgood
Two, who went right up the middle. There were ten players trying
to bring him down. A big three hundred pound player ran into
Thurgood Two, who then stuck out his arm and the player went down
after running into it.

More players had jumped on Thurgood Two's back and Thurgood two
was actually carrying them along towards the field goal. The
players started falling off of his back. There were two players
hanging on to Thurgood Two as he went pass the goal line for a
touchdown.

Everyone on the bleachers had stood up shouting. More students
had ran over to see what the shouting was all about. Everyone
said that they have a kid that was unstoppable on the field and
that they were going to win the pennant this year.

COACH

If I didn't see it with
own eyes I wouldn't have
believed it. Hey kid. Come
over here. You guys take

a shower. Practice is over.

The players all ran into the shower room.

JEFFERY

Robert, can you explain what just happened out there?

ROBERT

I don't know myself.

THOMAS

You know something. If this kid plays on our team, we'll be in first place for sure and we'll probably win the pennant this year.

JEFFERY

How come that kid let us roust him like that? He could've taken us all out.

BRUTO

Who's to say that he's not finished yet. I weigh over three hundred pounds and when I ran into his arm it felt like I had ran into a steel beam that wouldn't budge. I'll tell you this. That kid's not human.

INT.LOCKER ROOM.DAY

Just then Thurgood Two walked into the locker room.

THURGOOD TWO

Robert, I want to talk to you. Lets walk over to the washroom.

ROBERT

What do you want to talk about?

THURGOOD TWO

Jeffery, Bruto, Carl. You can

come also.

INT. WASHROOM. DAY

They followed Thurgood Two into the washroom. The rest of the players decided to come along. One of the players decided to go and get the coach.

THURGOOD TWO

Robert, I want you to put
your head in the toilet.

ROBERT

You're crazy. I'm not going
to.....

Before Robert could finish, Thurgood two had grabbed Robert like he was a baby and turned him upside down. Then placed his whole body angled inside of the toilet. His head was under water. He lifted him up and told the rest of the players to piss in the toilet. They did. When they were finished he grabbed Robert again.

ROBERT

(shouting)

Nooooo!

Thurgood placed Robert's head back under water again. Robert had swallowed some water and Thurgood Two lifted him out of the water and dropped him onto the floor.

THURGOOD TWO

Now, Jeffery, Bruto, and Carl.
Do you want to do it the
easy way or the hard way?

Jeffery, Bruto, and Carl had placed their heads inside of the toilets just as the coach had walked in. The coach saw Robert on the floor gagging.

COACH

What's going on in here?

THURGOOD TWO

A little payback, Coach. By
the way. I changed my mind
about joining your team.

They couldn't compete with
me anyway.

INT/EXT.OUTSIDE.DAY

Thurgood two left the locker room. He walked outside greeted by
all of the kids.

JENNY

Thurgood,how did you do
that?

THURGOOD TWO

Just skills, baby.

JENNY

Thurgood,do you have a
girlfriend?

THURGOOD TWO

No, I don't.

JENNY

Do you want one?

THURGOOD TWO

Asked me again next time
you see me.

EXT/INT.CLASSROOM.DAY

Thurgood two walked back inside of the school and into his
class room.

TEACHER

Thurgood,you're suppose
to

Before the teacher could finish his sentence,Thurgood had picked
him right off of the floor. His feet was not even touching the
ground.

THURGOOD TWO

Listen here Teach. From
now on you'll treat me with
respect. You hear? Or I'll
make mince meat out of you.

I can also make you
disappear.

TEACHER
Sure Mr. Thurgood.

THURGOOD TWO
Just call me Thurgood. I
don't want favoritism
noticed by the other
kids. Now you can leave.

The teacher ran out of the door. Thurgood left the room and then
the school. He walked home. He saw the same four guys waiting on
the corner.

INT/EXT.THE CORNER.DAY

LEADER
Here he comes again.

They walked towards Thurgood Two. They thought that he was going
to run but he didn't. Thurgood Two walked towards the guys.

THURGOOD TWO
This morning you wanted to
speak to me but I was in
a hurry for school.Now I'm
listening.

The guys were a little confused.

THURGOOD TWO
What's the matter? Cat got your
tongue?

LEADER
You think you're kind of
tough.

THURGOOD TWO
Try me.

The leader threw a punch at Thurgood Two, but Thurgood Two grabbed
his arm and broke it. He yelled out in pain. The other guys tried
to rush him, but Thurgood Two knocked the wind out of both of
them and did a round house kick to the face of the last one. They

were all on the ground moaning in pain.

THURGOOD TWO

Listen up. This morning I was in a good mood. I like to stay in a good mood until someone puts me in a bad mood. Now I don't want to see you in my neighborhood again. If you see me you better turn around and walk in another direction or this time I will kill you all and I don't care about going to prison, because you'll be dead. Do you understand me?

WHOLE GANG

Yea, man. We understand.

THURGOOD TWO

Now get.

They all got up and ran away. Thurgood Two went inside of his house.

EXT/INT. THURGOOD'S HOUSE. DAY

THURGOOD TWO

Mom, I'm home from school.

MRS. MCINTIRE

So how was your first day?

THURGOOD TWO

It was very interesting.

MRS. MCINTIRE

I'm cooking dinner for you. So go upstairs and wash your hands, ok?

THURGOOD TWO

Ok, mom.

INT. WASHROOM. DAY

Thurgood Two went upstairs to the washroom. He looked in the mirror. He saw his reflection.

THURGOOD TWO

Thurgood.Thurgood.

So far the reflection was doing what he was doing, but then it moved on it's own.

THURGOOD

So how was it?

THURGOOD TWO

You'll be surprised. Now look here.Your mother is cooking dinner for you and you're supposed to be washing your hands. Tomorrow, when you go to school,no matter what happens. You go with it. You understand?

THURGOOD

What's supposed to happen?

THURGOOD TWO

Things had changed in your favor.So you have to act like you've always acted. Meek,ok?

THURGOOD

If you say so.

THURGOOD TWO

Now put your hand on the mirror.

Thurgood did. Then suddenly they both were pulled inside the mirror from opposite directions.

THURGOOD TWO

Enjoy your new life. My universe is moving away from yours.

THURGOOD

Whatever you did, thanks.

The reflection started doing what Thurgood was doing. Thurgood washed his hands and went downstairs to eat dinner.

MRS.MCINTIRE

Your plate is ready, son.

THURGOOD

Thanks, mom.

MRS.MCINTIRE

Now tell me everything that happened in school.

THURGOOD

Well, I found all of my classes. I met a lot of new friends and nice teachers.

MRS.MCINTIRE

I told you that there was nothing you had to worry about.

THURGOOD

You sure did mom.

Thurgood finished eating. Mom, it's getting late and I better get my things together for school tomorrow.

MRS.MCINTIRE

Ok, son. You go ahead while I clean up.

Thurgood went upstairs. The next morning, Thurgood was ready to walk out the door.

THURGOOD

Bye mom. I'll see you later when I get home.

MRS.MCINTIRE

Ok, son. You have a good day.

INT/EXT. OUTSIDE. DAY

Thurgood went outside and started walking to school. When he had crossed the street and passed a playground, he saw the same guys who was calling him before, playing basketball. He started to run but it was too late. The guys saw him. They had stopped playing ball and dropped it. Then they ran away as fast as they could, without taking the ball with them.

THURGOOD

I wonder what that was
all about?

He kept on walking to school. Once he was on the school grounds he heard something.

THE GIRLS

Here he comes.

Girls started running towards him.

THE GIRLS

Thurgood, we love you.

THURGOOD

I don't know what to say.

Jenny ran up to him.

JENNY

Did you make up your mind
yet?

THURGOOD

About what?

JENNY

About me being your girl.

THURGOOD

I had too much on my mind
lately, but I'll let you know.

The girls walked Thurgood into the school.

THURGOOD

I better get to class before
I'm late.

JENNY

Ok,Thurgood,but I'll be
waiting for my answer.

Thurgood was already late for class.

THURGOOD

Sorry, sir.

TEACHER

Thurgood,don't worry about
it. In fact, you can be late
as often as you like and you
will always be in good
standing with me. Is there
any place you would like
to sit?

THURGOOD

Can I sit here, sir?

TEACHER

Thurgood,you can call me
Tom.

The principal walked into the classroom to talk to Thurgood.

PRINCIPAL

Thurgood, I'm the principal
of this school and I
personally want to welcome
you here. Have you
considered playing any
sports?

THURGOOD

No, sir.

PRINCIPAL

Thurgood,you can call me
Matthew.Tom, you treat this
young man with extra curtesy.
You here?

TEACHER

Yes, sir.

The principal turned around and left the class room.

THURGOOD

This is getting stranger by
the minute.

The bell had rung for lunch and the class got up to leave. They
all wanted to hang around with Thurgood.

INT. LUNCHROOM. DAY

When Thurgood had entered the lunchroom he turned around and
bumped into the captain of the football team. The captain's tray
had fell to the ground.

ROBERT

You stupid.....

He didn't finish his sentence.

ROBERT

Thurgood. I'm sorry, man.
I should've looked where
I was going. Can I buy
you lunch?

Another football player came forward.

ANOTHER FOOTBALL PLAYER

Hey, man. Let me buy his
lunch.

The rest of the football team came forward.

FOOTBALL TEAM

From now on, lunch is on us.

ROBERT

Thurgood, why don't you
join our team?

THURGOOD

I'm sorry. I don't play
football.

ROBERT

Well, you sure can fool us.

THURGOOD

I just want to eat my lunch.

ROBERT

Yes, Thurgood. We'll let you eat your lunch. I'm sorry I bumped into you. It won't happen again.

While Thurgood was eating his lunch, he looked up and saw Jenny staring at him. She was so beautiful.

THURGOOD

(asking himself)

Why not?

He beckoned for Jenny to come over and she jumped at the chance.

THURGOOD

Do that offer still stands?

JENNY

It sure does.

THURGOOD

Then I except.

Jenny screamed and her girls ran over to her. They all hugged each other and Jenny grabbed Thurgood and kept kissing him. When lunch was over and school had ended, Thurgood left for home. While he was walking home, holding hands with Jenny, he thought to himself.

THURGOOD

My time in high school is sure going to be great. Thanks to the man in the mirror.

The End

FADE OUT

