

The White Room

By

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FADE IN:

INT. WHITE ROOM

White walls, white floor, white ceiling. Everywhere there is just white. It all goes in circles and is blurry.

On the floor lies LUKE SIMMONS, 30s, pale and disoriented. He looks to the ceiling, trying to recognize anything. He looks at his hand and then around him. Everything is still blurry and everywhere there is just white.

Luke tries to stand up and fails. He tries again. Very slowly, he finally manages to stand. He looks around again and realizes he is trapped between those 4 walls. And he is alone.

The walls start to close in slowly, the room gets smaller. Luke hears many noises, that sound like rain drops, whispers and scratchings. He stays in the center of the room as the walls come closer and he realizes he can't do anything about it...

LUKE
(no sound)
Help! Help! Heeeeeeeelp!

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Luke wakes up with a scream. His wife SUSAN, next to him, wakes up too, scared.

Luke just gasps repeatedly, then looks at his wife. This is not the first time this happens.

SUSAN
The same dream again?

Luke nods.

LUKE
The same fucking room. Every night.

SUSAN
You should do something about it,
Luke.

LUKE
I don't need to do anything. It
will go away alone.

(CONTINUED)

SUSAN

No, it won't Luke. It's something that's very deep inside your unconscious that's bothering you. You should visit a therapist.

LUKE

Oh shut up. I don't need a god damn therapist.

Luke goes back to sleep again. Susan sighs.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

DOCTOR FRANK takes notes while Luke speaks, lying on the divan.

LUKE

It gets worse every night. It gets more and more real. I feel I am physically in that room and I can't get out of it. I really want this dream to end, but I would also like to know what's beyond those 4 walls.

FRANK

How long have you had these dream?

LUKE

2 months more or less.

FRANK

Why do you think you are having these dreams??

LUKE

I dunno doctor, that's why I'm here. I mean, It's not like I was dying to come, but, you know, my wife...

FRANK

Do you feel anxious or limited in real life, Luke?

Luke turns his look to the doctor.

LUKE

What's that gotta do with my dream?

(CONTINUED)

FRANK

Maybe everything Luke. Maybe you should try and break the walls in your real life and then the same will happen in your dream.

LUKE

(skeptical)

Don't make me laugh doctor, don't start with this symbolism bullshit. I mean, me having this dream doesn't mean I'm really getting cornered.

FRANK

Well, it's not just me telling you this Luke. It's something inside yourself.

Luke looks to the ceiling again.

INT. DINING ROOM . NIGHT

Susan serves dinner for her and Luke and sits with him at the table. Both start to eat.

SUSAN

So, what did he say?

LUKE

Rubbish

SUSAN

What do you mean, rubbish.

LUKE

I mean exactly that. These guys want your money, that's all.

SUSAN

But he must have told you something to help you.

LUKE

Susan, I will go out of this hole by myself, ok?

SUSAN

You're being unnecessarily rude, you know that? It's not my fault what's happening to you.

Luke looks to his wife, trying to not sink further...

(CONTINUED)

LUKE
I know honey. My apologies.

INT. WHITE ROOM

Luke is again in the room. He sees all blurry, but it slowly gets more clear. With difficulty, he stands up and looks around the room he knows too well.

He starts to walk to one of the walls. But then he turns around and looks to the ceiling.

LUKE
Hey, is anybody there?

No answer, but Luke tries to show more courage.

LUKE
Whoever is there, get me out of here! I wanna go out now!

He now approaches one wall and starts punching and kicking it violently.

LUKE
Get me out of here, motherfuckers!
Get me out right now, ya hear me! I dont belong here!

A thunder - like voice that fills the entire room is heard from above Luke.

VOICE
Yes Luke, you belong here.

Luke freezes and everything starts to vanish again...

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Luke wakes up, gasping and sweating.

INT. DINING ROOM . NIGHT

Susan pours Luke some tea. He just stares at it, not really aware.

SUSAN
Luke, this can't go on.

(CONTINUED)

LUKE

I'll fix this. I was very close this time of finding out what I was doing in that room.

SUSAN

Oh yeah, how many more nights will it take until we both can sleep properly?

Luke now looks at his wife. She is not amused.

SUSAN

Yes, "we" Luke. I'm part of this you know. I'm as worried as you are. Your problems are my problems. And I don't wanna be with someone who can't face them.

Susan abandons the room with firm steps. Luke slowly starts to drink his tea.

INT. HYPNOTIST ROOM - NIGHT

Luke enters a dark and mystic room, full of masks and voodoo puppets hanging everywhere. The only light in the room comes from a large candelabra on a corner. In the center there are just two small chairs.

Followed by Luke comes SVENJA, 40s, dressed in Gothic style. She is an experienced hypnotist, full of confidence in what she does.

SVENJA

So, Luke, please sit down.

Luke slowly sits down in one of the chair, not without looking around at the gadgets in the room. Svenja sits down, noticing his concern.

SVENJA

Don't worry honey, we are not going to use any of these things unless really necessary.

LUKE

So...Svenja, do you know how to solve my problem?

SVENJA

Look sweetie if you want me to help you, you'll have to let me go

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SVENJA (cont'd)
inside your head. Only this way are
we going to find out whats wrong.

LUKE
Err ok...but have you had similar
cases before?

SVENJA
As I like tell everyone...every
case is unique.

Luke nods, nervous.

SVENJA
Now I need you to relax Luke. Free
your mind and your body as much as
you can and keep looking at my
hands.

Luke does his best to follow what she said. Svenja starts to
do some movements with his hands, as if invoking magic.

SVENJA
Now focus on that room Luke. Put
all your concentration on that
room. You have to feel like you are
there and that you wanna stay there
for a while...

Luke keeps looking at Svenja's hands, but also starts to
concentrate deeply. Slowly, everything starts to fade away
for Luke, the room becomes blurry and foggy. And the white
room starts to appear again...

INT. WHITE ROOM

Luke lies there, again. He is suddenly very conscious. He
quickly stands up.

Everything is the same as always. Luke looks up to the
ceiling.

LUKE
Here I am. You can talk now.

As nobody answers, Luke starts to move in circles,
challenging.

LUKE
What? Are you mute now? Can't talk
to me? I've been here two fucking
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LUKE (cont'd)
months. Yesterday you told me I
belonged here. I think you owe me
an explanation. C'mon, speak, God,
speak if you dare.

VOICE
Hello Luke.

LUKE
Oh there you are. Are you a person?
Cause I wanna speak to you
personally.

VOICE
You won't speak to me personally
Luke. Not until your time here is
over.

LUKE
What time? What are you talking
about? I wanna stop dreaming of
this shithole!

VOICE
You won't stop dreaming of this,
Luke.

LUKE
Why's that?

VOICE
Because you can't escape your
reality.

Luke starts to look worried and genuinely feels angry.

LUKE
What are you talking about?
(beat)
What are you talking about? Answer!

Everything vanishes...

LUKE
Noooo.

INT. HYPNOTIST ROOM - NIGHT

Luke lies on the floor and sharply wakes up. Svenja is beside him and backs off a little.

SVENJA

Luke, stay cool, you just got out of your trance--

Luke grabs Svenja on the shoulder, getting crazy.

LUKE

--Svenja, I need to go in again. Please, I need to go in that room again right now!

SVENJA

Luke, it's not that easy, you have to wait a--

LUKE

--Now Svenja, I need to get back no--

Everything starts to get blurry again. Luke sees the world disappear...

INT. WHITE ROOM

Luke appears standing now at the room, perfectly conscious. Not wasting time, he looks up, begging with his look.

LUKE

Whoever you are, please explain what the hell is happening to me. Please. I need to know.

VOICE

I would love to tell you Luke. But I believe it would be much more convenient for you if you could remember what happened by yourself.

LUKE

Remember what?

VOICE

Try to remember, Luke.

And then Luke starts to remember. He grabs his head. Everything seems fuzzy around him.

Title: 10 months before

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

An old and lousy apartment. It looks as if it's going to fall down at any moment. Here inside are Luke and Susan. They are in the middle of an argument. She is looking with horror and disgust at him positioned deliberately distant, almost crying.

SUSAN

You can't do this to me, Luke. How dare you?

LUKE

Honey, I've already told you it's the best for both of us. We need the money. You know how much they are going to pay me for this?

SUSAN

I don't care! You can not abandon us for one year like that!

Susan starts crying inconsolably. Luke, touched, approaches her and hugs her.

LUKE

(hoarsely)

Everything will be fine honey. I promise. One year. Only one year and everything will be fine. You have to take care of the kids...

Susan sobs, she wants to escape from Luke, but he won't let her.

LUKE

Promise me you will take care of the kids and that when the year is over, you will be there for me ...and we will start a new life. Promise me that, Susan.

Susan looks up to Luke, crying and trembling.

SUSAN

How do I know that when you come back, you will be the same?

LUKE

I will be the same. Nothing could make me forget that I love you.

Susan now starts looking with some hope.

INT. CIA OFFICE - DAY

Luke enters a cold and grey office. No one would dare to make a joke here.

At a table full of documents sits Doctor Frank, although this time it's a stone-faced MR FRANK. On another smaller table sit Svenja, but dressed as a secretary and just taking notes on a writing machine.

FRANK

Hello mister Simmons. Please sit down.

Luke does it, as quickly as he can.

FRANK

I just want to ask you. Are you sure you want to do this?

LUKE

I am.

FRANK

You know what could happen there inside. I believe we've told you the risks of--

LUKE

Yes, I know everything, Mister Frank. I know I could lose my mind. But it won't happen.

FRANK

This is the first time we will do something like this. And you have no obligation to participate in this experiment.

LUKE

I'm aware of that.

FRANK

If anything goes wrong, we won't be able to help you.

LUKE

I don't expect you to.

Frank examines Luke. He is ice cold. Frank finally nods and turns to Svenja.

(CONTINUED)

FRANK
Svenja, the contract please.

Svenja hands him a 5-page document. Frank gives it a quick look and then puts it in front of Luke, together with a pen.

FRANK
This is you last chance to turn back, Luke.

Luke doubts for a moment.

He takes the pen and signs.

FRANK
Please follow me.

INT. CIA CORRIDOR

Luke and DR Frank walk along an endless corridor. They reach a solitaire door. Frank takes out some keys and opens the door. There inside is just a very small room with a scuttle on the floor. Both men go inside. Frank opens the scuttle. Luke looks down there. Then he looks back at Frank.

FRANK
Good luck.

INT. WHITE ROOM

Luke lies on the floor, bereaved. he cries out of sadness and disbelief.

He screams, but nothing is heard.

Luke stands up and moves desperate around the room, pulling his hair .

Then he looks up with a deadly look.

FRANK
(v.o)
Try to sleep Luke.

FADE OUT