

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

By

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FADE IN:

INT ADOPTION OFFICE - DAY

The very organized, very well appointed office of an upscale adoption agency, one that caters to those who can afford anything.

Behind a massive desk smiles MR. RHODES, 45, well-dressed, successful. Across from him sit HEIDI and DAVID MANN, 60, as well dressed as Mr. Rhodes. These people understand each other.

MR. RHODES

What brings you to New Horizons, Mr. and Mrs. Mann?

DAVID

Please, call us Heidi and David. You come highly recommended by the Pulzones.

MR. RHODES

How are Tom and Wynele?

DAVID

They're doing quite well, although Wynele's arthritis still flairs occasionally.

HEIDI

And Tom suffers memory issues, although we believe he's getting better.

MR. RHODES

That is good to hear. They are two of my favorite adopters.

HEIDI

They speak highly of you. It seems you were the only one who actually heard them out.

MR. RHODES

New Horizons specializes in meeting the special needs of our clients.

DAVID

We're hoping you can fulfill our wishes too.

MR. RHODES

And that would be?

DAVID

An infant.

Mr. Rhodes smiles condescendingly.

MR. RHODES

You understand the difficulty--

DAVID

With our blood type.

MR. RHODES

I see, a particular child.

HEIDI

We need someone compatible. You can understand that.

MR. RHODES

I'd be less than candid if I didn't ask your age.

DAVID

I'm 62, and Heidi is 60.

MR. RHODES

Infants aren't usually placed with...shall we say, older couples.

DAVID

The Pulzones assured us you could meet our requirements.

MR. RHODES

I said usually. There are always exceptions to the rule. But I'm intrigued. Why an infant?

HEIDI

In ten years, we will be over seventy.
While we're healthy now, we can hardly
expect to defy aging.

DAVID

Dementia runs in my family.

HEIDI

Arthritis is particularly prevalent
in mine, along with liver issues.

MR. RHODES

An infant would be ten years old.

DAVID

The perfect age.

HEIDI

That's what the research shows.

Mr. Rhodes is perplexed, and it shows.

DAVID

We want to stay as young and as healthy
as is humanly possible. When we read
about the positive effects of
transfusions, well, we would be
remiss if we ignored the obvious.

HEIDI

Ten years will establish any and all
problems with the child. It would be
irresponsible to assume that it will
be perfectly healthy.

MR. RHODES

I am to understand that you wish to
adopt an infant for the purpose of
harvesting organs at some future
date?

HEIDI

Oh my heavens, no. That would be
unconscionable.

DAVID

Perhaps we have not explained ourselves sufficiently.

MR. RHODES

New Horizons would never consent to such a scheme.

DAVID

Never is the proper word.

HEIDI

That is not our plan at all. Tell him, David.

DAVID

It began with the research. You see, we invested in a bio-tech company whose specialty is determining what might negate or reverse aging. It's interesting and powerful research. Transfusing blood from the young has positive effects for the elderly. Apparently, the blood of young people contains chemicals adults no longer synthesize.

HEIDI

You can imagine how exciting that information is.

DAVID

The problem is our age. We are too old to create a child.

MR. RHODES

This research is solid?

DAVID

Mice, rats, monkeys, it's worked in every species so far.

MR. RHODES

Remarkable. How old do you have to be to see a benefit?

DAVID

There is no set age. Individuals vary, but I suppose even someone as young as you could benefit from younger blood.

HEIDI

In some respects, it's better to start early.

MR. RHODES

So, you need to adopt an infant.

DAVID

Precisely.

HEIDI

With the right blood type.

MR. RHODES

In ten years, you will milk the child of its blood.

HEIDI

Oh, not all of it, not that much really. A pint here and there, just enough to keep our organs young.

DAVID

You can understand how devoted we'll be to the child. After all, its well-being is literally our well-being.

Mr. Rhodes studies the couple a long moment.

DAVID

The average adoption agency would never let us through the door.

HEIDI

When you think about it, it's a win-win. The child gets the best of everything, and we get a fountain of youth.

MR. RHODES

I have to admit I have never entertained a request like yours before.

(smiles)

But there is a first time for everything.

DAVID

Then, you'll help us?

David takes Heidi's hand.

MR. RHODES

The adoption will have to be conducted...delicately, but I see no reason why we cannot accommodate each other.

DAVID

We'll pay whatever fees you require.

HEIDI

The child will go to the best schools, I've researched them already.

MR. RHODES

Let's not get ahead of ourselves. What do you say to a toast to our endeavor?

DAVID

Scotch for me.

HEIDI

Chardonnay.

Mr. Rhodes presses a button.

MR. RHODES

Would you prefer a boy or a girl?

DAVID

We're not picky.

HEIDI

I'd like a girl.

MR. RHODES

You may get your wish. I believe we
have a prospect who is carrying twins,
a boy and a girl.

DAVID

Twins?

MR. RHODES

The girl for you.

HEIDI

And the boy?

Mr. Rhodes merely smiles as the door opens and a SECRETARY enters.

FADE OUT.