

Mirror
by
Dan DeVoto

FADE IN:

EXT. CITY BLOCK/RESIDENTIAL BUILDING - DAY

DR. ANNA BERESKY (36) stands at the street-side waiting for a ride. She looks professional and a little posh, like a woman accomplished in her field. She touches her hand to her hair to fix it just right.

MOMENTS LATER

A dark sedan pulls up to the curbside and she gets in the back.

INT. DARK SEDAN - MOVING - DAY

Anna looks pensively out the window at the scenery passing by.

The driver, a male GOVERNMENT AGENT (40), eyes her through his sunglasses in the rearview mirror.

She notices him looking at her and goes back to staring out the window.

EXT. MEDICAL FACILITY ENTRANCE - DAY

The sedan approaches the security gate guarding the secretive-looking complex. The agent shows his ID and the guard raises the rail.

EXT. MEDICAL FACILITY - DAY

The agent opens the car door and Anna steps out.

GOVERNMENT AGENT
Straight that way, ma'am.

Anna sees an empty, nondescript back entrance. She nervously looks at the agent and then heads inside.

INT. MEDICAL FACILITY - DAY

At the entrance, Anna has her arms spread while a guard scans her with a metal detector wand.

Another guard hands her back her purse.

Down the hall, DIRECTOR SIMMONS (his late 50s), a smooth bureaucrat, comes to meet her.

SIMMONS

Dr. Beresky! So glad you could
make it.

He effusively offers his hands, and they greet.

SIMMONS

I hope it wasn't too much trouble.

ANNA

Not at all.

SIMMONS

Let's take you away from these...
charming gentlemen.

He gestures to follow him down the hall, and she does.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Anna and Simmons walk alone down a long, sterile hall.

SIMMONS

We're ready to start mass
producing. Our test subjects have
shown no ill effects, no behavioral
disorders.

ANNA

How many do you have now?

SIMMONS

35, from the original five models.

ANNA

You must be proud.

They stop a moment.

SIMMONS

Imagine a whole population of them.
From organ harvesting to a ready
labor supply, they could fill our
every need.

ANNA

Yes.

INT. ANOTHER HALL - DAY

Simmons and Anna continue their conversation down another
hall.

SIMMONS

People are uncomfortable with the idea, but I think when they see the finished product, acceptance will be instant. Cloned to perfection, born as adults--when the reality hits people in the face, it'll be irresistible.

ANNA

I admire your optimism.

SIMMONS

You're the mother of all this.

She smiles modestly.

SIMMONS

I know false modesty when I see it. Your research was key to our breakthrough. It's why we used your DNA as a kind of tribute.

ANNA

I admit to being a bit nervous.

SIMMONS

So would I, believe me. Sometimes the future challenges our preconceived notions of ourselves in ways, well, even the cultured among us can find disquieting.

ROOM DOOR

They arrive outside a secure door.

SIMMONS

Are you sure you want to do this?
No one will think less of you.

ANNA

No. I want to.

Simmons smiles and slides his security card to unlock the door. It buzzes and he opens it.

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

They walk into the bare, featureless room with only a door at the other end and two folding chairs left out.

SIMMONS
I'll alert them we're here.

He opens the other door and peaks outside to someone offscreen.

SIMMONS
(muffled through the door)
We're ready. You can bring her in.

Anna waits uncomfortably while Simmons comes back.

SIMMONS
Would you like a seat?

ANNA
I'll wait.

SIMMONS
It shouldn't be a moment.

After a few seconds the other door opens again. They look and see another guard holding it open and MARLI shyly walking in. She's dressed in nondescript sweats and a tee, and she looks exactly like Anna.

Their eyes meet, Anna's with tension and recognition, Marli's with innocence and uncertainty.

SIMMONS
Dr. Beresky? Meet subject 18. We
call her Marli.

Anna cautiously approaches her. She can't take her eyes off her.

Anna takes Marli's hand and feels it in hers.

SIMMONS
Well, I'll leave you two alone.

Simmons walks out with the guard and they close the door behind them.

Anna gestures to the chairs, and they sit.

ANNA
Well...
(pause)
How are they treating you?

MARLI
Well. They're teaching me how to
comply.

ANNA

I see.

Something about Anna catches Marli's attention.

MARLI

Your hair's soft.

Anna reaches up to her hair and begins pulling something out of it. It's something she had hidden, a small vial with a clear liquid inside.

Anna offers it to her.

ANNA

This is the pathogen. Just release it into the air. It'll take care of itself.

Marli takes it and clasps it in her hand.

MARLI

I know what to do.

They share a look of recognition.

Anna gets up.

ANNA

I should be going.

Anna goes back to the door she came in.

She opens it and looks back at Marli.

ANNA

It was nice meeting you.

MARLI

Same.

Anna looks at her another moment, then walks out. The door shuts.

BLACK.